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CHESTER COUNTY

SPRING 2018

# Medicine

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## *The Art of* Chester County



## SECOND CHANCES

BY MIAN A JAN, MD, FACC, FSCIA  
PRACTICING INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGIST  
IN CHESTER COUNTY

**ROBOTIC-ASSISTED  
GENERAL SURGERY**

**MEDICAL TOURISM**  
*Growing Threat, or  
Potential Opportunity?*



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SPRING 2018

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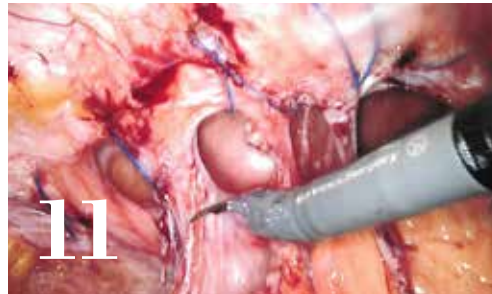
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*Chester County Medicine* is a publication of the Chester County Medical Society (CCMS). The Chester County Medical Society's mission has evolved to represent and serve all physicians of Chester County and their patients in order to preserve the doctor-patient relationship, maintain safe and quality care, advance the practice of medicine and enhance the role of medicine and health care within the community, Chester County and Pennsylvania.

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Robotic-Assisted General Surgery



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**Letters to the Editor:** If you would like to respond to an item you read in *Chester County Medicine*, or suggest additional content, please submit a message to [chescomedsoc@comcast.net](mailto:chescomedsoc@comcast.net) with "Letter to the Editor" as the subject. Your message will be read and considered by the editor, and may appear in a future issue of the magazine.

**Cover:** Sculptures by John Madarasz

# The Art of Chester County

## SECOND CHANCES DOCTOR'S STORY

BY MIAN A JAN, MD, FACC, CHAIRMAN DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE,  
PENN MEDICINE CHESTER COUNTY HOSPITAL

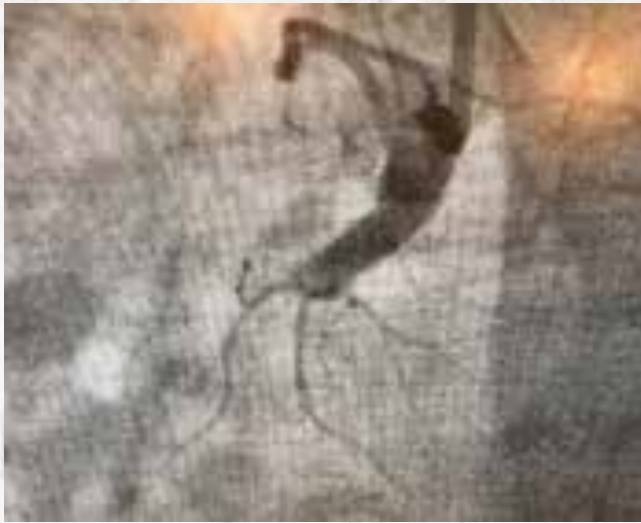
It was a cold day in January when I received a call from the emergency department at Penn Medicine Chester County Hospital, an ambulance was bringing in a 53-year-old unstable male with a massive myocardial infarction. In my long career as an interventional cardiologist I have gotten hundreds of calls like that, but it has never become a routine for me. Each call results in a rush of adrenaline and apprehension but at the same time a feeling of exhilaration that I cannot explain, and I think only an interventional cardiologist would understand. Not knowing what you are going to face, because it's not a car off an assembly line but a living, breathing human being who just a few hours ago had aspirations, hopes and plans and is now fighting for his life, and I will be playing a part in this. It's not just the patient but his family, wife and children and everyone he has gotten in touch with in his fifty-three years that will be affected by what happens in the next twenty-four hours.

I actually got to the emergency department before the ambulance, and soon after my arrival John Madarasz was brought in by EMS. This was my first contact with John, who looked ashen but younger than his 53 years. His history revealed relatively few risk factors, no hypertension, no diabetes and no smoking. Other than being overweight his only major risk factor was that his father had died of a massive heart attack in his forties. I explained to him and his wife the cardiac catheterization procedure and he was feeling so poorly his wife signed the consent. We immediately took him to the lab where he promptly had a ventricular fibrillation arrest which reoccurred several times and required multiple shocks. Fortunately, we were able to stabilize him and proceed with the angiography [fig 1, 2, 3 & 4] which revealed one of the three main

arteries in the heart was totally occluded. We were able to extract the thrombus with an extraction device and then dilate the lesion with a balloon and place a stent, which completely reestablished flow in the artery. John's symptoms completely resolved and his hemodynamic status improved. Afterwards, I spoke to John and then his wife. One of the great joys for me is talking to the family after a successful completion of our intervention and to be able to see the joy on their faces that their loved one is doing well.

