INDUSTRY ADVISORY FORUM
AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY

Speaker Biographies

Industry Advisory Forum – July 15, 2026

Nausheen Akhter, MD, FACC

Nausheen Akhter, MD is a cardiologist at Northwestern Medicine and an associate professor at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Akhter specializes in cardio-oncology and imaging. She founded the Cardio-Oncology program at Northwestern Medicine. She is also passionate about service, advocacy and mentorship. She is involved in several health equity and community building initiatives from local to international work. She was recently named the inaugural Director of Community Partnerships for the Department of Medicine at Northwestern.

Dr. Akhter has served leadership roles nationally on the inaugural board of directors for the ASE Foundation, which is the philanthropic arm of ASE. She is a member of the ACC Cardio-Oncology Leadership Council and the ACC Health Equity committee. She was selected as part of the ACC's inaugural cohort of the Sandra J Lewis Midcareer Women's Leadership Institute. She is a councilor with the IL-ACC and is the inaugural chair of the IL-ACC Social Justice Committee. She also serves as the inaugural co-chair for the ACC Health Equity Activities workgroup which oversees the Health Equity Hub and Community Events. She serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) Case Reports*, a consultant editor for *JACC Advances*, and on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography*. Most importantly, she is a proud mother of three incredible kids.

Andrea Anderson, MD, Med, FAAFP

Andrea A. Anderson, MD, MEd, FAAFP is a nationally recognized family physician, medical educator, and physician leader whose work spans academic medicine, physician regulation, board certification, professionalism, and primary care policy. She is a Professor of Family and Community Medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, where she leads innovative educational programs and mentors the next generation of physicians. Dr. Anderson was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2025, one of the highest honors in health and medicine, in recognition of her national contributions to medical education, primary care, and physician leadership. She also serves on the National Academy of Medicine Standing Committee on Primary Care, helping shape national policy to strengthen primary care and improve health outcomes.

Dr. Anderson is the Immediate Past Chair of the American Board of Family Medicine and the Immediate Past Chair of the USMLE Management Committee, where she helped oversee the national licensing examination taken by physicians across the United States. She currently serves as Chair of the DC Board of Medicine, Board Member of the Federation of State Medical Boards, and is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties Ethics and Professionalism Committee. A sought-after national speaker, Dr. Anderson's scholarship and leadership focus on medical education, physician professionalism, health policy, workforce development, primary care, and restoring public trust in medicine. She is widely recognized for building consensus across organizations and advancing collaborative solutions that strengthen the physician workforce and improve patient care across all specialties.

Ginger Biesbrock, DSc, PA-C, MPH, FACC

Dr. Ginger Biesbrock, DSc, PA-C, MPH, FACC, is an accomplished healthcare professional possessing extensive academic qualifications, including a Doctor of Science in Healthcare Leadership from the University of Alabama Birmingham, a Master of Public Health from Michigan State University with a concentration in administration, informatics, ethics, and quality improvement, and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies.

Throughout her career, Dr. Biesbrock has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence and quality care delivery. Her current role as Senior Vice President for the National Heart and Vascular Service Line at Advocate Health allows her to use her with expertise in healthcare administration, operations, strategy, and care delivery to ensure effective patient care and organizational excellence. As a certified physician assistant and Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, she upholds the highest standards of clinical practice and leadership. Dr. Biesbrock is recognized for her dedication to advancing healthcare quality and for her significant contributions to multidisciplinary teams.

Leslie Davis, PhD, ANP-BC, FACC

Dr. Leslie L Davis is an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. She maintains a part-time nurse practitioner practice with the Division of Cardiology at UNC. A cardiovascular expert, Dr. Davis is a certified hypertension clinician and a fellow in the American Academy of Nurses, the American College of Cardiology (ACC), the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American Heart Association (AHA), and the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA). In 2021 Dr. Davis received the Distinguished Associate Award from the ACC; currently serves as an

Associate Editor for the Journal of Nurse Practitioners; has served as editor for the book Cardiovascular Nursing Secrets (2nd edition in development), as guest editor for a special cardiovascular issue of Nursing Clinics of North America (2023), and as author/coauthor 60+ papers in peer-reviewed journals, several ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathways, 15 book chapters, and other scholarly products related to cardiovascular topics. As a nurse scientist, Dr. Davis and her team have developed and tested a digital health intervention for adults who have been hospitalized for acute coronary syndrome (ACS) aimed at improving ACS survivors' ability to recognize and report angina symptom progression to the healthcare team. In addition, Dr. Davis served as an author on the 2025 AHA/ACC Clinical Guidelines for ACS and the 2025 AHA/ACC Clinical Guidelines for High Blood Pressure. Currently she serves as the Chair of the ACC National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR) Chest Pain/MI Registry Steering Committee and a member of several other committees within the College.

