

# **Dr. Melvin Scheinman - 2011**

**Dr. Andrés R. Pérez Riera**

**Dr. Melvin Scheinman is Professor of Medicine, Walter H. Shorenstein Endowed Chair in Cardiology, and one of the founding fathers of the field of cardiac electrophysiology.**

**Dr. Melvin Scheinman is one of the founding pioneers of clinical cardiac electrophysiology. He grew up in Brooklyn, New York and took his undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University where he graduated first in his class.**

**Postgraduate medical education included Albert Einstein College of Medicine, residency training at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and cardiology training at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. Dr. Scheinman is best known as the first person to have performed catheter ablation in humans.**

**This was done after extensive animal studies. Dr. Scheinman and his team used high-energy direct current shocks and were the first to ablate accessory pathways and used this technique to ablate the fast AV nodal pathway.**

**Dr. Scheinman and his colleagues were instrumental in the development of radiofrequency energy applications for a whole gamut of cardiac arrhythmias. More recently, Dr. Scheinman and his colleagues have developed techniques for modification of sinus node function in patients with**

**inappropriate sinus tachycardia and for cure of patients with automatic junctional tachycardia.**

**Dr. Scheinman is also well known for his work in defining the role of electrophysiologic studies in determining need for pacemakers in patients with AV conduction disturbances. He was the first to initiate combined pacemaker and beta-blocker therapy for patients with the long QT syndrome.**

**He was among the first to prove the efficacy of intravenous amiodarone therapy for patients with malignant ventricular tachycardia. Dr. Scheinman's current interest revolve about use of new antiarrhythmic agents (i.e., Ibutilide, Azimalide) and in defining the basic mechanisms of unusual forms of atrial flutter.**

**Dr. Scheinman has made many contributions in the area of genetic causes of sudden death and will initiate a Cardiac Arrhythmia Genomics Clinic at UCSF. Dr. Scheinman is a renowned teacher and was awarded the Henry Kaiser Award for Excellence in Teaching as well as the Teacher of the Year Award in 1973.**

**He was also honored with the Paul Dudley White Award for Excellence in Teaching by the American Heart Association. Dr. Scheinman is director of an annual course on Advanced Clinical Electrophysiology and Ablation given at the American College of Cardiology, Heart House in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Scheinman is a superb clinician and among the busiest clinician on faculty. His opinion is sought for difficult clinical cases and his clinic is amongst the most active at our medical center**