CLAIMS:

1. An implantable prosthetic device, comprising:

a spacer member configured to be disposed between leaflets of a native mitral valve, the native mitral valve being located between a left atrium and a left ventricle of the heart; and

a plurality of anchor members coupled to the spacer member, wherein the anchor members each comprise a paddle and a clasp, wherein the clasp and paddle of each anchor are configured to capture one of the leaflets of the native mitral valve, wherein the clasp and paddle are closed to retain the leaflets between the paddle and the spacer member such that the prosthetic device is retained between the leaflets;

wherein after implantation of the prosthetic device, the spacer member is configured to provide a flow path through the prosthetic device between the left atrium and the left ventricle when the leaflets are captured between the anchor members and the spacer member such that blood can flow regurgitatively from the left ventricle to the left atrium through the spacer member;

wherein a volume of the regurgitant blood flow through the spacer member is equivalent to mitral regurgitation having an angiographic grade of MR>2+.

2. The implantable prosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the spacer member comprises a porous body.

3. The implantable prosthetic device of claim 2, wherein the porous body comprises a wire mesh.

4. The implantable prosthetic device of any preceding claim, wherein the regurgitant blood flow volume through the device from the left ventricle to the left atrium is from 5% to 30% of a left ventricle stroke volume of the left ventricle at the time the device is implanted.

5. The implantable prosthetic device of any preceding claim, wherein the spacer member comprises a porous covering.

6. The implantable prosthetic device of claim 5, wherein the porous covering comprises a knitted fabric.

7. The implantable prosthetic device of claim 5, wherein the porous covering comprises an openwork fabric.

8. The implantable prosthetic device of any of claims 5-7, wherein

the porous covering is configured to promote tissue ingrowth such that the regurgitant blood flow volume through the device from the left ventricle to the left atrium is reduced from 15% to 30% of a left ventricle stroke volume of the left ventricle at the time the device is implanted, to 0% to 20% of a left ventricle stroke volume of the left ventricle over a time period of one month to six months.

9. The implantable prosthetic device of any of claims 5-8, wherein

the porous covering is configured to promote tissue ingrowth such that the regurgitant blood flow volume through the device from the left ventricle to the left atrium is reduced from a volume equivalent to mitral regurgitation having an angiographic grade of MR $\geq$ 3+ at the time the device is implanted, to the volume equivalent to mitral regurgitation having an angiographic grade of MR $\leq$ 2+ over a time period of one month to six months.

10. The implantable prosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the prosthetic device is configured to allow the regurgitant blood flow volume through the spacer member to have a volume equivalent to mitral regurgitation having an angiographic grade of MR > 3+.

11. The implantable prosthetic device of claim 1, wherein the prosthetic device is configured to allow the regurgitant blood flow volume through the spacer member to have a volume equivalent to mitral regurgitation having an angiographic grade of MR > 4+.