



WICTA CHAIR
Abimbola (Bola) Faloye
MD, FASA, FASE



WICTA VICE-CHAIR
Emily Methangkool
MD, MPH

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Dear WICTA Members,

At the 2024 annual meeting in Toronto, WICTA organized and hosted a joint symposium with Women in Cardiothoracic Surgery (WTS) titled *Women in the Cardiovascular Subspecialties: Then, Now and Tomorrow*. This inspirational session featured female panelists from cardiovascular anesthesiology, cardiac surgery, thoracic surgery, and cardiology, coming together to discuss issues and challenges women face in our fields. The personal stories of challenges, both professional and personal these luminaries overcame is inspirational.

One thing became clear as those women shared their stories – woman-centric challenges are universal and to rise above them we must:

- Have a clear vision
- Remain resilient
- Seek/hire help for time consuming, low reward tasks
- Find and utilize a community of like-minded individuals

This quarter, we are debuting a few new ways you can get involved:

- **Attend one of our monthly board meetings**
Step behind the scenes and participate in our think tank sessions. Please email WICTA@scahq.org for an invitation
- **Contribute to our new members' corner**
We are accepting short and informative articles (limit 1200 words, not counting references) that describe
 - Clinical challenges and management
 - Practice challenges and management
 - Literary pieces
 - New solutions or approaches to important issues facing cardiovascular and thoracic anesthesiology. See below for manuscript preparation.
- **Author a brain teaser**
Submit 1 or 2 cardiac, vascular, or thoracic focused questions, with a correct answer, brief explanation and 1-2 references.

We are always listening and welcome your input. Please reach out to us at WICTA@scahq.org.

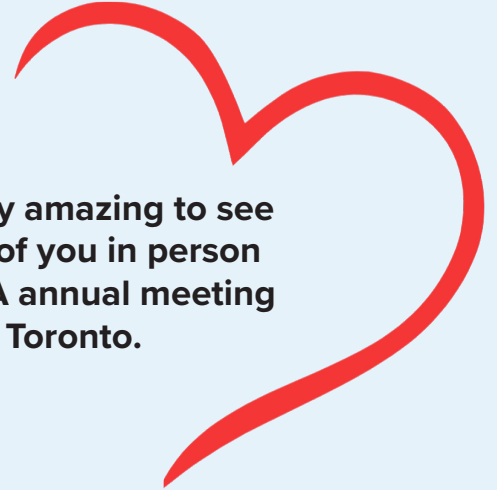




2024 SCA ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



It was truly amazing to see so many of you in person at the SCA annual meeting in Toronto.



WICTA MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION

of the SCA Women in Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Special Interest Group (WICTA SIG) is to ensure excellence in quality of patient care through promoting a diverse, inclusive, and equitable professional community in our specialty.

OUR PURPOSE

is to recruit, develop, and promote women and under-represented minority (URM) physicians and leaders in cardiothoracic anesthesiology.





2024 WICTA AWARDS

We were delighted to recognize and honor many outstanding WICTA members this year for their dedicated service and unwavering support. Here are the winners.



EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING

Awarded to an SCA or WICTA member in recognition of their commitment to mentorship and sponsorship of faculty members in anesthesiology.



Natalia Ivascu Girardi, MD

Dr. Girardi is a Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Professor of Medical Ethics in Clinical Medicine, at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. She is Executive Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Anesthesiology, and Chief of Critical Care Anesthesiology. Dr. Girardi's research interests include perioperative bleeding, patient blood management and medical ethics. She previously served two terms on the SCA Ethics Committee. She is currently a member of the SCA Scientific Program Committee (SOCCA Liaison) and Patient Blood Management Sub-Committee. Dr. Girardi is passionate about mentorship and sponsorship and is fortunate to be surrounded by an amazing team of highly talented colleagues.



Susan Eagle, MD

Dr. Eagle is a Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in the Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology who has mentored countless students, residents, fellows, and junior faculty. She started a mentorship program at Meharry HBCU Medical School to partner students at Meharry with faculty at Vanderbilt Anesthesiology. She has also been a mentor to dozens of female junior faculties in balancing professional and personal lives.

SHE LEADS

Awarded to an SCA or WICTA member in recognition of their commitment and leadership to promote diversity, equity, inclusivity, altruism, and belonging at the local or national level.



