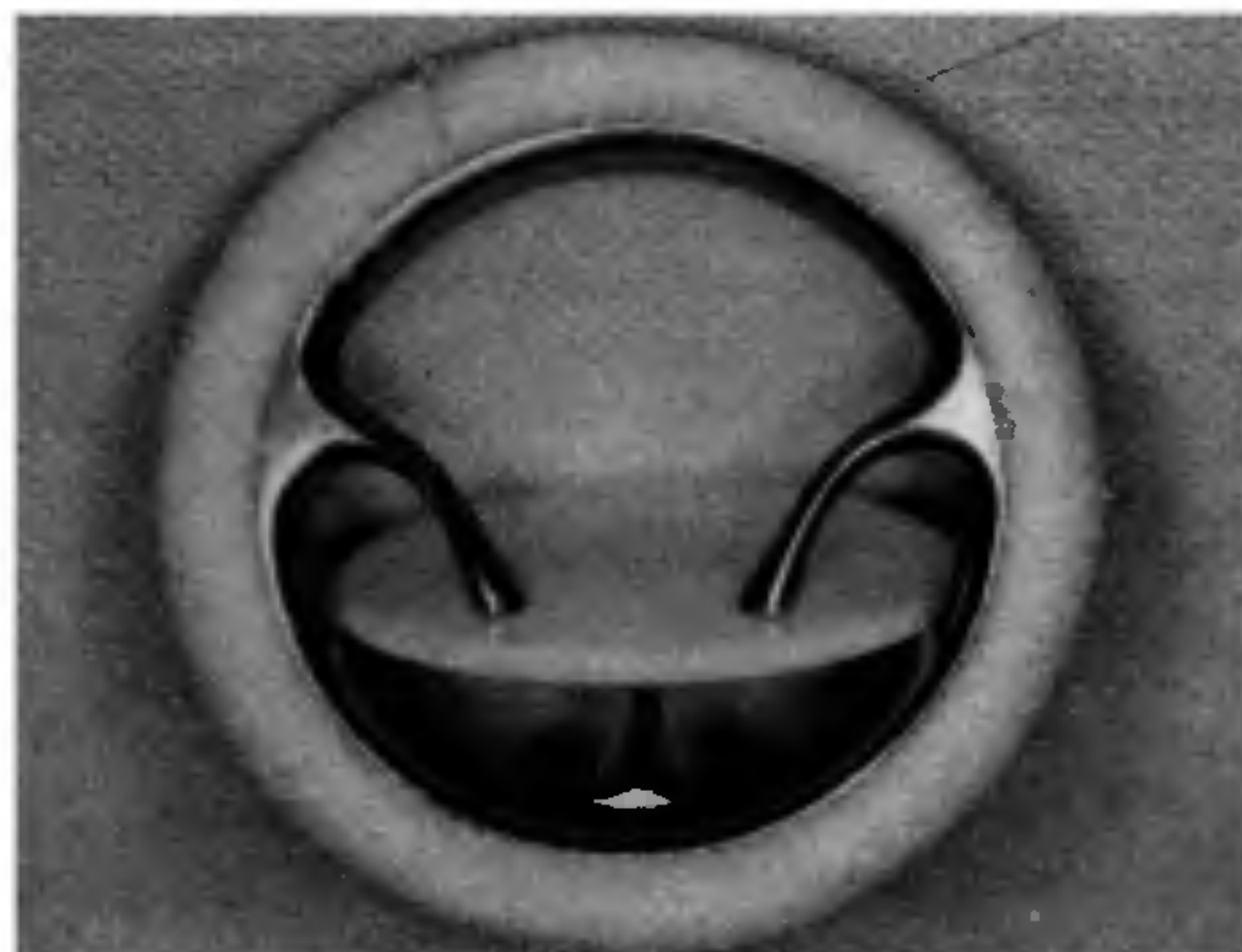


tutes has become well established in cardiac surgery during the last two decades. Among various early designs, ball and tilting disc valves have outlasted other models and given new life to millions of patients.

In view of the high cost of prosthetic valves which are imported, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Trivandrum have developed a tilting disc valve which consists of a durable plastic disc and a titanium metal cage (figure 1). The cage is mounted inside a polyester fabric ring which is essential for its intracardiac fixation by surgical sutures. The titanium cage is completely machined from a single block of titanium metal by a new process developed by the Biomedical Technology Wing of the Institute. The integral strut valves have crossed 300 million cycles in the accelerated wear tester without any failure and demonstrated a durability equivalent of 7½ years in the human heart. Currently undergoing implantation trials in pigs, the Chitra tilting disc valve



is expected to be available for patients towards the end of 1983.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### WORKSHOP ON PLANT VIRUSES AND MYCOPLASMAS

The Workshop on Plant Viruses and Mycoplasmas sponsored by UNESCO and COSTED and organised by the Department of Botany, National University of Singapore, will be held during 24-27 May, 1983.

The objectives are as follows: (1) To summarise research, development and technological advances in plant viruses, mycoplasmas and plant diseases caused by them, particularly in the Asian region; (2) To assess the status of current trends of research and research techniques; (3) To provide an opportunity for the

exchange of information and ideas relevant to developing countries of Asia; and (4) To ascertain possible research collaborations.

The meeting is open to scientists, research workers, University teachers and those interested in plant viruses and mycoplasmas.

Further details may be obtained from The Organisers, Workshop on Plant Viruses and Mycoplasmas, Department of Botany, National University of Singapore, Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 0511, Republic of Singapore.

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### TWELFTH ETHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

The Twelfth Annual Conference of the Ethological Society of India will be held from 27 to 29th May 1983 at the Department of Physiology, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. Guest lectures, Symposia, Free Communication and Poster sessions in Ethology will be held. This includes all aspects of behaviour, individual and social, of both invertebrates and vertebrates including experimental analysis of mechanisms of behaviour. Papers on biopsychology are also wel-

come. Routine natural history observations are of limited interest. Abstracts and papers presented at the conference will be subsequently published in the Bulletin of Ethological Society of India.

Further details may be had from Dr. B. S. Rao, Organising Secretary, XII Annual Conference of ESI, Department of Physiology, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore-560 034.