Colleagues,

I have tried to utilize the President’s letter section of our Journal to convey important information regarding decisions made by the board. I hope you have found this to be informative and useful.

In April, there were important CMR-related announcements by the two leading drug eluding coronary stent vendors. As you know, despite the absence of evidence for any adverse events at 1.5T, most patients receiving an intracoronary stent have been instructed to avoid/defer undergoing CMR and general MRI scanning for at least 2 months following implantation. Many of us have been scanning these patients for several years with approval of our local investigational review boards. Now there is federal regulatory support for scanning these patients without delay. Both the Boston Scientific and Johnson & Johnson/Cordis drug eluding stents have now received FDA approval for CMR/MRI scanning without delay after implantation. We are still awaiting commercialization of MR lucent stents that will allow visualization of the coronary lumen, but this hurdle is also likely to be overcome in the coming years. Several groups have now demonstrated feasibility of intraluminal imaging using more favorable materials that result in minimal/no image artifact.

Your Board has finalized plans for our 10th Scientific Sessions (February 2–4, 2007) meeting for Rome, Italy. Similar to our Barcelona 2004 meeting, the Rome 2007 Scientific Sessions will be a combined meeting with our colleagues from the European CMR Working Group. In concert with our local hosts, a very exciting meeting is being planned—with headquarters at the Cavalieri Hilton, overlooking Vatican City. More details will follow in future issues. For 2008, we will likely be returning to the west coast of the United States—likely the Los Angeles area. As an international Society, we have strived to consider the travel impact of those traveling from outside of the United States.

As I write this letter, the SCMR nominating committee, chaired by our immediate past president, Dr. Robert Balaban, has begun its deliberations for selecting a slate of officers for the 2006–2008 Executive Board. All of our executive officers serve for 2 years/office and our trustees serve for four years. Dr. Stefan Neubauer will advance from vice-president to become the SCMR President at the end of our January 2006 Scientific Sessions. Dr. Frank Rademakers will assume the Secretary-Treasurer position at that time. Under our bylaws, the vice-president and vice secretary-treasurer are elected by the full board at the mid-year meeting (July). The entire membership will then elect the new trustees by mail ballot this Fall. Stay tuned!

Finally, over the years, your Board has been acutely aware of and has continued to monitor many issues/conflicts related to the clinical performance of CMR. Our Society includes a diverse group of clinical and research cardiologists/radiologists, non-physician scientists, and technologists. The SCMR has always focused on educating practitioners regarding the use of CMR, training of CMR practitioners, and advancing the field through scientific research. From inception, the SCMR has tried to be inclusive—striving to characterize the training needed to effectively practice CMR as a means to optimize clinical care, rather than limit such training to those with a specific pedigree. I thank you for your support of the SCMR. Together, we will continue to advance the field to the benefit of patients.

Warren J. Manning, MD
President, SCMR