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**CONVOCATION**  
AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE of  
CARDIOLOGY®

Advancing Heart Care Worldwide

**VALENTIN FUSTER AWARD  
FOR INNOVATION IN SCIENCE**

## THE ACC IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE INAUGURATION OF THIS NEW AWARD, NAMED IN HONOR OF THE LEADERSHIP AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS VALENTIN FUSTER, MD, PHD, MACC, HAS MADE TO THE FIELD OF CARDIOLOGY.

The annual award will recognize an ACC member who has made meaningful contributions to cardiovascular medicine as a champion of scientific research, an innovator in the delivery of science through novel mechanisms, and/or an international voice on the importance of embracing scientific inquiry to improve the care of cardiovascular patients and promote lifelong heart health. In its inaugural year, we are proud to honor the award's namesake, Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MACC.

### VALENTIN FUSTER, MD, PHD, MACC

#### VALENTIN FUSTER AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN SCIENCE



It is a true privilege to be able to announce the award and also honor Dr. Fuster as its first recipient this year. He embodies the essence of this award with his unparalleled lifelong dedication to the advancement of science and finding innovative approaches to scientific content dissemination.

Dr. Fuster has been the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC)*. As editor of

*JACC*, he continues to set the bar for cardiovascular journals around the world. Additionally, his innovative efforts ranging from his weekly podcast to new initiatives like Patient Pathways and the Global Burden of Disease project, have resulted in broader dissemination of – and access to – the latest cardiovascular science and research, as well as commentary and resources on how best to implement in practice.

For decades, Dr. Fuster has also directed our annual New York Cardiovascular Symposium, one of the College's most dynamic and engaging live education events that has facilitated critical discussions around the latest cardiovascular research and treatment strategies,

as well as future challenges and trends. He has also represented the College and *JACC Journals* at countless ACC and other major global cardiovascular meetings, playing a leading role in advancing solutions to the prevention and treatment of heart disease worldwide.

In addition to his roles at ACC, Dr. Fuster has served as president of the American Heart Association and of the World Heart Federation. He is notably the only cardiologist to have received the highest awards for research from the four leading cardiovascular organizations, including ACC's Lifetime Achievement Award. Most recently, Dr. Fuster was recognized as the 2020 Award Laureate for the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of medicine, in recognition of his breakthrough contributions to cardiovascular medicine and his work promoting global cardiovascular health for the past four decades.

We are humbled to recognize his numerous achievements with this award named in his honor.

**Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC**  
**ACC President**

# DISTINGUISHED AWARDEES

THE ACC DISTINGUISHED AWARDS WERE ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CARDIOVASCULAR PROFESSIONS.

On the pages that follow, you will find citations describing the contributions made by each of this year's awardees. Visit the ACC.22 Virtual page to watch videos from each of this year's awardees and for more information. Join us in congratulating these individuals on social media with #ACC22.

## CHAIR, 2022 ACC AWARDS COMMITTEE

Ralph G. Brindis, MD, MPH, MACC

## PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

Alain G. Cribier, Sr., MD, FACC  
Rouen, France

## DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

Frederick A. Masoudi, MD, MSPH, MACC  
Denver, CO

## HONORARY FELLOW

Guang Ning, MD, PhD  
Shanghai, China

## DISTINGUISHED TEACHER

Patrick T. O'Gara, MD, MACC  
Boston, MA

## GIFTED EDUCATOR

Mani A. Yannan, MBBS, FACC  
Atlanta, GA

## DISTINGUISHED MENTOR

Linda D. Gillam, MD, MPH, MACC  
Morristown, NJ

## DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATE

Michelle Nickolaus, CRNP, FACC  
Danville, PA

## PAMELA S. DOUGLAS DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Hannah A. Valantine, MD, FACC  
Stanford, CA

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Jennifer H. Mieres, MD, FACC  
Hempstead, NY

## DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST (BASIC DOMAIN)

W. H. Wilson Tang, MD, FACC  
Cleveland, OH

## DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST (CLINICAL DOMAIN)

Ik-Kyung Jang, MD, PhD, FACC  
Boston, MA

## DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST (TRANSLATIONAL DOMAIN)

Douglas L. Mann, MD, FACC  
St. Louis, MO

## DOUGLAS P. ZIPES DISTINGUISHED YOUNG SCIENTIST

Fatima Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACC  
Stanford, CA

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC  
Los Angeles, CA

## BERNADINE HEALY LEADERSHIP IN WOMEN'S CV DISEASE

Ileana L. Piña, MD, MPH, FACC  
Cleveland Heights, OH

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Nanette Kass Wenger, MD, MACC  
Atlanta, GA

## MASTERS OF THE ACC (MACC)

George D. Dangas, MD, PhD, FACC  
New York, NY

Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC  
Newport Beach, CA

John S. Rumsfeld, MD, PhD, FACC  
Denver, CO

Hector O. Ventura, MD, FACC  
New Orleans, LA

# DISTINGUISHED AWARDEE CITATIONS

## ALAIN G. CRIBIER, SR., MD, FACC

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### PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

*“Don’t undertake a project unless it is manifestly important and nearly impossible.”* This quote by Edwin Land is a favorite of this year’s Presidential Citation recipient and interventional cardiology pioneer Alain Cribier, MD – and aptly so.

