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Edward T. A. Fry, MD, MACC, FSCAI, (Hon.) FRCPI

Edward Fry was born in Dublin, Ireland, attended Grinnell College (Iowa), and medical school at Washington University, in St. Louis. Dr. Fry completed Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine, as well as Cardiology Fellowship at Barnes Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine. He completed a two-year Research Fellowship studying the biochemistry of native and genetically modified plasminogen activators with Dr. Burton Sobel. He remained on faculty at Washington University as Assistant Professor and Medical Director of the Cardiac Transplant Program. He completed a Fellowship in Interventional Cardiology at Ascension/St. Vincent Health, Indianapolis under the mentorship of Dr. Cass Pinkerton. He joined the cardiology practice at (Ascension) St. Vincent in 1991 and has remained there since. Dr. Fry currently serves as Chair of the Ascension National CV Service Line (2015-present). He helped launch and previously served as Board Chair of Navion Health Care Solutions, LLC (2005-2010); a data quality management software company now owned by Ascension. Currently, he is a Past President of the American College of Cardiology (ACC, President 2022-2023). Dr. Fry is past President and Governor of the IN Chapter of the ACC; has served on the ACC Board of Trustees (2018-2024); Board of Managers of MedAxiom (2019-2022); Audit and Compliance Committee (Chair), Digital Strategy Steering Committee; Interventional Section Leadership Council; Surviving Acute MI Work Group; Integrating the Health Enterprise (IHE) Health Policy Work Group; Clinical Quality Committee; ACC COVID-19 Hub; BOG Steering Committee; Innovations Development Work Group; Clinician Well-being Task Force; Health Systems Task Force; ACC/AHA Ethics and Professionalism Consensus Task Force, and ACC Nominating Committee (Chair). Currently, Dr. Fry serves as Co-Chair of the ACC Task Force on Comprehensive CV Prevention, Co-Chair of the Fuster Prevention Forum, and Chair of the domestic and International ACC Industry Advisory Forum. He is a board member of the American Board of Cardiovascular Medicine (ABCVM) as well as Chair of the World Heart Federation Audit Committee (2024-present). Dr. Fry is a key clinical faculty member for the Ascension Indiana Cardiology Fellowship Training Program and Marian University School of Medicine. He has been a presenter, moderator, and session chair at multiple national and international meetings. He has published over 60 manuscripts. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians Ireland. Dr. Fry and his wife Kathy have three adult sons and live in Indianapolis.



Xavier Escudero, MD, FACC

Xavier Escudero is the Chair-Elect of ACC's Assembly of International Governors (ACC). He is a clinical & interventional cardiologist at Medica Sur Hospital, Mayo Clinic Network in Mexico City, represents the National Association of Mexican Cardiologists (ANCAM) in its international affairs, and is an honorary member of the Mexican Society of Cardiology (SMC).

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC

Roxana Mehran is an endowed professor of cardiovascular clinical research and outcomes and a professor of medicine (cardiology) and population health science and policy at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Mehran completed fellowships in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology at Mount Sinai Medical Center, where she was also named Director of the Women's Heart and Vascular Center at Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital, spearheading a program that represents a collaboration across multiple disciplines designed to meet the unique needs of women's cardiovascular health.

Mehran has served as principal investigator for numerous global studies, developed risk scores for bleeding and acute kidney injury, participated in development of clinical guidelines, and authored more than 2,000 peer-reviewed articles. She is also leading the Lancet Commission on Women's Cardiovascular Diseases. With over 2,300 published manuscripts, Mehran was named by Clarivate Analytics as one of the most influential scientific minds in their Highly Cited Researchers list for the past eight years. She is a founder and Chief Scientific Officer of the Cardiovascular Research Foundation and the founder of Women as One, an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing opportunities for women in medicine.

At the ACC, Mehran has served as Chair of the Interventional Section Leadership Council and has been an author on several revascularization and dual antiplatelet therapy guidelines. She has also been active in the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, where she served as Program Chair of the 2016 Scientific Sessions and co-founded the Women in Innovations Committee.

Mehran has received several awards, including the 2017 ACC Bernadine Healy Leadership in CV Disease Award and the 2018 Nanette Wenger Award for Excellence in Medical Leadership from WomenHeart: the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease. In 2019, she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The same year, at the European Society of Cardiology Congress, she was given the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Silver Medal and delivered the ESC Andreas Grüntzig Lecture. In 2022 she was awarded the Terry Ann Krulwich Physician-Scientist Alumni Award, Pulse-Setter Champion Award and Women in Cardiology Mentoring Award from the American Heart Association (AHA). In 2023, she received the Bahr Award of Excellence from the ACC.

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Kausik Ray, MD, FACC

Prof Ray is Immediate Past President of the European Atherosclerosis Society, Chair of the World Heart Federation Cholesterol Roadmap 2022, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Academic research Collaboration (ARC) National Lead for CVD (2018-2026), Director of ICTU-Global (an academic ARO at Imperial College London) and Director of the Imperial Centre for CVD Prevention (ICCP).

