Foreword

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It is a great privilege to present this supplement composed of the top papers read at the inaugural AATS Mitral Conclave biennial meeting, which was held on May 5 and 6, 2011, in New York City. The goal of the meeting was to bring together the top figures in the world in mitral valve disease and to have a thorough review of its medical and surgical management. More than 1000 attendees from more than 60 countries joined this first Mitral Conclave, and the meeting included more than 100 presentations from more than 40 expert faculty members. In addition, more than 100 original works were selected by the program committee for presentation during the Mitral

Conclave and manuscripts were submitted to *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* for consideration for publication in this supplement. After rigorous review by editorial board members, guest reviewers, and Mitral Conclave program committee members, the manuscripts in this supplement were selected for publication. A special thanks to Edwards Lifesciences LLC and Medtronic, Inc, is due for their grant support targeted to support publication of this Mitral Conclave supplement. We hope readers of the *Journal* will find these articles informative and beneficial in their future care of patients with mitral valve disease.

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