Each year, the ACC President has the great privilege of recognizing an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field of cardiology and/or the broader field of medicine with the Presidential Citation. This year, I’m proud to recognize Dr. Cribier with this honor for his unwavering commitment to a seemingly impossible “project” that today is saving lives and giving hope to hundreds of thousands of patients worldwide.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Cribier performed the first clinical transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure in France – and the rest we can say is history. Today, TAVR continues to transform the lives of symptomatic heart disease patients with severe native calcific aortic stenosis who would have previously been deemed inoperable due to age or other comorbidities.

Dr. Cribier has always had a special interest in developing new technologies in interventional cardiology. He is known for moving cardiology forward with many firsts, including performing the first balloon aortic valvuloplasty (BAV) in 1985 and the first mitral commissurotomy in 1995. It was the discovery that BAV did not produce enduring results that launched the TAVR odyssey. His leadership and contributions in moving TAVR from concept to reality is a prime example of just how disruptive innovation and multidisciplinary collaboration and teamwork can go hand-in-hand to deliver far-reaching, transformational change in care delivery.

Optimizing innovation and knowledge are concepts embedded in ACC’s Vision and vital to achieving the College’s overall Mission to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health. As we look back on the transformational success story that is TAVR, Dr. Cribier and his life’s work are reminders that transformation is not only possible, but within our reach. It is truly a privilege to recognize him with the 2022 Presidential Citation.

**Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC**

## FREDERICK A. MASOUDI, MD, MSPH, MACC

### DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

Dr. Masoudi's service to the American College of Cardiology has been both broad and deep. Beginning in 2005, Dr. Masoudi served on the ACC/AHA Task Force on Performance Measures, and he rose to serve as the chair of the task force from 2008 through 2010. He played key roles in numerous committees including the Door to Balloon Alliance, the ACC Technical Panel on Appropriateness of Revascularization, and the ACC MACRA Task Force. In recognition of his knowledge, insight, and acumen, Dr. Masoudi was appointed to the ACC's Board of Trustees in 2016, and he simultaneously served with distinction on the College's Finance Committee.

Dr. Masoudi's greatest impact within the ACC has stemmed from his long leadership of the National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR). He chaired the NCDR Science and Quality Oversight Committee from 2006 to 2014, and he has served as the chair of the NCDR Oversight Committee from 2015 to the present. Under his leadership, the NCDR has thrived. Whether measured by hospital engagement, the impact of NCDR-related publications, or innovative partnerships with partner societies and regulatory agencies, the reach and impact of the NCDR has never been greater – nor its future any brighter. These successes are in no small part due to Dr. Masoudi's skill as a leader. He is always able to see the big picture, and he is passionate about enhancing ACC's impact on the lives of patients with cardiovascular disease.

The work Dr. Masoudi has undertaken has often been challenging, requiring him to draw upon his considerable diplomatic skills to drive consensus and identify a path forward. Individuals who have worked with Dr. Masoudi receive an education in how to lead effectively, and how to do it with style. In recognition for his outstanding service, we are pleased to recognize Dr. Masoudi with the Distinguished Fellow Award.

### Jeptha P. Curtis, MD, FACC

## GUANG NING, MD, PHD

### HONORARY FELLOW

As his colleague and a fellow cardiologist at Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, I have witnessed first-hand Dr. Guang Ning's contribution to cardiovascular care over the years. His leadership, passion for science and dedication to improving outcomes for patients with cardiovascular disease and diabetes make him an incredibly deserving recipient of this year's Honorary Fellowship Award.

Prof. Ning is the academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, president of Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, editor-in-chief of the *Chinese Journal of Endocrinology and Metabolism*, and co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Diabetes*. In recognition of his excellence, he won the 2014 International Endocrinologist Award given by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

His passion for diabetes and cardiovascular disease have inspired our team and pushed us forward. Dr. Ning's study, SPREAD-DIMCAD, confirmed for the first time that compared with sulfonylureas, metformin can significantly reduce cardiovascular events in patients with type 2 diabetes, and investigated its underlying mechanism (Diabetes Care 2013, 2014). The study itself was also seen as one of the most relevant to patients seen in primary care practices as well, and included in the Canadian Medical Association's top research studies for primary care physicians annual list that year.

Additionally, Dr. Ning led the BPROAD study, designed to explore appropriate targets for blood pressure reduction in patients with diabetes. His work will help guide clinical blood pressure management for diabetes patients with elevated systolic blood pressure and help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and death in diabetic patients.

I am honored to welcome Professor Ning to Fellowship as an Honorary Fellow of the College. I have faith in ACC's vision recognizing interdisciplinary leaders who contribute to the cardiovascular care for the world, and that Prof. Ning will be an invaluable asset to our community.

### Zhang Ruiyan, MD

## **PATRICK T. O'GARA, MD, MACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED TEACHER**

There is no other individual who is more deserving of the Distinguished Teacher award, recognizing major contributions to cardiovascular education at the national and international level. Dr. O'Gara has committed his professional career to further education at the American College of Cardiology and has distinguished himself by exhibiting outstanding teaching characteristics over and above his peers.

