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Emmanouil Brilakis, MD, PhD, FACC, FAHA, FESC, FSCAI, an interventional cardiologist and expert in coronary chronic total occlusions (CTOs), joined the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation® in 2016. A prolific researcher, Brilakis has authored or co-authored more than 500 manuscripts and the Manual of CTO Interventions, now in its second edition.

Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation® (MHIF) has built its reputation as one of the nation's most distinguished champions of coronary artery disease (CAD) research and treatment. Under the leadership of Brilakis, the Complex Coronary Artery Disease Science Center works to decrease the burden of CAD through research, innovation and education.

Through its partnership with more than 70 cardiologists who see more than 31,000 individual patients at nearly 57,000 clinic visits each year at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and 36 outreach sites, MHI® is uniquely positioned to address the individual and societal challenges of coronary artery disease.

At MHIF®, Brilakis leads a large clinical trial group investigating treatment of CTOs, prevention and treatment of saphenous vein graft disease, prevention and management of complications, intracoronary imaging, antiplatelet treatment optimization post-coronary stenting, radiation safety in the cardiac catheterization laboratory and the implementation of novel technologies in health care.

"The Minneapolis Heart Institute® offers a superb, high-volume cardiology practice," said Brilakis. "This is a unique group of talented people, many of whom I have known for a long time in the field of cardiology. It's an outstanding group to work with."



"Our culture at MHI® and MHIF® is one of continuous improvement," said Brilakis. "The whole goal of doing clinical research is to make things better, safer and more efficient. Everything we do is all about the patient."

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Committed to improving cardiovascular health through innovative research and education

An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the work of MHIF® researchers is made possible through key partnerships including the Minneapolis Heart Institute at Abbott Northwestern practice and access to complex data sets through national registries and databases.

“All of the research we do is directly linked to patient care,” explained Brilakis. “The beauty of our research is that we are able to quickly offer care improvements for patients.” Through a patient registry supported through a grant from the Abbott Northwestern Hospital Foundation, Brilakis and his team are involved in multiple research studies on complex chronic total occlusions—arteries that are completely blocked.

Along with improving patient care, MHIF researchers are committed to improving education for other cardiologists on new and innovative treatment methods. Several years

ago, two educational websites were launched for a global audience of cardiologists to view various procedures online. One of the sites at ctomanual.org supplements the Manual of Coronary Chronic Total Occlusion Interventions. Another site at pcimanual.org is dedicated to instruction on basic and advanced interventional cardiology techniques. The sites offer cardiologists 170 online cases and have been viewed more than 350,000 times by cardiologists and patients around the world.

Donor support has been critical for funding a new training program in complex coronary interventions—one of just a handful of programs in the U.S.—and a huge service for training the next generation of physicians specializing in this area of cardiology.

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