

**Re-setting our COMPASS for Secondary Prevention in Atherosclerotic Vascular Disease**

Robert C. Welsh

Despite application of contemporary evidence based therapy, patients with documented atherosclerotic vascular disease continue to experience recurrent clinical events with associated morbidity and mortality. Prolonged dual antiplatelet therapy has been shown to offer some advantage with reduced recurrent ischemic events in patients with prior myocardial infarction or stenting with an associated increased bleeding risk. Recently the novel strategy of applying a dual pathway approach with low dose rivaroxaban 2.5 mg twice daily and ASA demonstrated reduced events including a reduction in mortality across the spectrum of atherosclerotic vascular disease compared to ASA alone. Specifically, in patients with previously document coronary artery disease and/or peripheral vascular disease this dual pathway approach achieved 24% reduction in MACE, 18% reduction in CV death, 42% reduction in stroke as well as a 46% reduction in major adverse limb events. In the presentation the COMPASS trial will be discussed in the context of currently available secondary prevention therapies.