Dr. O'Gara began his involvement in education at the American College of Cardiology back in 1991 when he became a member of the Learning Center Committee. He subsequently became a key member for the Strategic Education Directions Committee and became chair of the Live Programs Work Group in 2002, at which time significant change was initiated in the direction of face-to-face extramural programs for the College. Subsequently, he became chair of the Educational Programs Steering Committee, has run multiple education strategy task forces, and served as chair of the 2012 ACC Annual Scientific Session.

He has been the major driver of the College's collaboration with the American Board of Internal Medicine to enhance the maintenance of certification process for our members, through both the ACC Cardiovascular Board Review course that he runs, as well as the self-assessment programs. He truly is the single key member who has directed a very successful educational component of the American College of Cardiology.

Dr. O'Gara also established ACC's Emerging Faculty Program, which brings together top key young faculty from around the country to promote their involvement in cardiovascular education as well as teach them adult learning principles, presentation styles, and methodologies for the design of educational programs. Over 150 young faculty have gone through this program, populating ACC committees and the Board of Trustees, as well as training programs throughout the country.

Finally, Dr. O'Gara himself is one of the top educators in the field of cardiovascular diseases. He is a master of presentation, recognized for his incredible knowledge and his ability to articulate and truly educate the audience on complex issues in cardiovascular diseases. He sets a superb example to younger cardiologists who are interested in education. There is no doubt that Dr. O'Gara stands far above anyone else in deserving this ACC Distinguished Teacher Award.

**Rick A. Nishimura, MD, MACC**

## **MANI A. YANNAN, MBBS, FACC**

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### **GIFTED EDUCATOR**

Dr. Mani Vannan's educational style is simple, yet incredibly impactful. His style promotes assimilation of the current knowledge, questions the entrenched assumptions, and spurs the imagination to fill the knowledge gaps. He is a more than deserving recipient of this year's Gifted Educator Award.

Dr. Vannan's approach to being an educator is founded on the principle that it is not just the content or the delivery of the content that matters—but the environment, too. He knows that to be truly impactful, the environment must focus on the learners in the room. He is at ease in any learning environment – one-to-one, small group, large group, in-person or virtual – and can adapt to any situation a learning environment might bring his way. As one of the letters of support mentions, he once taught for 30 minutes just with a flipboard and marker when the slides would not work during a national meeting in Mexico! That adaptability is a testimony to the fact that to be an educator you must be a student first and foremost. Dr. Vannan has never stopped being a student.

He is and has been a member of many national organizations and has planned meetings and lectures both nationally and internationally throughout his career. Regardless of the setting for his teaching, the most laudable aspect of his educator's ethos is the inclusiveness: peers, trainees, non-physician colleagues and undergraduates aspiring to pursue a medical career all benefit from his tutelage.

The Gifted Educator award is the most befitting recognition for Dr. Vannan, who stays true to the adage that in educating your coteremporaries, it is "not what one knows as a teacher that is important, but what one learns when teaching your peers."

**Jagat Narula, MD, DM, PhD, MACC**

## LINDA D. GILLAM, MD, MPH, MACC

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### DISTINGUISHED MENTOR

The greatest teachers believe in you before you know how to believe in yourself. Dr. Linda Gillam exemplifies this philosophy in her mentorship of student and faculty mentees. She has inspired and empowered numerous people on her path and is most deserving of the ACC Distinguished Mentor Award.

Dr. Gillam is the Dorothy and Lloyd Huck Chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and medical director of the Cardiovascular Service Line for Atlantic Health System and Professor of Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.

Dr. Gillam is one of the pioneers in the field of modern echocardiography. She has published and lectured extensively in echocardiography, valvular heart disease and quality improvement. She encourages her students to have multitude of opinions, drawing out intellectual discussions and setting high expectations. Her ability to inspire others to look inward and nurture their distinctive strengths and talents is unwavering.

Dr. Gillam is a leader in many ways. She is past president of the American Society of Echocardiography and of the National Board of Echocardiography, as well as a former member of ACC's Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. She has held additional leadership roles in those organizations, as well as the American Heart Association.

During her trailblazing career as a female cardiologist when the numbers were few, it came as no surprise that Dr. Gillam won numerous teaching awards, including the Richard Popp Distinguished Teacher Award of the American Society of Echocardiography, the Women in Cardiology Mentoring Award of the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology Distinguished Service and Gifted Educator Awards, the McDonald Lectureship Award of the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Meritorious Service Award and Mentoring Award of the American Society of Echocardiography.

Dr. Gillam has been a role model for so many cardiologists in the US and abroad. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the ACC Distinguished Mentor Award. I am proud to call Linda a friend.

**Cynthia C. Taub, MD, MBA**

## **MICHELLE NICKOLAUS, CRNP, FACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATE (IN MEMORIAM)**

Michelle was a generator. She had visions and ideas and was always the supplemental energy source to any workday. We had the privilege of being her colleagues, soon learning that when she said, "I have an idea," we would be enlisted to be actively involved a project or plan. But her energy was contagious, and we wanted to be involved in her vision.

She was a generator for so many of us to be active clinicians, to get involved with the ACC, and to expect the best and settle for nothing less. Michelle's tenacious character left its mark on many of us. For that reason, we honor her memory with ACC's Distinguished Associate award.

Michelle was a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science and practiced for 24 years as a dedicated and passionate nurse practitioner in cardiology, specializing in adult congenital heart disease (ACHD).

