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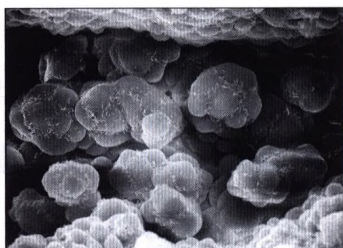
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FEATURE ARTICLE

Development of the Coronary Blood Supply: Changing Concepts and Current Ideas

David H. Bernanke and J. Matthew Velkey

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The Anatomical Record (New Anat.) Volume 269, Number 4, was mailed the week of August 19, 2002.

On the Cover: In recent years, advances in developmental and molecular biology have enabled researchers to build a more comprehensive understanding of coronary vasculature development. As illustrated in this current model, the epicardium grows from cells seeded onto the bare myocardium at the looped-heart stage from the proepicardial organ on the posterior wall of the pericardial cavity (upper right). Mesenchyme in the subepicardial space develops into a capillary plexus that surrounds the developing truncus arteriosus. At later stages (lower left), capillaries of the peritruncal plexus grow toward, contact, and eventually make attachments to the forming aorta. With subsequent remodeling, the definitive coronary vessel pattern is formed from the capillary plexus. See the article by Bernanke and Velkey (page 198). Illustration provided by David H. Bernanke, with the graphic at bottom by Michael P. Shenk (University of Mississippi Medical Center Medical Illustrations).

