

Much Anticipation for 2005

As we look ahead to the coming year, it is clear that we in the endovascular community have many reasons to be excited. 2004 saw the approval of the first carotid artery stenting platform and several developments in related reimbursement policies. These milestone achievements were the result of the concerted efforts of physicians and administrators, industry representatives, the FDA, and CMS. This type of collaboration, in addition to the growing relationships we are seeing among the various specialties, is an encouraging trend toward our goal of providing patients with optimal care.

This first issue of 2005 focuses one of the oldest areas of endovascular care—inferior vena cava (IVC) filter use. Despite having a long history, in the past few years, new, more advanced devices have been developed and approved by the FDA, some with the ability to be retrieved after use. Physicians have in the past year developed new techniques and applications for an already very useful technology. The new concept of retrievability offers the physician the opportunity to protect patients from pulmonary embolism during a high-risk period, but also presents challenges in defining the optimal duration for “protection” by filters.

Several respected physicians known for their early work with this technology have prepared articles on what we can expect from the next generation of IVC filters, new techniques for imaging and placement, tips for use in varying patient populations, and emerging treatment options. We have also put

together a comprehensive guide to all of today's filters, including sizing, approval and availability status, retrieval ability, etc.

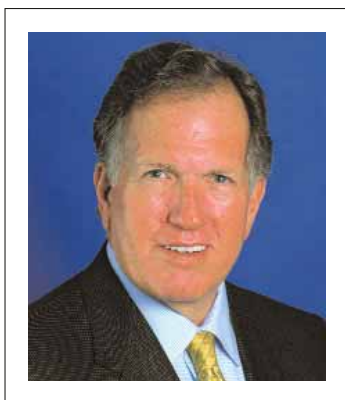
In addition to our feature section on IVC filter use, we are also very pleased to provide a comprehensive article on physician reimbursement for cerebrovascular interventions, authored by Roseanne Wholey. We are also proud to introduce a new department for *Endovascular Today* called Society

Update; this section will serve to inform readers of important news and developments within the numerous medical societies involved in endovascular care. In the first edition, Peter Gloviczki, MD, provides an update on the progress of the Vascular Disease Foundation.

Zvonimir Krajcer, MD, has also contributed an interesting article on carotid artery stent restenosis, particularly as it pertains to patients with prior endarterectomy or radiation. For this edition of

FDA Insights, Dorothy B. Abel and Angela C. Smith discuss some of the issues surrounding live case demonstrations. Finally, the subject of this month's An Interview With... feature is my fellow Chief Medical Editor Takao Ohki, MD, who is sure to provide responses filled with insight and personality.

We at *Endovascular Today* hope you enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season, and we wish you all the best in 2005. As always, we encourage you to provide feedback and keep us informed of your latest research and findings to enable us to bring the endovascular community a timely, helpful, and enjoyable publication. ■



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry T. Katzen MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "B" and "K".

Barry T. Katzen, MD
Chief Medical Editor