Sophia P. Poorsattar, MD

Dr. Poorsattar is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles where she serves on both the adult cardiac and liver transplant anesthesia subspecialties teams. After completing medical school at Jefferson Medical College, Dr. Poorsattar did her residency in anesthesiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and fellowship in adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Poorsattar has strong interests in mentorship, teaching, and education equity and currently serves as Program Director of a large community outreach and pipeline program aimed at inspiring disadvantaged youth in the Los Angeles area to pursue careers in the biomedical fields. She has received numerous accolades both regionally and nationally for her impact in this space.





Agnieszka Trzcinka, MD



Kiran Belani, MD, FASE, FACC

OUTSTANDING SERVICE

This is presented to a WICTA member in recognition of their service to WICTA to promote and or support the work and vision of WICTA, within the last year.

Dr. Trzcinka is an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at Tufts University School of Medicine and serves on the Tufts University Faculty Senate. She works as a cardiac anesthesiologist and Director of Cardiovascular Center Procedural Anesthesia at Tufts Medical Center. She is an active member of the SCA serving on the Scientific Program Committee and as a Member Engagement Liaison within WICTA (Women in Cardiothoracic Anesthesia) Special Interest Group. She also contributes questions to the ABA Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology Exam.

Dr. Belani is a cardiothoracic anesthesiologist, the Director of Perioperative Echocardiography, and Anesthesiology Director of Interventional and Structural Imaging at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. Due to her extensive local work and national societal involvement, she is recognized as a leader in both perioperative and interventional echocardiography. Dr. Belani has been on the WICTA Executive Board as the Professional Development Liaison since 2021 and has been instrumental in the creation and development of the well-attended and well-received online Professional Development Webinar Series.

OUTSTANDING FELLOW

This award is presented to an ACTA fellow who has demonstrated commitment to teaching and or service during their fellowship year and who shows promise of significant contribution to the field of cardiovascular anesthesiology or perioperative ultrasound.



Serena Dasani, MD

Dr. Dasani is a current ACTA fellow at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. She will be joining faculty at UT Houston in September 2024 as an Assistant Professor and full-time staff cardiothoracic anesthesiologist. Prior to her formal clinical training, she invested in multidisciplinary education and service as an undergraduate at Columbia University, Fulbright scholar in Indonesia, and MD/MBA at the University of Pennsylvania / Wharton School. She later served as a leader and advocate as the Brigham and Women's chief resident where she expanded funding available to residents interested in research to attend conferences. Now as an ACTA fellow, she has enjoyed working closely with cardiac surgery teams, and applying her background in scientific inquiry and healthcare management to drive systems-level changes in perioperative care. She also aspires to be involved in research, leadership, and advocacy on a national scale through societies like the SCA, while also serving as a mentor for other female cardiac anesthesia trainees and junior faculty.



Arianna Cook, MD

Dr. Cook is a current ACTA fellow at Northwestern. When she was a resident in Anesthesiology at UNC, she was involved in an orientation program for the cardiothoracic rotation. As a fellow, she has been working on a standardized protocol for TEE.



Sujatha Bhandary, MD, FASE, FASA



Jessica Zvara, MD



Agnieszka Trzcinka, MD

FOURTH ANNUAL SOUTER PROFESSIONAL COACHING SCHOLARSHIP

WICTA is privileged to yet again be a recipient of a generous donation of professional coaching from Dr. Karen Souter, MB BS, PCC, FRCA, MACM. Dr. Souter is a well-regarded Professor of Anesthesiology at University of Washington, and an International Coaching Federation Associate Certified Coach. This year, three WICTA members were nominated to receive this scholarship.

Dr. Bhandary has tremendous accomplishments in the domains of scholarship and mentorship. She led the division of Cardio-Thoracic Anesthesiology at Emory University for several years. She is currently focusing on many national leadership positions and global health initiatives for Emory University in India.

Dr. Zvara is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Virginia. She completed her residency training at Stanford and fellowship training in Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesia at Duke. She is currently working on building an ACTA Fellowship at UVA. Outside of the operating room, she enjoys exploring the outdoors and Charlottesville's vineyards with her husband, two kids, and husky mix.