He received his medical education (MB ChB, 1991) at the University of Birmingham Medical School, his MD (2004) at the University of Sheffield, a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School and finally an MPhil in epidemiology (2007) from the University of Cambridge. His research involves lipids, diabetes and population health serving as global lead for trials and registries. He has >203,000 citations, an H Index of 134, an i10-index of 372 and since 2018 has been recognised by Clarivate Analytics as among the top 0.1% of authors in global medicine. In 2023 he was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, which is UK's highest honour for clinician scientists.

He led the global development of Inclsiran the first siRNA for cholesterol, European Lead for development of Bempedoic acid the first oral lipid lowering therapy in a decade and the PCSK9 monoclonal programme. He leads or has led the only global registry of FH the FH Studies Collaboration (FHSC) and pivotal registries such as Da Vinci, Santorini, Heymans as well as part of the academic steering group of MILOS, INTERASPIRE and EUROASPIRE VI.



John Spertus, MD, FACC

John Spertus is a cardiologist and the Lauer/Missouri Endowed Chair and a Tenured Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he serves as Clinical Director of Outcomes Research at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute. He is a graduate of UCSF Medical School and completed his internal medicine, cardiology and health services training at the University of Washington. He has served on numerous national committees for the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, American Medical Association, National Quality Forum, and Medicare. His research activities led to his induction into the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2006 and the Association of University Cardiologists in 2018, his receipt of the AHA Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Council's Distinguished Achievement Award in 2013 and 2025, QCOR's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 and being named a Distinguished Scientist in 2018 by the AHA. Dr. Spertus and his collaborators have published >1500 peer-reviewed articles and he holds 9 patents.

Dr. Spertus has devoted his career to improving the quality, equity, and patient-centeredness of care. He developed the Seattle Angina Questionnaire (SAQ), and the Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire (KCCQ), which have become the gold standards for measuring patients' symptoms, function and quality of life in coronary artery disease and heart failure. The SAQ and KCCQ have become critical outcomes in clinical trials, tools for patient management, components of disease management programs, methods for quality assessment/improvement, and foundational components for supporting patients in shared decision making. Throughout his career, he has helped train >100 scientists, which will probably be his greatest contribution to medicine.

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PANELISTS & MODERATORS



Hadi Abu-Hantash, MD, FACC

Hadi Abu Hantash, MBChb, MSc is a cardiologist at Abdali Hospital in Amman, Jordan. He is the governor of the ACC Jordan Chapter, a member of the Assembly of International Governors (AIG) Steering Committee, and a member of ACC's Credentialing & Member Services committee.



Ahmed "Sami" Abuzaid, MD, FACC

Dr. Ahmed "Sami" Abuzaid received his degree in medicine from Ain Shams University, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo, Egypt, 2006 then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska in 2015. This was followed by a fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease, Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, 2018 and a fellowship in Advanced Echocardiography and Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging, at the University of California, San Francisco, CA, (UCSF) in 2019.

Dr. Abuzaid then followed his passion as a multimodality imager, joining The Alaska Heart and Vascular Institute (AHVI) in 2019, where he directs the advanced cardiac imaging, POCUS program, nuclear cardiology and structural heart imaging and is founder of the first hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and Amyloidosis clinic in Alaska (Thick Heart clinic). He completed his Executive Master of Science (ScM) in Healthcare Leadership (EMHL) degree at Brown University followed by Digital health and Innovation certificate, in Providence, Rhode Island in 2024. He completed the American College of Cardiology (ACC) Leadership Accelerator Academy and the leadership development program (LDP) at the American society of nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) in 2025. Dr. Abuzaid is member emerging faculty at ACC, among of the first cohort of ACC Fuster's prevention forum and member of the Inteleos POCUS Academy where he chairs the POCUS engagement committee. He is a member of the Envoy Health/ ACO in Alaska and director of Alaska Heart clinical research program. He is active member of the SCMR/ASNC/SCCT policy and practice committee addition to SCMR/SCCT education committee, ASE finance committee and ACC CPT committee. Recently he was appointed to be Topic editor at JACC journals and early career editorial board at ACC. He is an assistant Professor of Medical education at the University of Alaska (WWAMI) and Clinical instructor at the University of Washington. His goal is to make advanced imaging accessible to the community, answer daily clinical cardiology questions and help future research in addition making expertise and care of rare diseases available at scale across rural communities.

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Richard Kovacs, MD, MACC

A graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Cincinnati, School of Medicine, Dr. Kovacs completed an internship and residency at the Indiana University Medical Center. His fellowship training also was at Indiana University, where he served as chief fellow and chief medical resident. He joined the full-time faculty of the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1986. He subsequently served as senior clinical research physician at the Lilly Research Laboratories of Eli Lilly and Company. He returned full time to IU School of Medicine faculty in 2003. Dr. Kovacs is a clinical cardiologist and led the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at IU School of Medicine and was the Director of the joint IU Health/IU School of Medicine Cardiovascular Institute. At the IU School of Medicine, Dr. Kovacs served as the Associate Dean for Clinical Research and Associate Director of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute.

