Impact of inflammatory mediators on cardiac function and cardiac ageing

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An enhanced inflammatory state - i.e. "inflammatory/pathogen burden" - in the elderly results from physiological immunosenescence and is modified by the individual immune history: the latter is determined by sequential infectious/pathogenic events ("multiple hits"). Immunosenescence may prompt ageing of other organs.

Prof. Müller-Werdan will present evidence supporting the hypothesis that the increasing "inflammatory/pathogen burden" of each organism during a lifetime significantly contributes to the cardiac ageing process.

The clinical impact on inflammatory mediators and immunosenescence on the heart can be exemplified in septic cardiomyopathy and transcatheter aortic valve endocarditis. This new endocarditis entity after transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) in old and very old patients needs our special attention, because immunosenescence may modify the clinical course in a negative sense.

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