Dr. Trzcinka is an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at Tufts University School of Medicine and serves on the Tufts University Faculty Senate. She works as a cardiac anesthesiologist and Director of Cardiovascular Center Procedural Anesthesia at Tufts Medical Center. She is an active member of the SCA serving on the Scientific Program Committee and as a Member Engagement Liaison within WICTA (Women in Cardiothoracic Anesthesia) Special Interest Group. She also contributes questions to the ABA Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology Exam.



Congratulations!



Ashley P. Oliver, MD, MA

HOW TO REEVALUATE DEI IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Dr. Ashley Oliver is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles. She presented part of her work at the 104th Annual AATS Meeting that took place in Toronto, Canada.

As a bridge-builder and communications specialist, I have spent over 20 years examining how people connect despite and through differences of perspectives and experiences. During times of increased polarization and conflict, the ability to bridge differences is more critical than ever. In April 2024, the National Education Association reported that since 2023, 84 anti-DEI laws have been introduced, and while 53 failed to pass, 14 have been signed into law by a governor and 14 have final legislative approval.¹ Despite overwhelming evidence of the positive rewards of diversity initiatives, strong headwinds against such initiatives have found a foothold. Groups committed to improving professional equity and diversity may need to acquire new lenses and new techniques to continually have influence and affect change.

Conflict transformation, a peace and conflict studies process that facilitates change by productively engaging conflict, may be useful in ongoing DEI work amidst opposition. Conflict transformation proposes that a) conflict is inevitable in social environments and is ubiquitous to the human condition; b) conflict is neither inherently positive nor negative, though it can become either based on how conflicts are expressed and c) conflict, when harnessed appropriately, can be an agent for positive social change. To effect conflict transformation, practitioners must 1) learn about their own conflict styles and tendencies; 2) become curious about the other individual's position, interests and needs, and 3) must be curious about the deeper context for and forces that underlie the conflict. When we engage conflict transformation as individuals committed to DEI work, we might be able to transform adversarial relationships to collaborative ones, bring in new voices, form new allies, find new ground for original scholarship, enhance deeper inclusion and belonging, thereby improve and transform DEI.

National Education Association "Anti-DEI Laws Take Aim at Students of Color and LGBTQ+ Students." For more information [CLICK HERE](#). Accessed July 19, 2024.



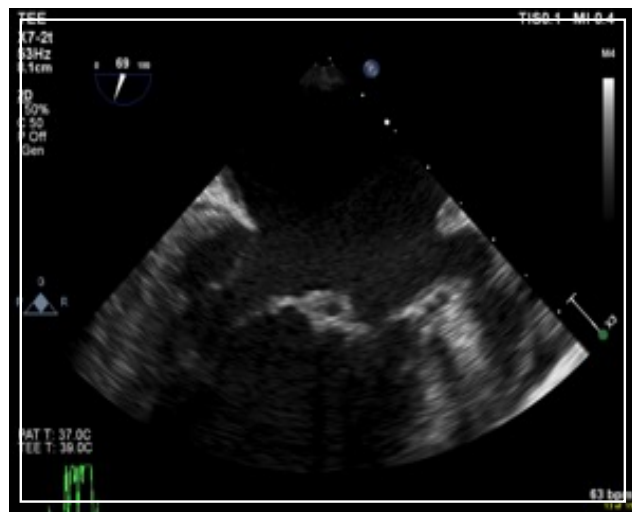
Do you have career or clinical questions that you want to post to the WICTA membership? Email wicta@scahq.org with your questions so that you can make the most of the experience of our members!



BRAINTEASER: WHAT IS THE CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IMAGE?

This image shows an echolucency within the mitral valve in a patient with known aortic valve endocarditis. The cardiac anesthesiologist alerted the surgeon to this finding. The surgeon explored the mitral valve and discovered an abscess on the anterior leaflet that was repaired.

Read more about endocarditis from the European Society of Echocardiography
[CLICK HERE](#)



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

QUESTION 1:

The treatment for acute Torsade de Pointes is:

- a) Beta blockade
- b) Amiodarone or Mexiletine
- c) Calcium channel blockade

QUESTION 2:

Recirculation in extracorporeal membrane oxygenation refers to:

- a) Post-oxygenator blood returning to the venous drainage cannula
- b) Pre-oxygenator blood returning to the venous drainage cannula
- c) Pre-oxygenator blood returning to the arterial cannula

Would you like to submit a brainteaser or ACA Exam prep question? Email WICTA@scahq.org with your question, answer with explanation, and headshot for publication in a future newsletter!