She was a tireless advocate for her patients and was intent on providing quality care and necessary treatments for the ACHD population. She worked cooperatively with her physicians and support staff to develop and then streamline patient tracking for appointments, testing and follow up. She was a devoted care provider who left a lasting impression and befriended many of her patients.

Michelle was a leader in promoting the profession and role of the advanced practice provider (APP). She was an original member of what is now Penn State Health's Advanced Practice Provider Council, recognizing early on that APPs needed their own voice and organizational structure for an effective practice model within the institution.

She took on active leadership roles at both the state and national levels with the ACC. An active member of the CV Team Member Section since joining the ACC, she served as the Pennsylvania Chapter's CV Team State Liaison from 2004-2007. She was active in the Nurse Education Committee and Annual Scientific Sessions Planning Committees, involved in the Congenital Heart Disease/ Pediatric Cardiology Committee and the Adult Congenital Working Group, and a charter member of ACC's Digital Strategy Committee. She was part of the 2011 inaugural class of Associates of the American College of Cardiology (AACC). This past year, she was recognized for her contributions and work in cardiology and became an FACC.

This is of course but a few of her many accomplishments. Throughout her life, she left a lasting impression on all those around her—from the mentorship she provided to her students and peers, to the friendship, warmth and enthusiasm she brought to her relationships with her colleagues. We are grateful for the opportunity to shine a light on her accomplishments with the ACC and in a life well-lived.

She was the wife of Kevin Nickolaus, with whom she had just celebrated 28 years of marriage and the mother of two children, Matthew and John, who reside at home.

**Craig Beavers, PharmD, FACC**  
**Andrea Price, RCIS, CPHQ, AACC**

## HANNAH A. VALANTINE, MD, FACC

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### PAMELA S. DOUGLAS DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Dr. Hannah A. Valantine is a highly deserving recipient of the 2022 ACC Pamela S. Douglas Distinguished Award for Leadership in Diversity and Inclusion, for her decades of work in her lab and as a staunch advocate for increasing diversity, equity and inclusion both at Stanford University and at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr. Valantine is a heart failure and transplant cardiologist. Her pioneering work has led to a better understanding of the pathophysiology of rejection, and this includes work on developing blood assays to measure donor-derived cell free circulating DNA as a sensitive and non-invasive means to monitor rejection. She has provided ongoing leadership to the Genome Research Alliance for Transplantation and contributed to our understanding of the differences and disparities in post-transplant rejection among racially diverse patient populations.

Dr. Valantine has consistently been a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion efforts. She served as the inaugural chief officer for NIH scientific workforce diversity and, in that role, helped to enhance diversity in the Building Infrastructure Leading to diversity (BUiLD) initiative with experiments from lower resourced institutions and create the national mentoring network. She also worked to build out infrastructure to expand our understanding of predictive accuracy and receiver operator curve characteristics of the percentage of circulating cell-free donor-derived DNA in a multicenter, prospective cohort study of heart- and lung-transplant patients.

She also served as the Inaugural Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Leadership at Stanford University from 2005 until she left for the NIH. It was there that she implemented innovative strategies to address implicit bias, educate search committees, and oversee diversity efforts of search committees. She also established several programs for faculty mentorship and development that are still robust today. She has been a staunch advocate for under-represented minorities and women faculty at Stanford and created multiple programs to achieve faculty work-life balance, including the Academic Biomedical Career Customization and numerous publications in the area.

In summary, her love of cardiology and transplantation is infectious and her commitment to diversity and inclusion is legendary. She deservedly was elected to the National Academy of Medicine last year for both her pioneering research in organ transplantation and workforce diversity. Based upon these efforts, I am proud to have her back on the faculty at Stanford University and to celebrate with her for this well-deserved award.

**Eldrin F. Lewis, MD, MPH, FACC**

## JENNIFER H. MIERES, MD, FACC

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### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The ACC Distinguished Service Award honors a physician, scientist or layperson who, by individual effort, has made profound contributions to medicine and/or the delivery of health care.

Dr. Jennifer Mieres' career arc has included outstanding contributions as an author, a clinician, an expert practitioner in nuclear cardiology, a thought leader in women's health, and a nationally recognized leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion in health care. She is the consummate example of a physician-leader who has truly improved medicine and health care on a tremendous scale.

She has been and continues to be a major protagonist in the movement to curb heart disease deaths in women, and she has done this by making major contributions in three arenas. As a physician-scientist she has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed publications, many investigating nuclear cardiology imaging techniques to detect heart disease in women. A gifted communicator, she educates the lay public about the importance of heart disease in women, authoring two books on the topic (*Heart Smart for Black Women and Latinas*, 2008; *Heart Smart for Women*, 2017) and producing an Emmy nominated documentary (*A Woman's Heart*, 2001). Finally, she has provided leadership and direction to public organizations and committees that advocate for women's health and increased awareness about women's heart disease.

Dr. Mieres' advocacy for diversity and inclusion goes beyond advocating for equity in cardiac care for women. As Northwell Health's founding Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Vice President for Health Care Equity she oversees the diversity and equity programming of the largest employer in New York State. She leads programs that retain and promote talent, support health equity in underserved communities, and enriches the educational experience of children who aspire to be physicians. She simply has not missed an opportunity to advocate on behalf of those marginalized or minoritized in medicine.

