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Response to the letter to editor: coronary calcium scores: from histology to preventive cardiology

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Citation

Lindeman, J. H. (2017). Response to the letter to editor: coronary calcium scores: from histology to preventive cardiology. *International Journal Of Cardiology*, 229, 35-35.
doi:10.1016/j.ijcard.2016.12.011

Version: Publisher's Version

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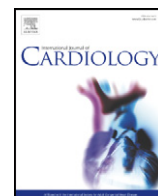
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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Cardiology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijcard



Correspondence

Response to the letter to editor: Coronary calcium scores: From histology to preventive cardiology



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We thank the Dr. Bos and his colleagues for their interest in our paper. The authors' concluding phrase: "Clearly, appreciation of the value of Coronary Artery Calcium (CAC) depends on the scope of the lens through which it is evaluated" hits the nail on the head.

The aim of the study was "to test the ability of IMT and CAC to flag the dynamic aspects of the atherosclerotic process". The work identifies CAC as a static marker, reflecting previous (subclinical) plaque rupture and consolidation (end stage disease). As such CAC disqualifies as a

marker reflecting the dynamics of atherosclerotic process (viz. plaque formation, progression, destabilization and consolidation). This is explicitly discussed in the conclusions section of our paper, and correctly paraphrased by the authors in their first paragraph. Our work does not challenge the value of CAC as a predictor of future events, nor does it suggest so. Past predicts future.

DOI of original article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcard.2016.11.299>.

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¹ On behalf of all co-authors.