

Update for the Regional Anesthesia for Cardiothoracic Enhanced Recovery (RACER) SIG

Amid these troubling times, here is a brief update on the Regional Anesthesia for Cardiothoracic Enhanced Recovery (RACER) Special Interest Group (SIG). We held our inaugural meeting (virtually, of course) on April 21, 2020, which is when we would have convened in person at the Annual Meeting & Workshops. Despite the challenges and stress of current times, it was exciting and encouraging that over 45 members were able to join this first meeting.

The RACER SIG has had an eventful start. Our first chair, Dr. Jessica Brodt, was recently elected to the SCA Board of Directors. Congratulations, Jessica! As per SCA policy, this means she cannot continue as SIG Chair but will serve as Board-Liaison for the SIG. During the meeting, we unanimously elected the SIG leadership positions for 2020-2021 and are pleased to announce Dr. Ban Tsui as Chair and Dr. Rebecca Klinger as Vice-Chair. We also welcome Dr. Peter Neuburger, the Communications Director, and Dr. Himani Bhatt, Social Media Liaison.

To summarize our group, the SCA RACER (Regional Anesthesia for Cardiothoracic Enhanced Recovery) SIG is a newly formed collection of SCA members with a common interest in regional anesthesia techniques for a variety of cardiothoracic surgical procedures. Whether you are using regional anesthesia or just interested in learning more, all SCA members are encouraged and welcome to join. A primary RACER SIG goal is to provide members an informal forum to exchange ideas and have decentralized discussions about block techniques and ERACS practices. Additionally, our group seeks to formally collaborate on research projects and to have a presence at major SCA and non-SCA meetings. Our vision is that the RACER SIG will serve as an opportunity to network with SCA members that share an interest in this new and evolving subspecialty of cardiothoracic anesthesiology.

The SIG leadership has been brainstorming ways to enhance and promote regional anesthesia in cardiothoracic anesthesia in the clinical, educational, and academic realms. Establishing a meaningful and effective way to share and communicate with our membership is a high priority. Our next update will include an announcement of a series of educational activities and the finalized mission and vision statements will be available. In line with SCA Leadership, we stand in solidarity with individuals and communities across America who chronically face violence, racism, and oppression, and are committed to inclusion and diversity (*message from SCA Leadership, 6/3/2020*).

Stay tuned for the next RACER SIG update! Contact the SIG leadership team for any suggestions you have, and make sure to email committees@scahq.org to join our SIG and continue the discussion.