



# Medical Student

## MEMBER COMMUNITY

## Starting a Cardiology Interest Group

Student-lead Cardiology Interest Groups (CARDIGs) provide opportunities to learn more about the philosophies of cardiology and cardiovascular medicine and enhance understanding of cardiovascular physiology, its systemic implications, and careers in clinical cardiology.

Thinking about starting a Cardiology Interest Group? Use this checklist as a step-by-step guide!

### **Create a Mission Statement for your Interest Group**

Mission statements are an important opportunity to define your Interest Group's short- and long-term goals. Try to frame your mission statement as a declaration of the goals and values that are important to your Interest Group.

### **Find a Faculty Advisor**

Have a favorite cardiology professor or faculty member with whom you have rotated? They could make a great addition as your Faculty Advisor. This person should act as a resource and advisor to the Interest Group members, as well as a liaison between the Interest Group and the cardiology department. Remember to discuss expectations with this person prior to agreeing!

### **Become recognized by your University**

Many universities have their own requirements for Interest Groups to be recognized. These requirements can act as an additional guide to creating your Cardiology Interest Group!

### **Submit your Interest Group Leadership information to ACC**

The ACC Student Leadership Group is building a community of student-leaders interested in a career in cardiology. By submitting the contact information for your Interest Group Leadership [here](#) we can help form connections between leaders at nearby institutions so you can continue building your Interest Group. Your CARDIG will also receive a certificate of recognition from the ACC.

**Submit your Interest Group roster to ACC**

We want to keep your membership up to date with all the latest opportunities ACC has to offer its student members. Encourage your members to become ACC members and keep an updated roster with the ACC so we can let them know about educational opportunities and resources available to students, and engage them in the ongoing conversation occurring on the ACC website.

**Host an initial Cardiology Interest Group event**

Group events are one of the keystone opportunities for students to get involved with Interest Groups. Examples include introductions to cardiology as a subspecialty, EKG practice with cardiology fellows, or lectures about various cardiovascular pathologies. Need help planning an event? Reach out to the ACC Student Leadership Group and we would be happy to brainstorm!

**Contact your local ACC Chapter Leadership**

Local and regional ACC Chapters can be extremely valuable resources to Cardiology Interest Groups and they love to have student involvement! Reach out to your local leadership to connect with ACC members in your city using the link here:

<https://www.acc.org/membership/chapters/acc-state-chapters>.

**Help connect your Interest Group members with cardiology research opportunities**

Contributing to the current knowledge base through novel research is a key expectation of future cardiologists. Reach out to prolific cardiology researchers at your home institution or ask your Faculty Advisor to help make those connections. Pass the research opportunities on to your fellow Interest Group members!