It was another banner year for the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in our continuous pursuit of excellence in cardiovascular care. Our most substantial accomplishment of the year was UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute receiving national recognition as a premier cardiology and heart surgery program, ranked 19th nationally by U.S. News & World Report.

UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute’s clinical performance continued to grow with a 10.3 percent increase in inpatient discharges and an 8.1 percent increase in outpatient activities in 2012 compared to 2011. University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center contributed significantly to the increase in overall volume, with inpatient discharges growing 77 percent and outpatient activities increasing 109 percent.

In addition, the Valve and Structural Heart Disease Center experienced an increase of over 350 patients presenting with severe aortic stenosis for open heart surgery (conventional therapy) or TAVR (minimally invasive transcatheter aortic valve replacement). University Hospitals Case Medical Center is one of only 40 clinical sites in the nation with both the Medtronic CoreValve and Edwards Sapien TAVR programs. Marco Costa, MD, is further advancing our health care services by leading a pivotal U.S. trial of the left ventricular (LV) parachute device for LV restoration therapy for patients with advanced heart failure after heart attack. This year UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Center received the highest quality performance on The Joint Commission quality scorecard for heart attack and heart failure care with 100 percent of heart attack patients treated at UH Case Medical Center exceeding the “within 90 minutes” guideline for door-to-balloon time. This outstanding performance led to a featured article in The Wall Street Journal.

The division’s research activities remain strong with the Case Cardiovascular Research Institute, under the direction of Mukesh Jain, MD, totaling 22 grants (17 R01, two K-grants, one T32 grant and two American Heart Association National Scientist Development grants). The research support of the division in 2012 amounted to $15.7 million (NIH: $7.9M and Industry: $7.8M). Our total committed NIH funding as of 2012 is $30 million. UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute Research & Innovation Center, under the direction of Dr. Costa, achieved its highest total of 87 clinical trials with more than 1,500 patients enrolled and an estimated total budget of more than $4 million.

With the help of the Medtronic Foundation that awarded a $1.4 million grant to Case Western Reserve University to collaborate with Makerere University School of Medicine and Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda, we were able to further expand the international reputation and reach of our faculty. We are currently initiating and developing new clinical and research programs in cardiovascular disease in Uganda.

Finally, the continued dedication of our faculty to exemplary health care resulted in an array of prestigious awards and honors this year. Mukesh Jain, MD, and Daniel Simon, MD, were elected members of the Association of American Physicians as well as Association of University Cardiologists. Dr. Jain was appointed President-elect of the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation and Councilor of the North American Vascular Biology Organization. Albert Waldo, MD, received the American College of Cardiology Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to cardiovascular medicine.