porated wine as a ceremonial component of their rituals; and inevitably gods – such as Dionysus, god of revelry – were honored as progenitors of the wines used in their altar celebrations. And thus, mass intoxication is now defined as a bacchanalia, a dubious tribute to Bacchus, the Latin variant of Dionysus. Many orders of monks, such as the Carmelites and Benedictines, also labored to produce distinctive varietals. Indeed, Dom Perignon, a name identified closely with champagne, was a Benedictine monk.

Where ever vineyards can be planted – from the valleys of Tuscany, the foothills of California to the plains of Shiraz - man has discovered and savored the questionable gift of wine. Isak Dinesen (1885 – 1962) reflected upon this: "What is man, when you come to think upon him, but a minutely set, ingenious machine for turning, with infinite artfulness, the red wine of Shiraz into urine ?"

– Stanley M. Aronson, MD

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The author and his spouse/significant other have no financial interests to disclose.

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Foreword: An Update in Advances for Stroke

Brian Silver, MD

Much has occurred in the last decade with respect to stroke in the areas of public education, prehospital care, acute treatment, rehabilitation, and secondary prevention. In the series of reviews that follow, individuals involved in the care of stroke patients from across the state cover the spectrum of care for stroke. The first article describes primary prevention strategies and public education resources; the second surveys the current state of emergency medical services in Rhode Island; the third emphasizes the importance of early treatment with thrombolytic therapy and efforts to improve time to treatment; the fourth reviews the science behind stroke units; the fifth examines the broad range of opportunities for stroke rehabilitation; and the sixth discusses the latest in secondary stroke prevention from hypertension treatment to new options in anticoagulation. We hope these reviews serve to stimulate discussion and continue to improve care for patients across Rhode Island.

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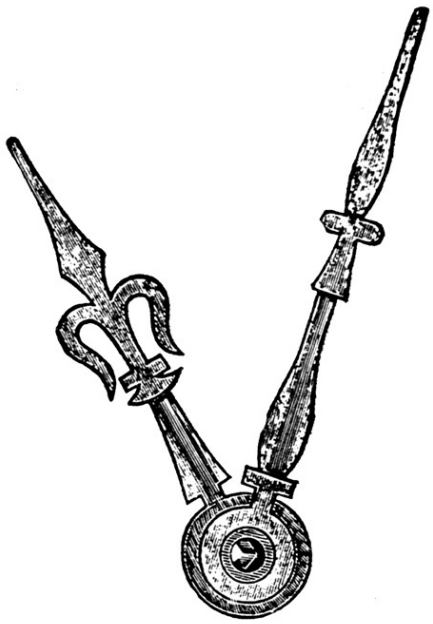
Brian Silver, MD, has served as a consultant for Abbott Vascular and as a defense expert in medical malpractice cases of stroke.

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