Cardiac Surgery is a tremendously important therapeutic modality in advanced cardiac care. To this day, the long-term vital and functional outcomes of common cardiac surgical operations—whether congenital, coronary, valvular, heart failure, or aortic procedures—remain largely unmatched by nonsurgical approaches. Furthermore, cardiac surgical translational investigators repeatedly contribute seminal advances in various fields of cardiovascular therapeutics, both within and beyond the scope of surgery per se. Although *Circulation* regularly publishes cardiac surgical articles, the present issue represents the first Cardiovascular Surgery Themed Issue, spearheaded by the Council on Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia of the American Heart Association, in collaboration with *Circulation* and its Editor-in-Chief, Dr Joseph Loscalzo. For this new themed issue, surgical authors who presented their research at the 2014 Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association were invited to submit an article for consideration of publication in *Circulation*. A high number of submissions were handled by the *Circulation* editorial team, and >120 manuscripts underwent full review. The 7 articles grouped in the present themed issue, as well as the 2 articles published in the the AHA’s Open Access Journal\(^1\),\(^2\), constitute high-quality, novel, and authoritative contributions, which incidentally embrace the main research areas of cardiac surgery outlined above.

A great deal of work went into bringing this Cardiovascular Surgery Themed Issue to fruition. On behalf of the Council on Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia Council, I thank all the authors who contributed to the quality of this issue by submitting their best research. My praise and gratitude are also directed to the *Circulation* editorial team and to our reviewers, including *Circulation* Editorial Board Members and statisticians, for their expert, thorough, and meticulous dedication to the quality of the review process that led to this themed issue.

We are confident that the excellent articles that follow will generate great interest and help optimize cardiac care, both within and beyond the readership of *Circulation* and the cardiac surgical community, and translate into positive health impacts for our patients and their families, as well.

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References

