

NEWS FROM THE CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT (CPI) COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF GROUP PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES – JUNE 2025

Name of Project	Description	Status
Snap Talks	Currently developing 3 snap talks	Ongoing
SCA-AM Panel proposals	Submitted 6 proposals representing the work of the CPI committee and its subcommittees for consideration for the 2026 SCA-AM.	Completed

SUMMARY OF GROUP MEETINGS

Date	Action Items from Meeting
2/12/2025	Presented the status of various projects performed by subcommittees Discussed the idea of snap talks for SCA University and identified several topics

COMMITTEE BENCHMARKS

2024 Committee Benchmarks Status Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Snap Talks: we currently have this project ongoing. The following topics are being addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting a RCT addressing the IV infusion of amino acids during cardiac surgery to protect the kidneys Presenting a RCT addressing the extracorporeal blood purification in an attempt to reduce cardiac surgery associated AKI Creation of a CPI YouTube channel: project in development; a new team member will be joining the CPI committee in April and he has a special interest in this area. At the SCA AM we will be discussing further details The development of a “Consensus Statement addressing Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Learning Objectives and Basic Competencies for Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Fellows” is currently on hold. The main driver of this project has is not interested in pursuing it anymore. In order to restart the project, we will require identifying a new person interested in taking this project on. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the CPI committee have been helping and overseeing the multiple projects of our sub-committees. We have made tremendous progress in this area and multiple products are currently being ongoing; the BOD has access to all of the CPI subcommittees’ reports for full details.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTS (IF ANY)

Action / Request for BOD Consideration
<p>The CPI committee is requesting that the SCA BOD consider to make a formal invitation to the STS to appoint a liaison. The CPI committee runs multiple projects that could greatly benefit from a surgeon’s perspective. In addition, a liaison would increase the collaboration between the two societies.</p>

SUMMARY OF GROUP PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES – POSTED DECEMBER 2024

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status
Snap-talks	Two snap-talks are currently being created	Ongoing
CPI YouTube channel	Relevant clinical topics will be addressed by experts from the CPI committee and its sub-committees	New – awaiting BOD approval
SCA-AM Panel proposals	Create proposals representing the work of the CPI committee and its subcommittees to be submitted for consideration for the 2026 SCA-AM.	New

SUMMARY OF GROUP MEETINGS

Date	Action Items from Meeting
4/28/2024 in person during SCA-AM	Discussed the progression of our snap talks, the development of a CPI YouTube channel, and updated members on the various projects that the CPI subcommittees are working on.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTS (IF ANY)**Action / Request for BOD Consideration #2:**

The CPI committee is requesting that the SCA BOD consider to make a formal invitation to the STS to appoint a liaison. The CPI committee runs multiple projects that could greatly benefit from a surgeon's perspective. In addition, a liaison would increase the collaboration between the two societies. The STS liaison individual should be paying SCA dues, much like the SCA members pay "STS Associate Member" dues. Furthermore, it must be emphasized that there will be no expectation that the STS liaison person would have a speaking engagement at the SCA Annual Meeting. This request has been ongoing for several meetings, it has been partially approved yet no formal invitation has been made to the leadership of the STS.

Summary of Group Project or Activities – June 2024

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status
Activity 1	Create panels for the SCA AM	Completed
Activity 2	Peer-review of material for “A review Course”, the SCA course for the ACA Board Exam	Ongoing
Activity 3	Create small “snap-talks” that highlight the work of the CPI subcommittees and will be on the SCA University website	New Project

Summary of Group Meetings – June 2024

Date	Action Items from Meeting
2/28/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Established benchmarksAssigned people to do “snap talks” advertising the work of the CPI subcommittees (The AKI & Blood papers)
10/15/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assigned people in charge of submitting SCA AM proposalsDiscussed ways in which we can help disseminate info created by CPI sub-committees
Email Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assigned people to help with peer reviewing the project “A review Course” headed by Dr. Linganna

Requests for Board of Directors Consideration

Action / Request 1: The CPI committee is requesting that the BOD consider making a formal invitation to the STS to appoint a liaison.

Action / Request 3: In the spirit of facilitating the dissemination of concise educational resources geared towards appropriate implementation of best practices and clinical practice guidelines, the CPI committee members would like to request the BOD the approval for establishing a CPI YouTube channel.