Answers on page 11



GET INVOLVED WITH WICTA

1

CONTRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS' CORNER

We are accepting short and informative articles that describe:

- Clinical challenges and management
- Practice challenges and management
- Literary pieces
- New solutions or approaches to important issues facing cardiovascular and thoracic anesthesiology

Manuscript preparation: Limit 1200 words, not including references. No more than 6 references and 1-2 figures and or tables. Please email wicta@scahq.org to submit.

2

AUTHOR EXAM STYLE QUESTIONS

Submit 1 or 2 cardiac, vascular, or thoracic focused questions, with a correct answer, brief explanation and 1-2 references.

3

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please include a cover letter with your name, rank or position, Hospital/Place of Work, headshot, and Email address with your submission.



WICTA ELECTIONS

Elections for WICTA executive committee members will be coming up in a few months. YOU are qualified if you are enthusiastic about being involved in supporting women and URM cardiothoracic anesthesiologists. Please contact wicta@scahq.org if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone you know.

If you are curious and want to learn more, please email wicta@scahq.org to learn about how to sit in on an executive board meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about WICTA leadership and sitting in on an executive committee leadership meeting, please email WICTA at WICTA@scahq.org.

WICTA HAPPY HOUR

The next happy hour will be announced soon. Please join check your email for details and join us to casually chat virtually.



SPEAKER DATABASE

The WICTA speaker database has contributed to multiple speaking engagements for many of our members and is actively sought by Grand Rounds planners. This is an excellent medium for members seeking these opportunities. If you have given local lectures, grand rounds, talks at regional or national meetings, etc., you are more than qualified! If you have not done so already, we encourage you to register at www.scahq.org/WICTA Database

If you or someone in your department is looking for speakers for Grand Rounds, conferences, etc. please submit an inquiry directly to WICTA@scahq.org to be provided with a list of speakers in the content areas you specify.

WICTA ONLINE EVENTS

WICTA, in conjunction with the SCA Member Engagement Committee hosts periodic educational webinars for practicing clinicians, ACTA fellows and other trainees with an interest in Anesthesiology. Check out recent events via [THIS LINK](#)

Setting up for Financial Success

Speakers:

Lisa M. Cukier

Partner, Chair of the Fiduciary Litigation and Family Law Practice Groups Co-Chair of the Private Client Group at Burns & Levinson LLP

Nora Yousif, CFP, CDFA, MBA

Financial Advisor Senior Vice President at Empower House of RBC Wealth Management
Enpo Tu
Chief Operating Officer of My Financial Coach

Navigating Organizational Politics: Power, Political Savvy, and Why These Matter

Speaker:

Daryl Oakes, MD

Post Graduate Medical Education Clinical Professor
Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine Vice Chair
Clinician Educator Affairs Department of Anesthesiology

[CLICK HERE](#)

Check out our beautiful new website!



UPDATE ON PDMP

RESEARCH PODS

Our research pods are just getting started. We have paired our first group of mentors and mentees, and we are excited to see what collaborations grow from them. If you are interested in joining a pod, please email WICTA at WICTA@scahq.org.

CALL FOR SCA UNIVERSITY QUESTION BANK AUTHORS

Interested in being a question-writer for the SCA's question bank?

Contact Gina Linganna at regina.linganna@pennteam.com. To participate, you cannot be a question writer for the ABA board exam.

CALL FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT IS OPEN

The SCA is accepting applications for grants for clinical practice guidelines now!

For more details [CLICK HERE](#)



JOB LISTINGS

Please email WICTA@scahq.org with any job postings as well as open fellowship spots or candidates seeking fellowship for the 2024 academic year.

Emory University Department of Anesthesiology is recruiting ACTA fellowship-trained and advanced PTE certified faculty to join our growing Division of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology. We care for patients at two dynamic clinical sites: a busy and growing academic medical center with a high volume of complex cases including aortic surgery, heart transplants, lung transplants, pulmonary thromboendarterectomies, durable LVADs, and temporary mechanical support placement; and a large center in Midtown Atlanta offering robust exposure to CABGs, valvular interventions, and complex structural heart interventions. Additionally, we staff the thoracic ORs and EP suites at both sites. We welcome interested fellows or faculty to contact Ellen Richter, Division Chief (ellen.richter@emory.edu), or Matt Klopman, Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs (mklopma@emory.edu).

