Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine publishes Clinical Research

Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine publishes the inaugural articles in its Clinical Research section today.

A cross-sectional screening study by Jonathan Carapetis and colleagues establishes the efficacy of a screening protocol for rheumatic heart disease using portable echocardiography equipment.

Elsewhere in the Clinical Research section, Claudio Napoli and colleagues from the University of Naples in Italy investigate the vascular ‘niche’. Their results in mice suggest that modulating this niche could be a strategy for treating peripheral ischemia. Abel Romero-Corral and colleagues from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, US, show that high leptin levels are significantly associated with raised cardiovascular risk.

"I am impressed with the high quality of the first three Clinical Research articles we have published in Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine," comments Editor-in-Chief Dr Valentin Fuster. "There was strong demand from the clinical cardiology community for this section and I am confident that Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine will become a place to publish exceptional cardiovascular research. I look forward to receiving many more submissions of this calibre."

Launched in 2004, Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine is a peer-reviewed journal that translates the latest key research developments into clinical practice for cardiologists. Sections include editorial and opinion pieces, highlights from the current literature, commentaries on the application of recent research to practical patient care, comprehensive reviews, and in-depth case studies. The journal is supported by an international Editorial Board, and with a 2006 Impact Factor of 2.72 ranks in the top 30% of Cardiac and Cardiovascular Systems journals, according to the 2006 Journal Citation Report.

Nature Clinical Practice Publisher Dr James Butcher comments, "I’m delighted that Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine is now publishing original research papers alongside review and opinion articles. This development will benefit both authors and readers and will help to make the journal one of the very best in its field."

Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine encourages submissions from any area of cardiology including randomized controlled trials, systematic reviews/meta-analyses, and observational, epidemiological and translational studies. More information is available at www.nature.com/ncpcardio/originalresearch.

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**Articles featured:**

**Evaluation of a screening protocol using auscultation and portable echocardiography to detect asymptomatic rheumatic heart disease in Tongan schoolchildren**
Jonathan R Carapetis*, Myra Hardy, Toakase Fakakovikaetau, Rohayati Taib, Lyn Wilkinson, Daniel J Penny and Andrew C Steer
*Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine*
Published online: 8 April 2008 | doi:10.1038/ncpcardio1185
[http://www.nature.com/ncpcardio/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ncpcardio1185.html](http://www.nature.com/ncpcardio/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ncpcardio1185.html)

**Therapeutic targeting of the stem cell niche in experimental hindlimb ischemia**
*Nature Clinical Practice Cardiovascular Medicine*
Published online: 15 April 2008 | doi:10.1038/ncpcardio1214
[http://www.nature.com/ncpcardio/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ncpcardio1214.html](http://www.nature.com/ncpcardio/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ncpcardio1214.html)

**Relationships between leptin and C-reactive protein with cardiovascular disease in the adult general population**