There are a handful of individuals for whom it can be said that cardiology, and indeed medicine, is made better by their very presence. Dr. Jennifer Mieres is one of those individuals. She is a servant leader who is simply a wonderful human being to be around. I am proud to know her and honored to have her as a colleague and friend. The ACC is lucky to have her as this year's Distinguished Service Award honoree.

### Quinn Capers IV, MD, FACC

## W. H. WILSON TANG, MD, FACC

### DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST (BASIC DOMAIN)

Dr. Wilson Tang has been a stellar researcher in addition to being an outstanding clinician, educator, and mentor at Cleveland Clinic for over the past 20 years. For his contributions to moving cardiology forward, he is a deserving recipient of this year's Distinguished Scientist Award in the Basic Domain.

A signature feature of Dr. Tang's contributions is the exploration of other organ systems on cardiovascular disease, while challenging conventional paradigms in the cardiorenal and gut microbiota and heart failure space. He was among the first to describe the role of venous congestion as a fundamental link in the cardiorenal syndrome as well as elucidating the nature of neurohormonal escape in advanced heart failure, the role of dietary-induced gut microbiota (e.g., TMAO) in both atherosclerosis and cardiorenal syndrome, and the importance of chloride homeostasis and circulating ACE2 in heart failure.

His scientific contributions are far-reaching and numerous. He has been both intra- and extra-murally supported and has nine active grants, including seven with the National Institutes of Health. He has completed support for a remarkable 39 awards. He has led or supported close to 700 original scientific publications/invited editorials, nearly 90 chapters, and numerous scientific statements and invited lectures that span the globe. The impact of his science is reflected by the publication of his work in our most prestigious journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Circulation*, and *JACC*.

Throughout his career, Dr. Tang has prioritized teaching and team development. He has mentored more than 70 trainees, post-docs, and students, many of whom have gone on to have productive research careers.

It is important to recognize that over the years he has been a very busy clinical cardiologist as well. He has been able to maintain a strong clinical profile as a heart failure/transplant cardiologists at Cleveland Clinic and these efforts have guided many of his investigations. His overall body of work is certainly emblematic of a Distinguished Scientist Award.

**Jerry D. Estep, MD, FACC**

## IK-KYUNG JANG, MD, PHD, FACC

### DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST (CLINICAL DOMAIN)

Dr. Jang is the "father" of the groundbreaking technology, optical coherence tomography (OCT) in cardiology. He single-handedly brought OCT from bench to bedside. In 2000, he performed the first OCT procedure in humans following several years of extensive bench work and preclinical experiments.

Dr. Jang has a long history of scientific achievements which are documented in over 300 of his publications, spanning from fibrinolytic therapy, antithrombotics, and coronary intervention to his more recent work in vascular biology using OCT that has highlighted plaque erosion as one of the major mechanisms of acute coronary syndromes and the biology of plaque healing. Not only are many of these publications the most cited in this area, but his work has increased our fundamental understanding of disease and influenced the practice of interventional cardiology worldwide.

In addition to his scientific contributions, leadership and clinical expertise, Dr. Jang has been deeply devoted to the mentorship of future cardiologists. He has mentored countless trainees, many of whom are now leaders of the next generation of innovative investigators. The list of his mentees is lengthy, with names synonymous with excellence in their respective fields and speaks to his dedication in fostering the careers of the next generation of scientists.

Finally, I would like to close on a personal level. Dr. Jang not only sets the gold standard for academic excellence, but as a friend and colleague for 30 years, we can attest he is a wonderful person with a high ethical standards. Certainly, he is a role model for all young cardiologists who want to pursue their career as academic physician scientists.

Therefore, it is with immense pleasure and enthusiasm that we congratulate Dr. Jang as the recipient of ACC's Distinguished Scientist Award in the Clinical Domain.

**Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MACC**

## **DOUGLAS L. MANN, MD, FACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST (TRANSLATIONAL DOMAIN)**

Douglas Mann is the quintessential physician-scientist. For more than 30 years, he has dedicated himself to studying the molecular and cellular basis of heart failure with a particular emphasis on the role of innate immunity in disease progression and recovery of the failing heart. For the past 15 years, his laboratory at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis has sought to translate concepts derived in the laboratory into transitional phase II and phase III clinical trials – something that has put him at the forefront of multiple trials that have changed the way we practice cardiology. Beyond just opening new pathways for investigation, however, his lab work has also set a standard for quality and honesty and provided a guidepost for both young and more experienced investigators who have an interest in the biology of the failing heart.

Moreover, as editor-in-chief of *JACC: Basic to Translational Science* and an associate editor of Braunwald's Heart Disease – the leading textbook in the field – he influences the daily practice of clinicians and scientists around the world.

While his clinical gifts are evident, Dr. Mann's impact on the next generation of cardiology leaders is just as noteworthy. Twice a recipient of Baylor College of Medicine's Outstanding Teaching Award and the winner of ACC's 2015 Distinguished Mentor Award, he is a superb teacher and mentor whose former trainees have gone on to hold important leadership positions in academic medicine themselves. And for those of us in the heart failure community fortunate enough to call him a friend, his personal significance is every bit as important as his professional accomplishments. He is a worthy recipient of this year's Distinguished Scientist – Translational Domain Award.