These patients become your friends forever. In John's case I found out that he was a master coppersmith, a great artist and a genius sculptor.

In the next few months as John recovered I got to see his website and his work; I was impressed by the exquisite detail of his work. We often spoke of art and one of his sculptures was especially haunting; he called it "No Second Chance," and it was from a particularly dark time that he made that magnificent sculpture. As time passed we talked about it some more and his new found inspiration to create a companion piece to the "No Second Chance" sculpture. More recently John and his wonderful family have been in a particularly good place and he showed me his latest creation... "Second Chance-The Cardiologist" which resulted in our collaboration for this article. He told me it was created to convey a "Second Chance"...the one that the surgeon, the doctor, the EMT, your neighbor, your friend gives you in those sacred moments; a second chance to try to live a better life and tell each other how much we love them before we find ourselves in a place where we may have no second chance.



*Figure 1. 100% proximal blockage.*



*Figure 2. Wire in right coronary artery.*



*Figure 3. Partially opened artery.*



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*Figure 4. Completely opened artery.*

*continued on next page >*

**The Art of Chester: Second Chances**

*continued from page 25*

# PATIENT'S STORY

BY JOHN MADARASZ

On Jan.19th, 2016 I remember calling my wife from work and telling her "I think I am having a heart attack." Smart lady that she is she told me to call 911. Thankfully I did, and the response was immediate. I remember the ambulance taking me to the emergency room and me being in agony from chest pain.

I saw Dr. Jan for the first time almost immediately on arrival to the emergency department. He spoke to me and my wife which had a great calming effect. I remember the whole thing... the intense focus and unreal personalized professionalism by everyone in the room; it was so inspiring even in the most dire of moments it gave you the feeling that you had to make it, and that you couldn't let anyone down.

Over the next few days Dr. Jan and his team took me through recovery, explaining what had transpired. On discharge from the hospital I attended cardiac rehab at the Fern Hill Medical Campus and gradually regained my strength and ultimately improved on my pre-heart attack stamina and strength.

Dr. Jan was very involved in my cardiac care as he was also very interested in my work as an artist and he particularly liked my sculpture "No Second Chance"; I made that sculpture in a particular dark time in 2008/2009. It was a time of financial crisis, when people were losing everything, some people committing suicide, lives in ruins and global depression. Everyone was touched in one way or another.

When my heart attack occurred, I was so fortunate that Dr. Jan and the amazing group of professionals worked together in concert to save my life. I am so very grateful, and thankful. It was a powerful and moving experience and changed me forever. In CCU the next day I knew immediately that I had the inspiration and the story for "Second Chance-The Cardiologist." This was truly my second chance and I would do another abstract figurative bronze and make the sculpture flow where the doctor and patient become one, that the sculpture would be seamless as the two figures worked together in an intense moment to create a second chance at life and the possibilities that came with it.

I was born and raised locally in Malvern. I lost my father to a massive heart attack when I was seven and my mother had to raise five children, which she did amazingly well. My inspiration were my parents but also a book in the library that lead me to the great Tuscan sculptor Michelangelo. My wife Libby and I and my beautiful little family are in a great place in life now. I have never been healthier, or happier. Every day is truly a gift to appreciate. My only regret is five months after my heart attack I lost my brother to a heart attack. I wish he could have had the same opportunity that I had...that Second Chance.

I hope that my Art and my story can inspire others towards a higher appreciation of life. I do want to tell the readers that it's so important that they be diligent about their heart health; that sometimes it can be too late if you and your loved ones do not see the cardiologist on time and take steps to protect yourselves. To read more about the stories behind these sculptures, and my Art, or to commission any of my works, you can visit my website [www.copperwork.com](http://www.copperwork.com).



*The 2 bronze sculptures: "No Second Chance"  
...and "Second Chance-The Cardiologist"*





*Second Chance –The Cardiologist*



*Cupola*



*Centaur Ornament*



*John and his family in the studio*

### **Final Word by Mian A. Jan, MD**

I recently saw John who looked in great health. We talked about his progress and we discussed this story. I often wonder about some of the great geniuses of mankind like Van Gogh (who died at thirty-seven) and Caravaggio (who died at thirty-eight), and how much greater their body of work would have been if they lived a full life. To me as a physician I feel so blessed when I see someone like John who is doing so well and is such a productive member of society. I often feel that I receive much more from my patients than what I can ever give to them. My passion and enthusiasm for the practice of medicine can never dim because of my patients.