Cleveland Clinic is currently recruiting qualified anesthesiologists with subspecialty career interests in several areas. These areas include neuroanesthesiology, anesthesia for liver and multi-visceral transplantation, anesthesia for head and neck surgery, orthopedic anesthesia, acute pain management, cardiothoracic anesthesiology, and critical care. If you are interested in an informational chat with one of our Chairs, please send CV to Katie Bee at beek@ccf.org

The Department of Anesthesiology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine is seeking Cardiothoracic and Multidisciplinary Anesthesiologists

The Department of Anesthesiology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine is currently undergoing expansion of facilities and services. As one of the leading anesthesiology training programs in the country, this strategic hiring initiative aims to enhance the department's expertise, research capabilities, and clinical services. This also furthers our commitment to providing exceptional care and advancing medical knowledge. Joining this team offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the education of medical students, residents, and fellows and to deliver comprehensive anesthesia care to patients in a collaborative and innovative environment. To fulfill these needs, we are currently seeking Cardiothoracic and Multidisciplinary Anesthesiologists. We offer a competitive compensation and employee benefits package in a great place to live and work. To learn more information, please reach out to anesthesiology@wakehealth.edu.

Temple University Health System in Philadelphia, PA is looking for full-time CT-trained colleagues to join the CT division.

Application materials should include a current curriculum vita (CV) and contact information for three professional references. Personal statements summarizing teaching experience, clinical and research interests, and contributions to diversity are strongly encouraged. Please address your application to: Gordon Morewood, MD, Chair & Professor, Anesthesiology, C/O Karly Settle, Senior Recruiter, Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, 3420 N. Broad Street, MRB 101, Philadelphia, PA, 19140, Email: Karly.Settle@tuhs.temple.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

To stay better connected, follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, and join our WICTA Facebook group. Anyone can join our Facebook group, and any member can post to the page. This is a great place to network with other members, ask questions, list job openings, etc.

Got something exciting you need to tweet, send us an email at wicta@scahq.org and let us know about your recent publication, promotion, etc. and we will share on our social media sites. Let us do the bragging for you.

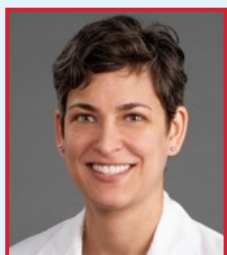
SEE HANDLES BELOW!



Question Author

Gina Linganna, MD

Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology
University of Pennsylvania
SCA Board of Director



WICTA Newsletter Liaison

Chandrika Garner, MD, FASE

Associate professor of anesthesiology at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston Salem NC where she holds dual roles as the Program Director for the Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellowship and Assistant Program Director for the Anesthesiology Residency. She is an ABA applied examiner and a question writer for the ABA Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology Exam.

Test Your Knowledge Answers

Question #1

Amiodarone or Mexiletine

Explanation

The treatment for acute Torsades de Pointes is the discontinuation of any QT prolonging agents, amiodarone or mexiletine, and increasing the heart rate to decrease the absolute QT with anti-tachycardia pacing or isoproterenol. The treatment for chronic Torsades de Pointes includes beta-blockade and Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) placement.

Reference

Viskin, S. et al. (2021) "Polymorphic ventricular tachycardia: Terminology, mechanism, diagnosis, and emergency therapy," *Circulation*, 144(10), pp. 823–839. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1161/circulationaha.121.055783>.
Kesavan Kutty. Kochar's Concise Textbook of Medicine. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2003
Cecil, R. L., Goldman, L., & Schafer, A. I. (2012). In *Goldman's Cecil Medicine*, Elsevier Saunders.

Question #2

A: Post-oxygenator blood returning to the venous drainage cannula

Explanation

Recirculation refers to post oxygenator blood returning to the venous drainage cannula. It decreases the amount of oxygenated blood being delivered to the patient (because it is recirculating into the ECMO circuit) and is more common with single lumen dual cannulation in the femoral-internal jugular configuration. It is identified by increased venous saturation or brightening of the color of the drainage venous blood. Recirculation should also be suspected when there is a paradoxical decrease in systemic saturation with increasing VV ECMO flow, i.e., more blood is being recirculated.

Reference

Mazzeffi MA et al *Anesth Analg*. 2021 Dec 1;133(6):1459-1477.