**Arthur M. Feldman, MD, PhD, FACC**

## **FATIMA RODRIGUEZ, MD, MPH, FACC**

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### **DOUGLAS P. ZIPES DISTINGUISHED YOUNG SCIENTIST**

Fatima Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACC is a physician-scientist who is elucidating our understanding of cardiovascular disease and health disparities. At an early career stage, she has established a national reputation for her work in health equity and is an emerging leader in cardiovascular medicine.

Dr. Rodriguez received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 2006, graduating summa cum laude with distinction. In 2011, she received her MD from Harvard Medical School and her MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. She trained in internal medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and in cardiovascular medicine at Stanford University. She was appointed an assistant professor of medicine at Stanford in 2018.

As a preventive cardiologist, Dr. Rodriguez is focused on improving cardiovascular risk prediction and treatment recommendations for historically marginalized and understudied patient groups, with the goal of reducing racial and ethnic health disparities. Her research interests developed from family experiences with heart disease and took shape as a medical resident when she led a series of projects that focused on cardiovascular prevention among underserved populations. Her research prowess during her fellowship years was recognized by the ACC/Merck Research Fellowship Award, a National Research Service Award, the AHA-Robert Wood Johnson Harold Amos Faculty Medical Development Award and an NHLBI K Award.

Despite having been a faculty member for only four years, Dr. Rodriguez has authored or co-authored more than 120 peer-reviewed publications, including many in high impact journals. Her work is original and innovative and the kind of research that changes clinical practice, contributes to guidelines and improves the research methods of a field.

She is a superb clinician and a frequently sought-after mentor, especially for young women and underrepresented-in-medicine scientists. She's insightful, collaborative and incredibly generous. Dr. Fatima Rodriguez is a very worthy winner of the Douglas P. Zipes Distinguished Young Scientist Award.

**Robert A. Harrington, MD, FAHA, MACC**

## JOHN GORDON HAROLD, MD, MACC

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### INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC, has been a champion for ACC's international strategy, working to strengthen critical collaborations that help us reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease worldwide. For these efforts and more, Dr. Harold is a deserving recipient of this year's International Service award.

As ACC President, Dr. Harold was instrumental in strengthening relationships with international societies. He is always ready to support ideas, and willing to build bridges and solve problems. I will always remember his passion for the improvement of global health during our time together collaborating with the European Society of Cardiology as we built joint symposia at the ACC/ESC scientific meetings and increased scientific collaboration.

He continues to serve as a global international ambassador for the College. For example, Dr. Harold was the architect of ACC's International Twinning Program and was responsible for twinning the British Cardiovascular Society with the ACC California Chapter. Dr. Harold has been active in global advocacy and served as the founding chair of the World Heart Federation Partner's Council in 2016 and was a member of the Board of Directors of the World Heart Federation. Dr. Harold has represented the ACC at numerous events sponsored by the World Health Organization in Geneva and New York and testified for the ACC at the United Nations General Assembly hearing on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

As evidence of his global impact, Dr. Harold holds honorary fellowships with several international organizations, including the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Royal College of Physicians of London, the InterAmerican Heart Foundation and the Cardiological Society of India.

Dr. Harold is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, geriatric medicine and critical care medicine and is a past chief of staff at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Harold currently serves as clinical professor of medicine at the Cedars-Sinai Smidt Heart Institute and the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and is a member of the Board of Directors of numerous organizations.

### Jeroen J. Bax, MD, PhD, FACC

## **ILEANA L. PIÑA, MD, MPH, FACC**

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### **BERNADINE HEALY LEADERSHIP IN WOMEN'S CV DISEASE**

Dr. Ileana Piña, MD, MPH, demonstrates inspiring leadership in the pursuit of better treatment of women's cardiovascular disease, exemplifying the spirit of Bernadine Healy as a scholar, clinician, mentor, and advocate. She is most deserving of the Bernadine Healy Leadership in Women's Cardiovascular Disease Award.

Dr. Piña was born in Havana, Cuba, and grew up in the United States to become the only female cardiology fellow - or "fellete", as she termed it - at the University of Miami in the 1980s. Her early work included cardiopulmonary testing, which served to propel her into specialization in heart failure, especially the NHLBI HF ACTION trial. Dr. Piña has served with distinction in major academic medical centers across the United States, amassing an impressive track record of research support and over 300 publications in high impact scientific journals. Sex, gender and other demographic disparities are often the focus of her efforts, particularly in the area of heart failure in women. She has long been involved in mentorship and teaching and has participated extensively on patient safety and quality of care committees across professional organizations, helping to shape multiple pathways for the pursuit of better understanding and treating women's cardiovascular disease at both local and national levels.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, Dr. Piña works as a Medical Officer at the FDA, particularly regarding bleeding complications and therapeutic windows during heart failure device therapy in women. She is a catalyst, promoting broader enrollment of women in clinical trials, and has worked with the FDA Office on Women's Health and Center for Devices and Radiological Health to enhance sex/gender research opportunities, and to question women's response to health status instruments.

