

Health Equity and Professional Advancement (HEPA) Committee

Committee Charge

The mission of the Health Equity and Professional Advancement Committee (HEPAC) is to advance health equity and foster inclusive leadership and career development within perioperative cardiovascular medicine by championing a deeper understanding of the unique experiences and perspectives of clinicians, patients, and communities.

HEPAC aims to cultivate a professional environment that supports excellence, representation, and meaningful engagement at all levels of practice.

The goals of the Health Equity and Professional Advancement Committee (HEPAC) are:

1. Develop and implement strategic initiatives to broaden access and participation within SCA membership, leadership, and training programs, advancing equitable representation and cultivating leadership throughout the organization.
2. Support and disseminate rigorous, evidence-based research that examines disparities in perioperative cardiovascular care, with a focus on improving access, outcomes, and representation across patient and provider populations.
3. Identify and strengthen partnerships with pipeline programs and communities to broaden exposure to careers in cardiovascular anesthesiology and support a more representative workforce.
4. Develop and strengthen mentorship and sponsorship pathways that support career development and leadership opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds, contributing to the future of perioperative cardiovascular medicine.
5. Nurture and strengthen community engagement by fostering mutual understanding, promoting inclusive narratives, and advocating for equity through strategic communication, outreach platforms, and other media initiatives.

2025-26 Benchmarks

(Action items for upcoming year)

1. Start the “Health Equity Rounds” (HER) Podcast
2. Produce six newsletter articles to be published on the SCA’s newsletter
3. Propose at least one Plenary Session Panel for 2026 SCA Annual Meeting
4. Prepare Enduring material on Implicit Bias Training to be housed on SCA’s Website
5. Prepare a two year progress report on Junior Scholar’s Program
6. Evaluate and consider Committee’s name change that reflects the broader work of the committee

2025-26 Committee Members

Bantayehu Sileshe, MD - Chair
Mary E. Arthur, MD – Vice Chair
Daryl Oakes, MD – Board Liaison

Promise Ariyo, MD
Seema Deshpande, MD
Bryant England, MD
Jayakar Guruswamy, MD
Nakeisha Landry-Pierre, MD
Adam J. Milam, MD
Samhati Mondal, MD
Fani Nhuch, MD, FRCPC
Saira Nisar, MD

Sri Varsha Pulijal, MBBS
Jose Rios, MD
Juan G. Ripoll, MD
Ina Schwartz, MD, MSc
Joshua J. Sebranek, MD
Michele L. Sumler, MD
Trevor S. Sutton, MD
Nutan Winston, MD
Fernando Alfredo Yepes, MD