

## Women in Cardiothoracic Anesthesia



SOCIETY OF  
CARDIOVASCULAR  
ANESTHESIOLOGISTS  
Knowledge • Care • Investigation



### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**Abimbola (Bola) Faloye**  
MD, FASA, FASE

#### Dear WICTA Friends,

As I conclude my term as Chair of this remarkable group, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving alongside you over the past four years. It has been a true honor to witness and contribute to the growth, impact, and vibrancy of our community.

Together, we have accomplished meaningful and lasting work. One of our proudest achievements has been the continued advancement of our professional development mentoring program. Through the collective efforts of many, we have expanded opportunities for writing and publication, helping to elevate the voices and scholarship of our members. These opportunities have not only enriched individual careers but have also strengthened the foundation of our field.

We have also developed and delivered professional development programs that have directly benefited all members of the SCA. Our webinar series has grown into a valuable educational resource, offering practical, timely, and accessible content to support members in their daily work, and careers.

A core value throughout my term has been advocating for gender equity within our society, and I am proud of the strides we have made. We have been intentional in promoting diverse voices in speaking roles and leadership positions, helping to create a more inclusive and representative environment.

Perhaps most importantly, we have seen a significant increase in engagement from our members. Through innovative



programming such as WICTA Happy Hours, WICTA Professional Development Webinars, WICTA sponsored Fellow Webinar series, and expanded opportunities to get involved, more members of the SCA have found ways to connect, contribute, and grow within our community. This heightened engagement has energized our group and will continue to propel us forward in the years to come.

As I step away from the Chair role, I am filled with gratitude for your trust, collaboration, and commitment. The accomplishments we share are a reflection of the incredible dedication of each of you, I feel privileged to have shared these moments with you. I am excited to see where the next chapter takes us and look forward to continuing this journey with you as a fellow WICTA member.

With gratitude,  
Bola



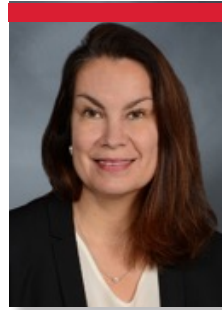


We are Happy to Announce WICTA Award Winners.



## **She LEADS**

**Kathy Glas**  
**MD, MBA, FASE**  
Emory School of Medicine



## **Outstanding Service**

**Shanna Sykes Hill, MD**  
Weill Cornell Medicine



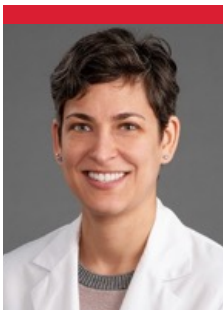
## **Excellence in Mentoring**

**G. Burkhard Mackensen**  
**MD, PhD, FASE**  
UW Medicine



## **Outstanding Fellow**

**Emily Bergbower, MD**  
University of Maryland  
Medical Center



## **Outstanding Service**

**Chandrika Garner, MD**  
Wake Forest Health System



## **Karen Souter Award**

**Smriti Mahaju Bajracharya**  
**MBBS, MD**  
Shahid Gangalal National  
Heart Centre

### 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**

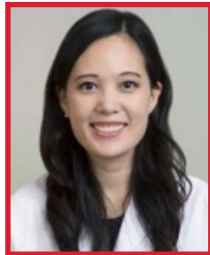
is to recruit, develop, and promote women and under-represented minority (URM) physicians and leaders in cardiothoracic anesthesiology.





## ANNOUNCING OUR NEW LEADERSHIP

The positions were all uncontested, so winners can be announced without an election.



