comes trial for torcetrapib, intravascular ultrasonography and other imaging techniques would not be sensitive to detect nonatherosclerotic vascular toxicity or other safety problems with any new drug. It is reassuring that even in the absence of a failed clinical outcomes trial for torcetrapib, our study would not have supported regulatory approval. Ultimately, any novel antiatherosclerotic therapy must demonstrate favorable results in clinical events trials, and atherosclerosis imaging will probably not replace the need for such outcomes studies. However, our results support the cautious use of intravascular ultrasonography and other imaging methods in the initial assessment of new antiatherosclerotic agents to select candidate therapies for large-scale clinical trials.

Finally, our findings demonstrate the great difficulty in developing therapies to interrupt the atherosclerotic disease process. Twenty years after the introduction of statins, we are still waiting for the next breakthrough.

Supported by Pfizer.

Dr. Nissen reports receiving research support, through the Cleveland Clinic Cardiovascular Coordinating Center, to perform clinical trials from Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sankyo, Takeda, Sanofi-Aventis, and Eli Lilly. Dr. Nissen reports consulting for many pharmaceutical companies, but all honoraria or consulting fees are donated directly to charity so that he receives neither income nor a tax deduction. Dr. Tardif reports holding the Pfizer and Canadian Institutes of Health Research chair in atherosclerosis and receiving consulting fees from Pfizer and AstraZeneca; Dr. Nicholls, receiving honoraria from Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Merck Schering-Plough, consulting fees from AstraZeneca and Anthera Pharmaceuticals, and research support from Lipid Sciences; Drs. Revkin, Shear, and Duggan, being employees of Pfizer and owning Pfizer stock; and Dr. Tuzcu, receiving consulting fees from Pfizer and honoraria from Pfizer and Merck. No other potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

We thank D. Brennan, K. Wolski, N. Juran, E. McErlean, M. Goormastic, L. Gennotti, W. Davidson, M. Ennis, R. Burnside, A. Chin, M. Li, and A. O'Reilly.