

registration will provide valuable experience in the design for a prospective national registry of all valves implanted in patients in Australia and New Zealand. Mechanisms for on-going funding for such a comprehensive, multivalve registry are being explored with industry and the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The Registry will coordinate its activities with all cardiac units and their research teams. The Registry initially will function as a passive data bank. After patients have been located through the attending doctor, the Registry will not directly contact patients. The Registry will, however, maintain contact with cardiac surgeons, cardiologists or physicians responsible for patient follow-up and care.

It will ensure that lines of communication remain current. No patient-related variables other than the valve serial number and date of implant will be transmitted to the valve manufacturer, and unit data will be kept confidential by the Registry and made available only to the reporting cardiac unit. Aggregated data will be transmitted to the regulatory authorities, departmental heads and valve manufacturers. To ensure patient confidentiality, detailed procedures have been documented and implemented.

Information necessary for patient care and safety will be reported to the medical officer accepting responsibility for patient follow-up. This medical officer will have been nominated by each patient. The Registry will not initiate direct patient contact under any circumstance. Patients with Shiley valves enrolling in the program will be offered free Medic Alert membership. This provides the patient with a personal emergency medical information service that can identify the patient's medical condition and appropriate treatment in the event of a medical crisis.

Cardiac surgeons have been in the forefront of medical research, high technology and innovation. With the support of the cardiac surgical and cardiological communities, this Registry should develop practical ways of ensuring adequate patient follow-up, device tracking and hazard notification. The Registry has the support of the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

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St. Jude Medical-Getz Bros Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship



Michael Rowland was awarded the inaugural St. Jude Medical-Getz Bros Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship of 1994. The Fellowship is valued at \$15,000.

This has enabled him to work on the senescent myocardium at The Baker Medical Research Institute, under the supervision of Associate Professor Franklin Rosenfeldt.

Dr Rowland has taken two years out from his cardiothoracic training to carry out this research project and to obtain a Doctor

of Medicine degree through Monash University.

Dr Rowland was also given a supplementary grant from the George Stirling Scholarship Fund to assist his research.

The St. Jude Medical-Getz Brothers Cardiothoracic Surgical Fellowship is awarded annually by application through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The George Stirling Scholarship Fund is administered through the Baker Medical Research Institute.