### CHAIR

Emily Methangkool, MD, MPH  
University of California  
Los Angeles



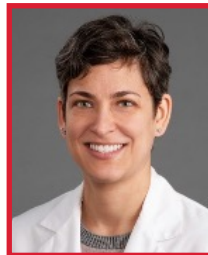
### CHAIR-ELECT

Lavina Kolarczyk, MD  
University of North Carolina



### MEMBER LIAISON

Seema Despande, MD  
University of Maryland



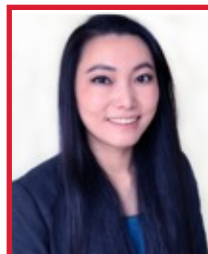
### MEMBER LIAISON

Chandrika Garner, MD  
Wake Forest Health Systems



### MEMBER LIAISON

Ragini Gupta, MD  
Emory School of Medicine



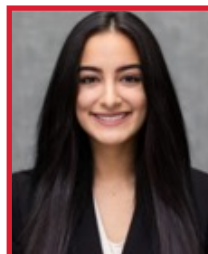
### MEMBER LIAISON

Amy Yan, MD  
Emory School of Medicine



### MEMBER LIAISON

Soojie Yu, MD  
Mayo Clinic, Arizona



### RESIDENT MEMBER

Karla Obijo, MD  
Johns Hopkins University



### RESIDENT MEMBER

Anna Quinlan, MD  
University of Vermont

**CONGRATS**  
*to* **ALL**





## NEGOTIATION 101

Are you confident in your negotiation skills? Tips for negotiating a raise or promotion include remaining positive and flexible, treating the process as a conversation rather than a confrontation, and sharing your accomplishments. One framework to use to describe your accomplishments is this: "I accomplished (describe using an action verb) using my (specific skill) which benefited the larger group (give examples)."

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

*This information is from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Work Smart.*

Getting More Involved with WICTA



### ASK WICTA

#### WE LOVE YOUR QUESTIONS

Do you have career or clinical questions that you want to post to the WICTA membership?

Email [WICTA@scahq.org](mailto:WICTA@scahq.org) with your questions so that you can make the most of the experience of our members!

### MEMBER VOICES

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We want to hear from you! We are seeking contributions from our members for future newsletters.

If you have case reports, clinical updates, or other information that might be calculable to WICTA members, please email [WICTA@scahq.org](mailto:WICTA@scahq.org) to submit.

### MENTOR CORNER

#### WHO'S YOUR MENTOR?

Do you have a mentor you would like to highlight? Please send information and a photo to [WICTA@scahq.org](mailto:WICTA@scahq.org).

### WICTA HAPPY HOUR

#### LOOKING FORWARD TO CONNECTING

The next happy hour will be announced soon.

Please check your email for details and join us to casually chat virtually.

# WICTA



## SCA2025 Annual Meeting & Workshops

### WICTA at the SCA Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada



*It was so great to see so many of you at the SCA Annual Meeting!*

## 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](http://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](mailto:WICTA@scahq.org) to be provided with a list of speakers in the content areas you specify.

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WICTA WEBSITE

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](mailto:WICTA@scahq.org) and let us know about your recent publication, promotion, etc. and we will share on our social media sites.

[CLICK HERE](#)



**Let Us Do The  
Bragging for You!**



@womeninctanes



@WICTA



@wictamedia

SPRING 2025

5



## Recap of the January 21, 2025 Webinar **How to Diversify Your Cardiac Anesthesia Practice**

- You can create your own opportunities and align your aspirations with the needs of your organization.
- Expert witness work allows you to create your fee schedule and decide how much time you would like to commit to this work.
- You may face criticism as you pursue unconventional opportunities. Do not get discouraged!
- Invest in your own professional development. You can take courses tailored to practical and timely content.
- Locum tenens opportunities offer you increased control over your compensation and schedule. Try to find these opportunities in a supportive environment

**You can view a recording of this and other past webinars on the SCA website.**

<https://scahq.org/special-interest-groups/wicta/events/>





## WEBINAR 1

Recap of the February 4, 2025 Webinar

### Non-Traditional Avenues to Research

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Focusing efforts on things that motivate you, expertise you already have as a well-trained clinician and hospital operations expert, and team science can greatly assist in a non-traditional research path.
- Building a supportive network, leveraging institutional resources, and forming collaborative partnerships are key in charting this course.

## WEBINAR 2

Recap of the March 27, 2025 Webinar

### Mentor Me: Wisdom and Practical Tips for Moving Your Career Forward

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

##### Early-Career Discussion

- Be deliberate in your mentor choices; can have different mentors for different professional aspects
- Mentees must be very active in driving the relationship
- Must establish your clinical competence and local respect firstConsider opportunities within your bandwidth (national or international organizational involvement, research)
- Career goals and priorities will evolve over time

##### Mid-Career Discussion

- Combating Imposter Syndrome
- Bridging the mentorship and sponsorship gap: asking for what you need effectively
- Focusing on your strengths
- Identifying unmet needs for your career or within your organization, and aligning those
- How to continue to create alignment to achieve those identified goals by considering your “work-view” and “life-view”

You can view a recording of these and other past webinars on the SCA website.

