



ISHLT Monograph Series 1 (2006) vii

Preface

Mechanical Circulatory Support

The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) has initiated an ISHLT Monograph Series, to be published annually on a specific subject of interest to our society members. The series begins with this first volume on *Mechanical Circulatory Support*. This is particularly timely in view of the expanding application of permanent (destination) left ventricular assist device therapy, ongoing bridge-to-transplant and destination trials with rotary pumps, and the expectation for upcoming clinical trials of “third generation” bearingless devices.

This project was greatly facilitated by the participation of numerous experts in the field of mechanical circulatory support, who have provided important contributions to our understanding of device therapy and its potential (and current) role in the therapy of advanced heart failure. Of particular importance is the participation of Dr. O. H. Frazier as my co-editor on this project. The major thrust of Dr. Frazier’s professional life has been the advancement of safe, long-term circulatory support. As a pioneer in this field, with the world’s largest individual experience in the implantation of chronic mechanical circulatory support devices, he provides unique insight into every aspect of this monograph.

With the explosion of available information in this field, we hope that this monograph has successfully summarized the relevant details and issues and will provide a foundation for the reader upon which new information can be added in a logical matrix.

James K. Kirklin, MD
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
ZRB 739
703 So. 19th Street
Birmingham, AL 35294-0007, USA
E-mail address: jkirklin@uab.edu