Dr. Piña is a mentor at heart. While serving on the AHA Council on Clinical Cardiology, Dr. Piña worked on a program that hosted high school students from minority and underserved communities. This program encouraged them to apply for science studies and careers, shared inspirational stories, and challenged them to "dream big and work hard". Dr. Piña embodies that very spirit and tenacity.

With her unwavering commitment to equality, amongst patients and between physicians, Dr. Piña inspires us with her dedication to improve cardiovascular healthcare for all, and that means more attention to health equity, as well as greater outreach to women and minorities in research.

**Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC**

## NANETTE KASS WENGER, MD, MACC

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The depth and breadth of Dr. Wenger's six decades of clinical work, research, publications, organizational service and mentorship is simply astonishing, and make her worthy of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award.

An early pioneer, Dr. Wenger was one of the first women to graduate from Harvard Medical School in 1954 and the first woman chief resident at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. She entered fellowship in cardiology at Emory University and Grady Memorial Hospital in 1958 and became the founding director of the cardiology clinics and ECG lab at Grady in 1960, a time of limited opportunity for women. She was later selected as one of the first female cardiology chiefs in the country.

The prevention of coronary heart disease in women has been one of Dr. Wenger's core academic and research focuses. She chaired the NHLBI Conference on Cardiovascular Health and Disease in Women in 1991. In addition, Dr. Wenger has been a longstanding leader in the field of cardiac rehabilitation, and one of the earliest proponents of active rehabilitation after myocardial infarction. She chaired the World Health Organization Expert Committee on Rehabilitation after Cardiovascular Disease and co-chaired the Guideline Panel on Cardiac Rehabilitation for the US Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. Dr. Wenger also has a longstanding interest in geriatric cardiology and served as president of the Society of Geriatric Cardiology, as well as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Geriatric Cardiology* for over 15 years.

As a clinician scientist, Dr. Wenger has authored over 1,700 original papers, guidelines, textbooks, reviews, and book chapters. The Scopus database outlines her publishing impact with over 3,000 citations annually since 2013. Dr. Wenger has received over 40 major national and international awards for her work, including many of the highest honors and awards given by the ACC and AHA.

Dr. Wenger's service to the ACC is an incredible part of her legacy. She has always encouraged participation and leadership in the ACC, and herself chaired numerous committees. She has been involved in the planning and success of the ACC Annual Scientific Session and served as a Governor and ACC Trustee. She was a powerful force in the early development of international relations and continues that work today.

Many of us will never forget our first months of Fellowship at Emory and Grady Hospital, when Nanette rounded with us on the wards, taught us how to manage busy clinics, encouraged our research and guided publications. Among legendary faculty members, Dr. Wenger stood out as teacher, leader, and trainee champion. Brilliant, courageous, interesting, and interested, she molded her teams and inspired so many to do more than they ever thought possible.

Nanette Wenger's professional career has led to the advancement of knowledge and practice in multiple spheres. She has been a pioneer and champion of women's heart health, cardiovascular disease prevention, cardiac rehabilitation, and geriatric cardiology known for her meticulous approach to science and patient care, her articulate presentations, and leadership skills. She exudes passion, professionalism, and generosity. During her 60-year career she touched the lives of so many in meaningful ways. She has served as a beacon of health equity and a leader on addressing health-related disparities. She is an example and inspiration to all in the cardiovascular care community, and the definition of Lifetime Achievement.

### C. Michael Valentine, MD, MACC

## **GEORGE D. DANGAS, MD, PHD, FACC**

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### **MASTER OF THE ACC (MACC)**

Dr. George D. Dangas, has been awarded the designation as Master of the American College of Cardiology in recognition of his contributions to the cardiovascular profession and the College. His dedication to improving cardiovascular health and enhancing patient care is a testament to his expertise and professionalism. He has provided exemplary leadership in helping to move the College's mission forward through his ability to bring physicians together from diverse specialties and backgrounds to train, learn, interact and participate in various ACC activities to create a world where innovation and knowledge optimize heart care and outcomes.

He has been consistently recognized for excellence in education, clinical practice, and scholarship and is recognized as an international expert in the specialty of interventional cardiology and has exhibited influential leadership and has promoted the global mission of the College. Dr. Dangas was elected to the ACC Board of Trustees where he was an active proponent of the governance restructure. His transmission of the pulse of interventional cardiologists' thoughts to the ACC Board and the broader ACC leadership led to expanded collaboration and outreach with the interventional community.

Dr. Dangas has been involved in the ACC Scientific Session program committee and the ACC-Interventional Symposium (ACCIS) program committee and he subsequently participated in its successful transition to the Innovation-in-Intervention i2-summit. He served as Co-Chair and Chair of the i2 summit and continued to be on the program executive committee for 10 years, serving concurrent terms in the main ACC Annual Scientific Session program committee. He helped found the ACC Interventional Scientific Council & Section, serving as its first co-chair and led the ACC Interventional Council with distinction. Dr. Dangas facilitated evolution of the newly established JACC subspecialty Journals, with a focus on international participation and representation.

We honor Dr. Dangas with the MACC designation as a result of his tireless dedication to the College as a leader to further ACC's mission to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health worldwide.

**John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC**

## **JOHN S. RUMSFELD, MD, PHD, FACC**

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### **MASTER OF THE ACC (MACC)**

Dr. Rumsfeld has always been an innovator and enthusiastic champion of transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health.

