

**RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION OF PROSTHETIC VALVE MANUFACTURERS
INTERFACING ACADEMIC-INDUSTRY RESEARCH EFFORTS****Xiao Gong**

Sulzer Carbomedics Inc.
1300 East Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78752

Yi-Ren Woo

St. Jude Medical, Inc.
One Lillehei Plaza
St. Paul, Minnesota 55117

Ajit P. Yoganathan

Bioengineering Center
Georgia Institute of Technology
778 Atlantic Drive NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

Andreas Anayiotos

School of Engineering
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1150 10th Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35294

ABSTRACT

Prosthetic heart valve is one of the most successful implantable medical devices. However, introducing better performing and longer lasting prosthetic mechanical heart valves (MHV) into clinical use has been slow because predicting the long term performance of a new valve design is difficult.

Although significant progresses in many scientific fronts relevant to prosthetic heart valve development have been achieved, we still have an imperfect understanding of host responses to an implantable medical device and incomplete knowledge in associating hemodynamic characteristics of a valve design to clinical performance. Valve designers, frequently need to over design the valve components to ensure structural safety and thus, sacrifice the opportunity to optimize performance. Complications such as infection, thrombus formation, thromboembolic incidents, and hemorrhage associated to the use of prosthetic valves are still reported and valve designers are working hard to eliminate them.

Further advancing scientific knowledge in designing and evaluating prosthetic heart valves is of great interest to many Valve designers and manufacturers. Interfacing Industry and Academic research efforts has been thwarted due to predominantly proprietary issues. Considering the benefits of a better performing MHV to the patients, this industry session will bring researchers from various MHV companies and academic institutions to discuss how to share the results of scientific studies

more effectively. This will help accelerate new MHV development without compromising the confidentiality of key valve design information. The issue of standardized MHV testing will also be addressed.