



How one man's innovative medical procedure revolutionized the treatment of coronary heart disease

Dr. Andreas Gruentzig, the inventor of coronary balloon angioplasty and the “Father of Modern Cardiology,” moved from Switzerland to Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1980 to establish a clinical and research center. For more than two decades, the Gruentzig Center was the world leader in research and development in angioplasty and related techniques as

well as the preeminent institution for clinical treatment. Patients from around the world traveled to Emory for their angioplasty procedures.

During its first 10 years, Dr. Gruentzig's interventional center periodically mailed a series of newsletters to referring physicians highlighting the many novel activities underway and keeping them informed of ongoing work as well as future plans.

This volume contains all the original newsletters from the Gruentzig Center. These newsletters illustrate the growth and development of a revolutionary new medical procedure from its infancy to its acceptance as a mainstream therapy for patients with coronary heart disease.

These newsletters were assembled by one of Dr. Gruentzig's trainees, Dr. Skip Anderson, who, as an eyewitness to these noteworthy historic events, has provided insightful commentaries. Never before published, living history is presented here as it unfolded. In addition to Dr. Gruentzig, these newsletters also highlight a large group of talented individuals whose contributions provided enormous assistance to the development and application of coronary angioplasty, helping to prove its benefits. Readers will gain a unique background and understanding of how the current therapeutic environment for coronary disease was created, essentially by the work of one man — Andreas Gruentzig — and the people who worked with him.

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Author. H. Vernon (“Skip”) Anderson, MD is Professor of Medicine in the Cardiology Division at the University of Texas Health Science Center, McGovern Medical School, and the Memorial Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute, in Houston. He is widely known for his clinical research on several types of “clot-busting” drugs, including fibrinolytic agents and platelet inhibitors, and for integrating these agents in combination with immediate coronary angioplasty into the standard emergency treatment of patients experiencing heart attacks. Along with several colleagues, Dr. Anderson helped establish the National Cardiovascular Data Registry, which has an unmatched record of research productivity in interventional cardiology. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Cardiology in 2014 for this work. For more than 25 years, Dr. Anderson has been Associate Editor with two major cardiovascular journals.

