

# SiemensSays

## Viewpoints from Siemens Medical Solutions Executives

### In Upcoming Issues

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### Addressing Cardiovascular Needs from the Ground Up

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#### As cardiologists are re-evaluating how they diagnose and treat cardiovascular diseases, what are the key issues Siemens' customers face?

Today's medical facilities are faced with a patient population that is being diagnosed at a younger age and could remain in a physician's care for decades to come. Medical professionals are also faced with a new generation of technological advances, which often challenge the currently accepted standards and protocols of cardiology care. There needs to be an understanding about the value of technologies, such as the SOMATOM® Definition, the world's first dual source computed tomography system, and how to best incorporate them into the patient care process. This helps ensure that the quality of care for patients is enhanced in the most cost-effective manner.

#### Tell us about Siemens' approach toward cardiovascular solutions.

The solutions we introduce and provide to the industry must enable and improve the clinical workflow of our customers. These technologies must enhance the clinical care processes, resulting in more efficient and effective patient care.



Additionally, Siemens is attuned to the patient experience during the care process through our work with leading medical facilities. This is part of the "quality up, cost down" focus Siemens brings to the industry.

#### What role does information technology (IT) play in cardiovascular care?

IT is playing an ever-expanding role in cardiovascular care. It is extremely important to have pertinent patient information and images available at the point of care. Inability to access patient information results in delays in treatment, even possible mistreatment. Caregivers can be more effective when necessary information is

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## Addressing Cardiovascular Needs from the Ground Up (cont.)



*This image was acquired using Siemens' SOMATOM® Definition, the world's first dual source computed tomography (CT) system. A patient with known chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and contraindication for beta blockers was scanned to diagnose the reason for a sudden onset of acute atypical chest pain. The patient's shortness of breath made a scan time below 10 seconds necessary, and a temporal resolution of constant 83 milliseconds allowed motion-free imaging of a varying heart rate from 85-93 beats per minute. Image Courtesy of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg and Siemens Medical Solutions*

readily available. Comprehensive health-care IT solutions, such as Soarian® Cardiovascular Enterprise, support the cardiovascular care continuum from admission to follow-up. This scalable solution integrates diagnostic image acquisition, image processing and evidence-based reporting tools from syngo® Dynamics with Soarian Cardiology to provide a single, longitudinal clinical repository that becomes a true cardiovascular electronic patient record (EPR). In addition, workflow tools and decision support technology are enhancing the efficiency and efficacy of care by sending alerts, helping to prevent misadministration of medications, and

informing care providers of possible drug interactions and allergies. Decision support technology also supports the utilization of care paths or disease-based patient care protocols.

### **What is the future of cardiology and how is Siemens playing a part in that future?**

The future of cardiology will incorporate disease management across the continuum of care – from diagnosis in the physician's office, integrated with hospital-based interventions, to follow-up and rehabilitative care. Advances in IT will make this possible, placing information

where caregivers need it most – at the point of care.

Web-based technology will allow caregivers to review and update patient records in real-time on handheld devices. New innovations in diagnostic imaging techniques will continue to provide procedures and methods for diagnosing disease earlier, even when patients are classified as "subclinical" or not yet having any symptoms of disease. In addition, interventional techniques will continue to provide alternatives to more invasive surgical procedures, resulting in a decrease in the length of stays for these patients and a subsequent decrease in the overall cost of treatment.

### **What impression of Siemens should attendees leave with at ACC 2006?**

Siemens provides a comprehensive, holistic solution for cardiovascular services that encompasses the entire continuum of care. Siemens' solution is comprised of IT that provides a longitudinal patient record, including integrated disease management for the physician office environment, innovative imaging technologies that provide better and more efficient diagnostic information, and services to help our customers maximize their return on investment by optimizing clinical, operational and financial processes.

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