Physiological pacing has been a term that has been used to describe many phenomena. It was used over 30 years ago to describe the advent of AV synchronous or dual chamber pacing, later the addition of the rate-responsive mode to pacing, and even more recently to describe biventricular pacing. In the last several years, there has been a resurgence of interest in pacing the conduction system: selective His-bundle pacing and non-selective His-bundle pacing. Despite the widespread use of this term, I believe “selective His-bundle pacing” is the true embodiment of physiologic pacing.

In order to better understand the phenomenon, the Journal of Electrocardiology has produced a truly scholarly review of this field. Papers included in this seminar will review the anatomy and pathology of the conduction system, the mechanics and phenomenology of pacing the conduction system as well as the basic science behind understanding the phenomenon of pacing the conduction system. This symposium covers this subject material in a comprehensive fashion extending from “the macroscopic to the microscopic cellular level and then back to the bedside”. The emergence of permanent His-bundle pacing has now been shown to have potential clinical benefit and future clinical trials will determine its role. Data on the phenomenon of His-bundle pacing based on observations that are now many decades old will be reviewed and reexamined. I believe this symposium will include information that will be invaluable to the scientist as well as the clinician. The papers summarize the state of knowledge in this field and include new information into understanding this phenomenon. Credit goes to Dr. Galen Wagner (Editor) and his colleagues Drs. Ben Scherlag, Ralph Lazarra and Olu Ajijola who put together the articles you will see over this year which will be part of this symposium.

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