At the National level, he has served on the Joint ACC/AHA Taskforce on Practice Guidelines, the National Cardiovascular Data Registries Management Board, and the Cardiac Safety Research Consortium. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees for the American College of Cardiology, has chaired the ACC Board of Governors, served as Secretary, Vice President, and President of the ACC. He was named Chief Medical Officer of the ACC in November 2021.

His research focuses on three clinical topics: quality and measurement of quality, drug safety and sports cardiology. He has published extensively on the proarrhythmic effects of non-antiarrhythmic drugs. He supervises the cardiovascular evaluation of athletes at the National Football League annual scouting combine.

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Benny J. Levenson, MD, PhD, FACC

Benny J. Levenson is the Chair of the ACC Assembly of International Governors. He graduated from medical school in Munich (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität) and Berlin (Freie Universität, Free University). From 1978-1993 he was a consultant in the Dept. of Cardiology at Free University Berlin (Rolf Schroeder). From 1994-2018 he was Director of Cath Lab of Cardiovascular Center Berlin-Charlottenburg, (CCBC), Germany. He is a Senior Cardiologist, Interventional Cardiology at CCBC and Klinikum Am Urban/Vivantes, Berlin and a founding member of International Society of Holter Monitoring. From 1997-2022 he was a Board member and deputy chairman of Society of German Cardiologists in Private Practice (Bundesverband Niedergelassener Kardiologen Deutschland, BNK). He is the founding chair of the QuIK-registry (largest quality assessment program in Germany, Switzerland, Austria) and served as chairman from 1995 to 2022. From 1996 to 2022 he was an advisor on invasive and interventional cardiology at Federal Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (Kassenärztliche Bundesvereinigung, KBV). He is the only cardiologist with two 4year terms as board member (deputy chair 2001-2003) of Commission on Clinical Cardiology (Klinische Kommission, highest ranking scientific panel) of German Cardiac Society (GCS, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kardiologie, DGK). He has held numerous other positions, including President of GCS Heartdays (2nd largest conference) (2025); Governor of ACC Germany Chapter (2016-2021); Founding Chair of the ACC Global Heart Attack Treatment Initiative (2019-2021); member of the ACC Assembly of International Governors (2020-2024) and Chair-Elect of that body (2024-2025); member of the ACC working group on Clinician Wellbeing (since 2021); member of the ACC Membership Committee (since 2025); Advisor on Disease management program CHD (DMP KHK) at German Federal Joint Commission (GBA) (since 2018); Advisor on cardiology for the German Minister and Ministry of Health (since 2023); and 6th recipient of Gold medal of ACC German Chapter (predecessors Christoph Bode, Eugene Braunwald, Valentin Fuster, Kim Williams, Douglas Zipes) (2023).

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Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, MACC

Biography forthcoming.



Amam Chinyere Mbakwem, MD, FACC

Dr. Mbakwem is a professor of Medicine at the University of Lagos and a consultant cardiologist to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital and the immediate past Head, Department of Medicine of both CMUL and LUTH.

She completed her residency training in internal medicine and cardiology at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital and was awarded the Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians. She underwent further training in cardiology at the Wolfson Heart Institute in Tel Aviv, Israel and Azienda Sanitaria, Tuscany, Italy. She was awarded a Fellowship in Medical Education by the Foundation for Advancement in International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER Institute) in Philadelphia, USA.

Her research interest includes Heart failure, systemic and pulmonary hypertension, heart disease in women, effective communication in disease management and the psychosocial issues in cardiovascular diseases. She has over 136 publications in peer-reviewed journals, has contributed to book chapters and presented over 100 abstracts at scientific meetings. She speaks regularly as invited faculty and serves as session chairs at many national and international meetings.

She is a past Director of the Medical Education and Development Unit at the CMUL and has supervised over 21 fellowship dissertations for the award of both the West African and National postgraduate fellowships.

Prof Mbakwem is the Vice President World Heart Federation and the immediate past Vice President West Africa region of PASCAR. She is also a past President of the Nigerian Cardiac Society.

She is a member of the European Society of Cardiology working group on Peripartum cardiomyopathy, cardio-oncology and is also a member of the guideline writing committee the Nigerian Hypertension Society. She is a member of many professional societies like the NCS, NHS, ESC, HFA, ACC, PASCAR, AFHRA, WHF

She has participated in many multinational and multicenter studies like – PAPUCO, INTER-CHF, NSTEMI, APPROACH, INVICTUS, PEACE, RACE and SPEC-AI. She is currently involved in the INTER-ASPIRE studies and THESUS II.

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Hon Pak, MD

Hon Pak, MD, is a seasoned corporate physician executive with over 25 years of health-care strategic leadership in health information technology across both public and private sectors. Pak is a change agent, and he drives sustainable growth and value creation in organizations of all sizes through visionary team leadership. Proficient in problem-solving, he guides innovative health-care transformations and has served as president and on the boards of various organizations. He currently serves as the head of the MX Digital Health Team at Samsung Electronics, where he oversees a global team executing the vision to improve the health of billions through connected care, centered around the home. He is currently Senior Vice President, Head of Team, Digital Health Team, Mobile eXperience at Samsung Electronics.