

## Gillinov named PI of AFIC

Bentley tapped as Executive Director



Marc Gillinov, MD



Alan Bentley

In July, **Dr. Marc Gillinov** was officially named the new Principal Investigator of AFIC. “Marc’s dedication and vision, both as a surgeon and a leader of our research program, is invaluable to the long term success of AFIC. I cannot imagine a better partner to build on AFIC’s accomplishments than Marc,” says **Alan Bentley**, newly appointed Executive Director of AFIC. Alan was recruited to AFIC and CCF Innovations from the University of Virginia.

## Grand Opening of AFIC pre-clinical facilities

### AFIC Doctors Touching Lives

Dear Dr. Wolf,  
My husband and I celebrated our 35th anniversary in Hawaii! Thanks to my [ablation] surgery, I was able to have a few afib-free mai tai’s and pina colodas. My heart has been in rhythm since [the surgery], and I’m very grateful!

— Cheryl Tolbert,  
McArthur, Ohio



December saw the completion of AFIC’s state-of-the-art pre-clinical research facilities, on time and on budget. The facilities comprise approximately 2200 square feet of dedicated pre-clinical laboratory space (including two surgical rooms) available

exclusively for AFIC research projects. These facilities will give AFIC researchers an unprecedented ability to investigate new AF therapies, and to test and improve upon the next generation of medical devices developed by AFIC researchers and our corporate partners for the diagnosis and treatment of atrial fibrillation. First experiments in the new facilities are scheduled for January, 2007.

The AFIC laboratories will perfectly compliment the surgical research capabilities of the new Center for Surgical Innovation (CSI) at the University of Cincinnati, which opened earlier in 2006. The CSI has a portfolio of research opportunities, including AFIC projects focused on minimally invasive surgical approaches for the treatment of atrial fibrillation.



## Do you have irregular heart beats?

Dr. Jennifer Cummings’ interview with MSNBC.com

In a recent MSNBC.com interview, prominent Cleveland Clinic electrophysiologist and AFIC researcher **Dr. Jennifer Cummings** discussed causes and symptoms of heart arrhythmias, and how to diagnose and treat such conditions. Dr. Cummings was also featured in a segment on NBC’s the Today Show discussing cardiac stress in race car drivers during competition, and more broadly, advances in arrhythmia monitoring.



## First meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board

Dr. David VanWagoner presents at international symposium



“Inflammatory pathways: targets for the treatment and prevention of atrial fibrillation”

23rd meeting of the International Society for Heart Research, Chiba, Japan 12/06

On September 7th, AFIC held its first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board – comprised of Drs. Adam Saltzman (Maimonides Medical Center), Richard Schuessler (Washington University School of Medicine), and Ronald Berger (Johns Hopkins Medical Institute). The heads of each of the five principal AFIC research programs summarized for the SAB their progress and plans for their research projects, and obtained constructive feedback about their programs. The SAB identified for the group new areas of research, possible commercial collaborators, and potential areas for collaborative research among programs. The next meeting of the SAB will be scheduled for late spring, 2007.

AFIC also had the pleasure of hosting representative from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) for their first technical site visit on December 12th. Economic impact of AFIC projects and programs was the focus of the visit. Feedback from the site visit reinforced our belief that AFIC is appropriately targeting research projects and programs likely to positively affect the marketplace for AF diagnostics and treatment therapies.

## Cleveland Clinic sponsors Annual AF Summit

The Atrial Fibrillation Summit gets better every year. The 4th Annual AF Summit concluded on September 17th in Aspen Colorado, and featured a distinguished international faculty presenting developments in the medical, interventional, and surgical treatments of AF, including cutting edge research into the etiologies of AF, new tools, genetics and autonomies. Advances in electrical therapies, ablation techniques and cardiac resynchronization were discussed and debated. The Cleveland Clinic sponsored the event, and was well represented as moderators and presenters. The next Summit is tentatively scheduled for December, 2007 in New York City.



### AFIC Partners



Atrial Fibrillation Innovation Center  
An Ohio Wright Center of Innovation



The Atrial Fibrillation Innovation Center is supported in part by a grant from the State of Ohio's Third Frontier Project

Check us out online at:  
[www.AFInnovationCenter.org](http://www.AFInnovationCenter.org)

## A look ahead

Though 2006 was a productive year for AFIC, we expect even bigger and better things from our researchers and corporate partners in 2007. We are currently working to develop and implement a strategic plan for the center in 2007. Part of that plan will be to attract new corporate partners to engage in collaborative research with our personnel on projects with a high potential for economic impact and improved outcomes for patients. We anticipate our research efforts in 2007 to lead to the formation of several regionally-located new ventures, resulting in the creation of high tech jobs in the region. Furthermore, we will be evaluating our current research projects, with the intention of reallocating resources to maximize the likelihood that our research efforts will contribute to improving patient care. As our current projects mature, new projects are launched, and our research capabilities expand with the introduction of new facilities such as AFIC's pre-clinical laboratories, AFIC will continue to progress in its assault on atrial fibrillation.