POSTER NOVEMBER 2023

Requests for Board of Directors Approval

• **Action / Request 1:** The CPI committee is requesting that the BOD consider making a formal invitation to the STS to projects that could greatly benefit from a surgeon’s perspective.

Summary of Group Meeting 1 - Date: 5/6/2023 in person at the SCA Annual Meeting

- The sub-committee chairs presented the work of their groups
- The CPI committee in collaboration with the ACTA Council will work on creating a document that establishes ECMO learning objectives and basic competencies for the ACTA fellows
- The members of the CPI committee were updated on funding opportunity for STS database-based trials on outcomes in cardiac surgery via the Participant User File (PUF) program.

Summary of Group Meeting 2 - Date: 9/6/2023 - zoom

- The sub-committee chairs who were in attendance presented the work of their group
- In an attempt to increase the dissemination of information, the members of the CPI committee have decided to create small presentations, 10 minutes in length, that will discuss recently published papers created by the CPI sub-committees (ex: SCA Clinical practice update for management of AKI associated with cardiac surgery, Return on investment of anemia clinic). The presentations will be posted on the SCA website.

POSTED JUNE 2023

The CPI committee is requesting that the BOD consider making a formal invitation to the STS to appoint a liaison. The QSL committee, of which CPI was a subcommittee, had Dr. Guy Paone as their STS liaison. The CPI committee runs multiple projects that could greatly benefit from a surgeon's perspective. In addition, a liaison would increase the collaboration between the two societies.

Summary of Group Meeting 1 - Date: 10/22/2022

* The group has jointly decided to submit panels from each subcommittee to the Annual Meeting PC, as this would represent a great opportunity to highlight the work of the subcommittees. We appointed Dr. Phil Kalarickal, member of CPI, to be the liaison to the PC; he is responsible to gather all the proposals, put them in the required format and submit them as an uniform proposal from the CPI committee. We reemphasized that each subcommittee would be responsible to help with the SCA University and will contribute with material development for various key words. We continued the discussion regarding the creation of podcasts which highlight the work of various subcommittees part of CPI.

COLLABORATION

- 1. Collaboration with the on-line education subcommittee chaired by Dr. Jennifer Hargrave in providing educational podcasts for the new SCA University
- 2. Collaboration with the Dr. Regina Lingana in order to develop review material for the upcoming ACTA board examination
- 4. Collaboration with the Presidential Task Force on SCA Recommended Methodology for Academic Document Development: Guidelines, Advisories, Reviews, Practice Updates, Consensus Statements, White Papers and Surveys co-chaired by Drs. Shore-Lesserson and Kertai. Drs. Popescu, Grant, Teeter, Liu, Raphael, Ngai and Lombard are all members of this task force and have submitted written material for the creation of this document. The document has been submitted for publication to Anesthesia & Analgesia and we are awaiting a decision.
- 5. Collaboration on the Lumbar drain scoping review group co-chaired by Drs. Cheung and Matyal. Drs. Popescu and Liu are active collaborators of this group. The full text review is finalized and in the near future the manuscript development plan will be created.

External Collaboration (outside the SCA):

- 1. Drs. Popescu and Bollen serve on the STS Workforce on Multidisciplinary Care chaired by Dr. Guy Paone. Dr. Popescu has submitted two proposals for panels on development of an institutional ERACS program and pain management after cardiothoracic surgery; both panels were accepted and were presented at the STS Annual Meeting in January 2023. Members of the CPI committee and its subcommittees will be on this panel as presenters and moderators: Drs. Popescu, Grant, Teeter. This workforce enhances the collaboration at a society level between the SCA and the STS. Additionally, it increases the collaboration at the level of individual members, allowing them to further increase their professional network. As such it is a win – win! In this regard we ask the board to consider formally inviting the STS to appoint a liaison to the newly formed CPI committee. Dr. Paone remains the STS liaison to the newly formed QSV committee.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- The CPI committee and Mechanical Support subcommittee in collaboration with the ACA council will partner to create a document pertaining to establishing learning objectives for ECMO devices for the adult cardiac anesthesiology fellows. The proposed title is: ECMO Learning Objectives for Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology Fellows: Recommendations from an SCA Expert Group. The plan is to develop a manuscript in accordance to the white paper on societal statements which has already been created. This manuscript will then be submitted to the Guidelines and Standards Committee for approval and following this to the BOD. We are just in the very beginning stages of discussion.

