

## Guidelines and Standards Committee

### Committee Charge

The mission of the SCA Guidelines and Standards Committee is to be responsible for overseeing the development of standards and guidelines adopted and promoted by the SCA.

The goals of the SCA Guidelines and Standards Committee are to monitor existing SCA standards and guidelines and recommends revision or recession when appropriate to the Board.

Recommend new standards or guidelines as needed.

Recommend to the Board the acceptability of proposed standards, guidelines, and related documents. Guide and monitor the solicitation of member comment on SCA standards and guidelines through email distribution lists (listservs) before they are recommended to the Board.

Hold or delegate the holding of open hearings on standards when this option for gathering member comments is employed.

### 2024-25 Benchmarks

*(Action items for upcoming year)*

1. Complete Review of Management of DOACs in patients undergoing cardiac surgery: a joint consensus by the SCA and Society of Thoracic Surgeons
2. Complete Review of Advisory on Afib in thoracic surgery
3. Obtain answers from the board on the following questions and proceed accordingly:
  - Reliable guidelines include an “external review” by experts, in addition to the authors who wrote the document. In addition, external review is key component in the AGREE tool, which is a tool used to evaluate the guidelines developing process. I propose that the guidelines committee’s review be considered an external review. It is not uncommon for committee members to identify mistakes and omissions while reviewing submitted documents.
  - The SCA has determined that 60K is available yearly to support the development of guidelines. The program was launched this year with two funding recipients, to a total amount of 30K.
  - Should there be criteria for the authors participating in development of a guideline/advisory/consensus, etc.; at least for members who vote on the recommendations and considered the experts.
4. Educate members of the committee on guideline development methodology/introduce the SCA white paper to all members.

**2025-26 Committee Members**

Bessie Kachulis, MD - Chair

J. Danny Muehlschlegel, MD – Board Liaison

Elvera L. Baron, MD, PhD

Nicholas Flores-Conner, MD

Sean McLean, MD

Domagoj Mladinov, MD

Stavroula Nikolaidis, MD

Nirvik Pal, MD

Paul Polyak, MD

Siavosh Saatee, MD

Quratulain Samoon, MD

Annemarie Thompson, MD

Jonathan Zoller, MD