<https://scahq.org/special-interest-groups/wicta/events/>





## Webinar Series

# MASTERCLASS

How to Navigate Politics,  
Get Promoted and Thrive as  
a Cardiac Anesthesiologist

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**  
**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm EST**



[Click to Register](#)

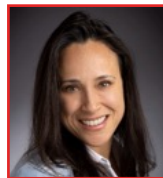


The Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists Special Interest Group, WICTA and the Member Engagement Committee will be hosting a **FREE** webinar featuring:

### PANELISTS



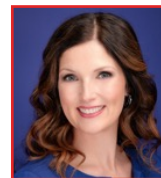
**Jiapeng Huang**  
MD, PhD, FASA, FASE  
University of Louisville



**Renata Ferreira, MD**  
Missoula  
Anesthesiology P.C.



**Adam J. Milam**  
MD, PhD, FASE, FAHA  
Mayo Clinic Alix  
School of Medicine

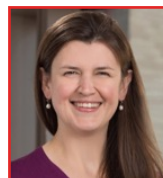


**Lavinia Kolarczyk**  
MD, FASA  
University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill



**Stephanie Ibekwe**  
MD, MPH, MS  
Baylor College  
of Medicine

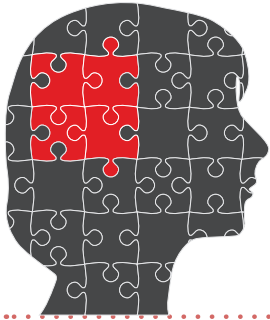
### MODERATORS



**Agnieszka Trzcinka**  
MD, FASE  
Tufts Medical Center

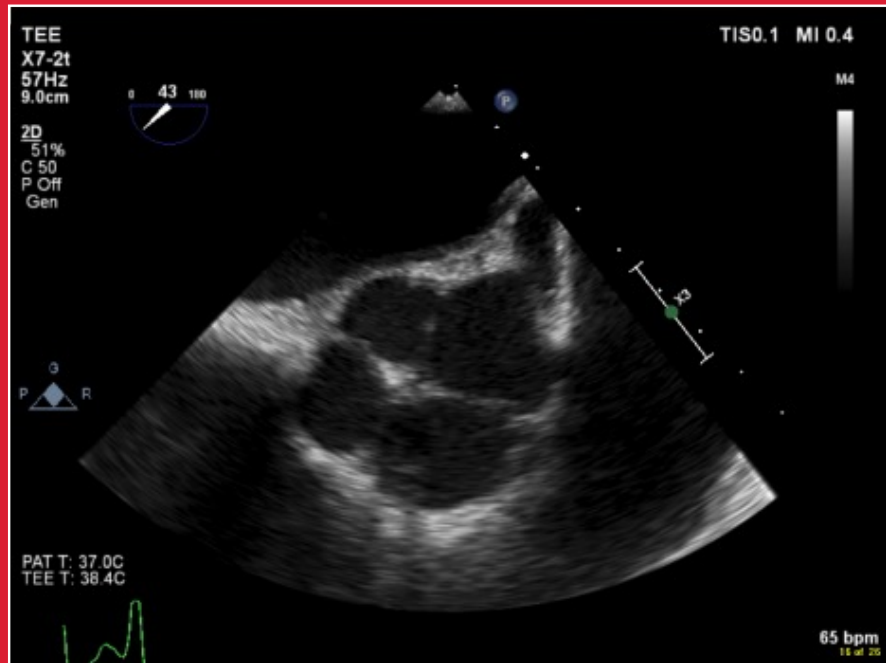


**Choy Lewis, MD**  
Northwestern  
Medical Center



**QUESTION:**  
**WHAT IS**  
**SHOWN IN**  
**THIS IMAGE?**

## IMAGE OF THE QUARTER



The image is of a quadricuspid aortic valve, a rare variant with an estimated frequency of less than 0.05%. The most common anatomy is with 4 equal sized cusps, as shown above. This is often an asymptomatic variant, but as many as 50% of the valves develop some degree of regurgitation. In the case above, this was an incidental finding. The patient had mild regurgitation, and the valve was left unchanged at the end of the surgical procedure.

[A review of quadricuspid aortic valve can be found here](#)

Would you like to submit a brain teaser, image, or question? Email [WICTA@scahq.org](mailto:WICTA@scahq.org) with your question, answer with explanation, and headshot for publication in a future newsletter!

## NEWSLETTER LIAISON

### WICTA Newsletter Liaison

Chandrika Garner, MD FASE, is an 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.

## JOB LISTINGS

### Send Us Your Job Postings

Please email [WICTA@scahq.org](mailto:WICTA@scahq.org) with any job postings as well as open fellowship spots or candidates seeking fellowship for the 2025-2026 academic year.