Mortality due to cardiovascular disease in the United States has continued to decline over the last 15 years. Much of this is the result of incorporation of evidence-based guidelines in care, development of technology and new strategies to address these disease processes, as well as aggressive strategies for disease prevention as demonstrated in the most recent updates of the JNC 8 Guidelines for the Management of Hypertension in Adults as well as the ACC/AHA Guidelines on the Treatment of Blood Cholesterol to Reduce Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Risk in Adults.

In this issue of *Medical Clinics of North America*, Dr Deborah Wolbrette has assembled a distinguished group of colleagues to present the most recent advances in the prevention, evaluation, and management of cardiovascular diseases and associated conditions. From the evaluation and management of syncope, the consideration and utilization of the new oral anticoagulant agents, to the patient selection and management of the transcatheter aortic valve replacement, these authors provide guidance to the practicing internist in the care of patients in a variety of both acute and chronic cardiac and vascular conditions.

Edward R. Bollard, MD, DDS, FACP
Department of Medicine
Penn State–Hershey Medical Center/
Penn State University College of Medicine
Hershey, PA 17033, USA
E-mail address: ebollard@hmc.psu.edu