

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.

2026-2027 Committee Members

Bantayehu Sileshi, MD - Chair

Mary E. Arthur, MD – Vice Chair

Daryl Oakes, MD – Board Liaison

Seema Deshpande, MD

Bryant England, MD

Jayakar Guruswamy, MD

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Michele L. Sumler, MD

Agnieszka Trzcinka, MD, FASE

Fernando Alfredo Yepes, MD

Soojie Yu, MD