As a cardiovascular trainee, Dr. Rumsfeld was on the leading edge of elevating the importance of health status as a key outcome for clinical research and patient care. In 2005, while an early career clinician scientist, Dr. Rumsfeld was appointed as the first chief scientific advisor of the College's flagship National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR) programs. In this role, and as the chair of the NCDR Management Board, he oversaw marked growth in the number of NCDR programs and developed a world-class research program that has since produced more than 500 peer-reviewed papers. He navigated complex issues with aplomb, built consensus among stakeholders, and developed the strategy that ensured the success and stability of NCDR.

Dr. Rumsfeld has also served as a member of the ACC Board of Trustees and of the College Finance Committee. In these roles, he passionately supported our organization as it adapted to an ever-changing health care environment. Here again, his talents of thinking strategically, building consensus, and contributing meaningfully helped to advance the work of these fundamentally important groups.

In 2016, Dr. Rumsfeld accepted the role of the College's first chief innovation officer. In this capacity, he led efforts to maintain and expand ACC's relevancy to its members, partners, and external stakeholders. As part of a small but nimble innovations team, he identified novel approaches to advancing ACC's mission.

Dr. Rumsfeld's manifold contributions to the ACC clearly warrant the designation of Master of the American College of Cardiology. In the history of the College, he is one of a small handful of individuals who, working in productive collaboration, have ensured the success of our organization over the last two decades.

**Frederick A Masoudi, MD, MSPH, MACC**

## HECTOR O. VENTURA, MD, FACC

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### MASTER OF THE ACC (MACC)

Dr. Ventura is a distinguished cardiologist with years of dedicated service who has consistently contributed to the goals and programs of the College. In honor of his contributions to the cardiovascular profession, Dr. Ventura is a more than deserving recipient of the designation of Master of the American College of Cardiology.

Dr. Ventura's career has been a model of excellence in direct patient care, outstanding research productivity, and most of all as an excellent teacher and mentor to residents and fellows. A common theme has been his willingness to selflessly serve others. It is the reason he has been such a successful physician leader and cardiovascular fellowship program director.

Dr. Ventura joined the faculty of the Ochsner Clinic in 1989 in the section of advanced heart failure and transplantation. He became the section head in 2005 and earned promotion to the rank of professor of medicine in 2011 from the Ochsner Clinical School of the University of Queensland, Australia.

Dr. Ventura has been an active and vocal advocate for ending disparities in health care, serving on the United States Department of Health & Human Services, National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities. He served as the chair of ACC's Coalition to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes (CREDO) and the co-chair of the National Hispanic Cardiologist Leadership Network.

Dr. Ventura was the medical editor of *Cardiosource* in Spanish and received the Simon Dack Award for his commitment to the JACC family of journals. He has consistently epitomized mentorship, scholarship, and leadership in cardiology and has played many important roles in the American College of Cardiology including a pivotal assignment in ACC's Campaign for the Future as Chair of the International Division. Dr. Ventura continues to be an outstanding global ambassador for the College in our collective efforts toward transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health.

### John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC

## DIPTI ITCHHAPORIA, MD, FACC

### MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY (MACC)

#### ACC PRESIDENT, 2021-2022



Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC, is an interventional cardiologist and the director of disease management at Hoag Hospital's Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart and Vascular Institute in Newport Beach, CA. She is also an associate clinical professor at the University of California, Irvine.

Dr. Itchhaporia has a long and distinguished record of service to the

College: Prior to becoming the first South Asian president of the College, she served on ACC's Board of Trustees, as secretary and chair of the ACC Board of Governors, and as president of the ACC California Chapter.

She has also held roles on the Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee, the Science and Quality Committee, the Governance Committee, and the Practice Administrator Workgroup, and served as an advisor for ACC's Innovation Program. She has been a force for promoting digital transformation and innovation, and ultimately advancing better outcomes for patients and improved clinician wellness.

As chair of the Health Equity Taskforce, Dr. Itchhaporia helped guide the College's approach to issues including health disparities, social determinants of health and improving access to care for underserved populations. During her leadership tenure with the College, she has been credited with helping to weave the notion of health equity into the fabric and culture of ACC.

Among her numerous professional interests, Dr. Itchhaporia focuses particularly on quality measurement and improvement, cardiovascular disease in women (with an emphasis on emerging risk factors), and medical and lifestyle interventions to prevent coronary heart disease.

As an educator, Dr. Itchhaporia has made it a priority to increase the global awareness of cardiovascular disease and promote health equity. She advised the Public Health Foundation of India as it developed and updated content for certification courses in cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention. She has been involved with ACC's "Best of" program in China, which aims to educate local cardiovascular professionals, and has co-chaired the ACC Middle East Conference. She is also a contributing editor to ACC's ACCEL audio journal and sits on the editorial board of *Cardiology Today* magazine.

Dr. Itchhaporia credits a "village of mentors" from different backgrounds who inspired and guided her, gaining different perspectives from each, including an orthopedic surgeon. Her advice - trust your instincts, follow your passion, grab meaningful opportunities by saying yes at the beginning of your career, and always look forward. Her words of wisdom: "Do not compete in somebody's lane; it's difficult. Create your own lane; it's easier."

The College is grateful for her dedicated service as President of the ACC and her work helping us advance our Mission to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.