

Celebrating a Decade of *Dialogues in Cardiovascular Medicine*

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Ramon Llull
1232-1315.

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At the time when Thomas Aquinas, known as “*the angelic doctor*,” was applying Aristotelian principles to major theological issues, Ramon Llull, known as “*the enlightened doctor*” was writing about medicine in several of his famous works, such as *Ars Magna [The Great Art]* and *Arbor Scientiae [The Tree of Knowledge]*. These remarkable treatises expounded the “Lullian method” for the acquisition and mapping of knowledge, beautifully illustrated by the Tree of Knowledge that adorns the cover of this 10th anniversary issue of *Dialogues in Cardiovascular Medicine*.

The tree represents the evolution of knowledge, starting from the roots, passing through the trunk, boughs, branches, twigs, and leaves, and culminating in the fruit—the product of human investigative endeavors.

In its first 10 years of publication, *Dialogues* has explored the fruits of humankind’s research and ingenuity in many areas of cardiovascular medicine. To date, 40 issues have been devoted to major cardiovascular issues ranging from the origins and management of ischemic heart disease to the challenge of using cellular implants to rebuild the damaged heart.

As Editors, we take great pride in the success of *Dialogues*—this is undoubtedly due to the outstanding caliber of our distinguished faculty of authors, aided by the innovative format of the Journal, which devotes each issue to a single topic of cardiovascular interest, each representing a fruit of the cardiovascular tree of knowledge. The success of the Journal also owes much to Servier, our sponsor and publisher, who has provided, through Dr David Mason and his colleagues, outstanding technical support and publishing skills.

Like Ramon Llull’s disciple, staring in admiration at the Tree of Knowledge his master is pointing at, the Editors of this Journal have viewed with amazement the remarkable advances that have been made in understanding the functioning of the cardiovascular system and the evolution, treatment, and prevention of cardiac disease.





To celebrate the first ten years of *Dialogues*, we decided to explore some of the outstanding successes that have revolutionized the understanding and management of heart disease. However, whereas Ramon Llull's tree is heavily laden with all the fruits of knowledge, we had to prune ours to a symbolic ten, one for each year of *Dialogues*. Selecting these from the cardiological cornucopia was not easy, but with the help of our Consulting Editors a consensus was reached on which we should retain for their particularly far-reaching implications for our time.

To truly do justice to this special issue, we felt that we needed some very expert help in the form of a Guest Editor who could guide us through the project and recruit an outstanding faculty of authors. One name came immediately to mind: in Arnold Katz, not only do we find a remarkable researcher and a distinguished physician, but also an individual with a lifelong passion for the history of medicine and matters philosophical. We were genuinely delighted when Arnold accepted the challenge and we wish to express here our sincere thanks and immense admiration for the task that he has so successfully undertaken. Indeed it was Arnold who suggested that each article should be modeled on the Tree of Knowledge—asking our authors to identify the seminal discoveries that became the roots and trunk rich in rising sap, and to chart the evolution of various pathways of scientific exploration that formed the branches, which after decades or sometimes centuries of investigation, were to bear the fruits that advanced our understanding and saved many lives. After leading us on this fascinating tour of the major landmarks that have shaped the development of cardiology, we then asked Arnold to undertake the difficult and risky task of predicting what the tree might look like ten years from now, which he has done in a thought-provoking paper (Outlook) that most appositely concludes this anniversary issue.

We hope our readers enjoy this tribute to the medical quest for knowledge.

