

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BEATING HEART SURGERY 2002

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Scientific Chair

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Introduction

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During the last four International Symposia on Beating Heart Surgery, we have seen numerous presentations showing constant and fast progress of beating heart surgery techniques in different kinds of surgery. Unlimited human imagination and struggle for better results in the broad area of cardiac surgery lead to practically unimaginable applications of beating heart surgery.

Perhaps the most outstanding, astonishing, and breathtaking, yet extremely controversial, application is treatment of atrial fibrillation in its extreme form with cardiac autotransplantation on the beating heart. However, there is another aspect to consider—we all, who perform classic cardiac transplantation on a routine basis, are aware of the importance of ischemic time from

donor to recipient, when the heart is arrested, preserved, sutured, and finally perfused. Cardiac autotransplantation on the beating heart is obviously possible with good results—is there a role for this procedure somewhere else?

Complete arterial revascularization on a beating heart—is it a myth or a reality? Can it be performed on a routine basis, in almost all patients, even in those with severe left main stenosis? It is even more challenging, considering all the pros and cons for complete arterial revascularization with conventional surgery.

Nevertheless, there is an interesting past in International Symposia on Beating Heart Surgery, and I wish for us all that the future will also be interesting.

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