The CPI subcommittee/committee would like to thank Drs. Bollen & Brakke for their constant and valuable support and guidance. The CPI subcommittee/committee would also like to thank Veritas, and in particular Mrs. Mary Lunn, for the administrative support without which the committee could not perform its duties.

POSTED NOVEMBER 2022

Summary of Group Meeting 1: 5/15/2022

- Summary of Discussion: This was the first in person meeting for most members. Introductions and description of interest were done for all members. Each chair of a working group presented the progress status of their projects. Together with the at-large committee members, we decided that we will focus our attention on two main projects:
 - In order to facilitate the e-dissemination of the work done by the CPI working groups, one member of CPI would be assigned to each working group to be in charge of creating podcasts that would discuss the working group final projects. For example, as the AKI practice advisory had just been e-published, Dr. Aaron Mancuso, member of CPI, was delegated to liaise with the AKI working group and create a podcast on this particular practice advisory. The finalized podcast would be posted on the SCA website and would give the membership the highlights of this practice advisory and would hopefully stimulate interest in reading the actual material. This project was also presented to the Chair of the On-line education subcommittee, Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, and she agreed it would be an excellent idea.
 - Members of the CPI sub-committee and its working groups would participate in helping develop material for the SCA University, project lead by Dr. Lignana.

Summary of Group Meeting 2: As chair of the CPI sub-committee, I have participated in most of the monthly/quarterly working groups meetings to follow-up and maintain the projects going. Below is a shorth summary of all the working groups activities.

- Atrial Fibrillation working group: monthly meetings; working on developing of a CPI document on prevention and management of atrial fibrillation after thoracic surgery. Currently most of the full text articles have been reviewed; the outline of the manuscript has been created and various members are assigned manuscript parts.
- ERACS working group: attended several meetings; survey to assess the implementation of ERACS protocols across the USA and Canada is almost complete; also attempting to identify educational gaps regarding ERACS among our members
- ERATS working group: several meetings; working in collaboration with ERACS on finalizing the ERATS survey
- Blood management working group: three projects are ongoing pertaining to anemia management in cardiac surgery; The group has also developed podcasts on blood management topics.
- Acute Kidney Injury working group: the CPI document titled "Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists Clinical Practice Update for Management of Acute Kidney Injury Associated with Cardiac Surgery" has been published both online and in print in Anesthesia and Analgesia. The group has decided to embark on a new project related to renal biomarkers or another practice update regarding management of acute kidney injury after thoracic surgery.
- Cerebral protection working group: PUF study titled "Temperature during cardiopulmonary bypass and adverse outcomes after cardiac surgery": payment to the STS for the data collection has been made and data is being retrieved and prepared for evaluation.

DESCRIPTION & GOALS

- SCA Length of Service Task Force 2022
Dr. Popescu has participated in the meetings and deliberations of this task force. The end result of the LOS Task Force was that CPI became a full committee (from previously a subcommittee within QSL). The previous working groups of CPI (atrial fibrillation, ERACS, ERATS, Blood Management, AKI, Neuroprotection) have become sub-committees. The newly formed Transplantation sub-committee was added to CPI and the previous ECMO subcommittee, now renamed Mechanical Support, has also joined CPI. A new Mission Statement for CPI and its sub-committees is currently being designed.

- Development of high-quality educational material from every subcommittee of CPI for the SCA University

COLLABORATION

Internal (within the SCA):

- 1. Collaboration with the on-line education subcommittee chaired by Dr. Jennifer Hargrave in providing educational podcasts for the new SCA University (see already displayed on the website the Thoracic Anesthesia education modules created by the ERATS working group and TAS Planning sub-committee)
- 2. Collaboration with the Dr. Regina Lingana in order to develop review material for the upcoming ACTA board examination
- 3. Collaboration with the 2022 LOS Task Force
- 4. Collaboration with the Presidential Task Force on SCA Recommended Methodology for Academic Document Development: Guidelines, Advisories, Reviews, Practice Updates, Consensus Statements, White Papers and Surveys co-chaired by Drs. Shore-Lesserson and Kertai. Drs. Popescu, Grant, Teeter, Liu, Raphael, Ngai and Lombard are all members of this task force and have submitted written material for the creation of this document.
- 5. Collaboration on the Lumbar drain scoping review group co-chaired by Drs. Cheung and Matyal. Drs. Popescu and Liu are active collaborators of this group.

External collaboration (outside the SCA):

- 1. Drs. Popescu and Bollen serve on the STS Workforce on Multidisciplinary Care chaired by Dr. Guy Paone. Dr. Popescu has submitted a proposal for a panel on development of an institutional ERACS program to be presented at the STS Annual Meeting in January 2023. The panel received grate reviews and has been accepted. Members of the CPI committee and its subcommittees will be on this panel as presenters and moderators: Drs. Popescu, Grant, Teeter.
This workforce enhances the collaboration at a society level between the SCA and the STS. Additionally, it increases the collaboration at the level of individual members, allowing them to further increase their professional network. As such it is a win – win!
- 2. Dr. Popescu has been asked to be a reviewer for the 2022 ACC/AHA Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Aortic Disease.

POSTED JUNE 2022

Summary of Group Meeting 1:

- Date: November 1, 2021
- Summary of Discussion: During this meeting, the members were introduced to the ongoing projects of the CPI working groups. The committee members were asked to propose various projects for practice improvement in cardiothoracic anesthesia. Several topics were of particular interest such as improvement in clinical care during electrophysiology procedures as well as structural heart interventions. The members were also introduced to the idea of the development of a CPI project in the optimal management of spinal drains placed for aortic procedures. Members were offered to participate in this project. The committee will reconvene again during the SCA Annual meeting to further develop some projects.

Summary of Group Meeting 2: As chair of the CPI sub-committee, I have participated in most of the working groups meetings to follow-up and maintain the projects going. Below is a shorth summary of all the working groups activities.

- Atrial Fibrillation working group: monthly meetings; working on developing of a CPI document on prevention and management of atrial fibrillation after thoracic surgery
- ERACS working group: attended three meetings; group is working on the development of a survey to assess the implementation of ERACS protocols across the USA and Canada; also attempting to identify educational gaps regarding ERACS among our members
- ERATS working group: several meetings; the group developed podcasts for the SCA website

- on ERATS topics. Also working in collaboration with ERACS on developing the ERATS survey
- Blood management working group: three projects are ongoing pertaining to anemia management in cardiac surgery; additionally, two patient blood management projects are in final phases (one accepted for publication; one being prepared to be submitted). The group is also working on developing various podcasts on blood management topics.
 - Acute Kidney Injury working group: the CPI document titled “Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists Clinical Practice Update for Management of Acute Kidney Injury Associated with Cardiac Surgery” has been accepted for publication in Anesthesia and Analgesia. The group is deciding upon embarking on anew project related to renal biomarkers or another practice update regarding management of acute kidney injury after thoracic surgery.
 - Cerebral protection working group: the STS Research committee has approved the PUF study titled “Temperature during cardiopulmonary bypass and adverse outcomes after cardiac surgery”. The final details are currently being worked out by Dr. Kertai with the STS and following that data can be retrieved.

SCA inter-committee collaborations:

The CPI sub-committee works in tight collaboration with the QSL committee chaired by Dr. Bruce Bollen and Vice-Chair Dr. Amanda Rhee. There is constant communication among all of us regarding the status of various projects.

The CPI group and working groups have also worked in collaboration with the Educational committee chaired by Dr. Jennifer Hargrave, developing multiple podcasts and other educational materials.

External collaborations:

As Chair of the CPI sub-committee, Dr. Popescu serves as a member of the STS Allied Professional Workforce, chaired by Dr. Guy Paone. Dr. Popescu is part of a subgroup of members of the workforce helping to develop educational sessions for the STS Annual Meeting. The goal is to include as speakers different members of the CPI committee and/or its working groups.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Dr. Popescu is a member of the “Guidelines for Enhanced Recovery After Lung Surgery” writing group in its first edition. The group is reconvening soon (within the next six months) to start working on the second edition of these guidelines. Dr. Popescu would like to potentially involve members of the ERATS working group as SCA representatives. A preliminary discussion with Dr. Michael Boisen, Chair of the Guidelines Committee has occurred. However, at present time the exact timeline of the second edition is not known. Dr. Popescu will inform the BOD and the Guidelines and Standards Committee as well as the International Council with any new developments.