Nyssa Entrekin, MS, RD

Nyssa Entrekin, MS, RD: Nyssa Entrekin is a Registered Dietitian and Deputy Director of Nutrition Education at The Food Trust with over 17 years of experience in the field of nutrition in both community and clinical settings. Clinically, she specialized in pediatric endocrinology and adult metabolic health and provided produce prescriptions for several years in Philadelphia and NJ clinical sites. She created handouts, developed recipes, and ensured patients were able to utilize the produce prescriptions that were utilized and provided support, resources and connection to services to ensure this. She received her BS from Rutgers University's Coordinated Dietetics Program and MS from West Chester University in Community Nutrition. She specializes in public health nutrition and has created and implemented several nutrition education programs in a variety of settings, including farmers' markets, corner stores, grocery stores, senior centers and food pantries, including co-authoring Heart Smarts, which is an evidenced-based curriculum written for small retail settings. She currently oversees The Food Trust's local, regional, and national community nutrition programming and has worked on the Cooking Matters program since 2010.

Edward T. Fry, MD, MACC

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.

Richard Kovacs, MD, MACC- Chief Medical Officer, ACC

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 pro-arrhythmic effects of non-antiarrhythmic drugs. He supervises the cardiovascular evaluation of athletes at the National Football League annual scouting combine.

Nicole Lohr, MD, PhD, FACC

Nicole L. Lohr, MD, PhD, FACC, is Professor and Director of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease, Department of Medicine, and serves as Co-Director of the Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) and Associate Director of the Comprehensive Cardiovascular Center (CCVC) in the Heersink School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Lohr earned her PhD and MD at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Her professional activities include fundamental and clinical research, as well as direct patient care. She has a longstanding interest in exploring the critical role of nitric oxide in vascular function, oxidative stress and consequent cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and is developing therapies to reduce oxidative stress and improve vascular function. She carries extensive experience in addressing morbidity and mortality from CVD across the lifespan, i.e., effects from acute coronary syndromes, cardiomyopathies, diabetes, and peripheral artery disease and how these diseases greatly reduce QOL for these patients.

As a physician-leader, Dr. Lohr implemented SMARTCare at MCW to improve care for patients with stable ischemic heart disease, restructured the cardiology clinics at the Zablocki VAMC and led the development of VAMC programs in structural cardiology and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging.

Dr. Lohr also serves in various leadership capacities with the American College of Cardiology (ACC), is President for the American Heart Association (AHA) Birmingham Metro Board, Secretary Treasurer of the Association of Professor of Cardiology (APC) and Member of the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) Workforce Committee. As a leader in academic cardiovascular medicine, Dr. Lohr continues to devote her time to mentoring the next generation of physician scientists.

At UAB, Dr. Lohr is partnering with health system(s) to set strategic benchmarks in CV Medicine and with healthcare affiliates in rural and underserved communities statewide to improve patient access. She has deployed a structured CV faculty compensation plan, oversees all CV Medicine ambulatory and inpatient operations, and recently established disease-based workgroups to improve healthcare delivery focused on patient-centered care (e.g., heart failure and chest pain pathways), proven highly successful. Dr. Lohr subsequently formed multidisciplinary workgroups consisting of faculty, fellows, APPs, RNs and administrative leaders to streamline workforce operations, resulting in reorganization of UAHSF ambulatory practices, expansion of patient access, APP integration, clinical research efficiency and faculty mentorship. She also created an inpatient cardiovascular care transformation workgroup to address challenges with staffing multiple CV consult and ward services. Dr. Lohr's vision to strategically expand UAB's CV clinical and research enterprises and promote forward thinking opportunities to develop and retain a multidisciplinary group of faculty, staff and trainees continues to produce growth and success.

Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC- ACC President

Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC, 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 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.

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's honors include the 2017 ACC Bernadine Healy Leadership in CV Disease Award, the 2018 Nanette Wenger Award for Excellence in Medical Leadership from WomenHeart, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2019) and the ESC Silver Medal with the Andreas Grüntzig Lecture (2019). In 2022 she received the Terry Ann Krulwich Physician-Scientist Alumni Award, PulseSetter Champion Award and AHA Women in Cardiology Mentoring Award; in 2023, she received the ACC Bahr Award of Excellence.

Nick Morse, MBA- ACC Division Vice-President, Advocacy
As DVP for Advocacy, Nick is charged with guiding and strengthening the ACC's interaction and influence with policymakers and other stakeholders to advance the College's mission of transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health for all. In this role, he works with ACC staff and member leaders to spearhead engagement and the development of sound policy to lessen the burden of cardiovascular disease and address the complex issues facing America's health care system. Nick and the Advocacy division, in collaboration with ACC's Health Affairs Committee, are keenly focused on ensuring CV clinicians are supported in their tireless work for their patients.

Nick has been a proud member of the ACC team for 15 years. Prior to his time with the College, he worked in government relations for the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association. He also spent three years teaching middle school social studies in suburban Maryland. Nick earned his MBA from the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee. He and his wife Sara are graduates of Gettysburg College and live in Virginia with their three children, Charlie (14), Ellie (12), and Kate (9), and their charming rescue dog, Taylor Adele.

Madeline Sterling, MD, MPH, MSc

Dr. Madeline Sterling is a primary care physician and health services researcher. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and the Director of the Initiative on Home Care Work at Cornell University. Her research aims to improve health and healthcare delivery for adults with cardiovascular disease by optimizing the care they receive at home and in primary care. To do so, she focuses on home health care, and leveraging the home care workforce to improve outcomes for adults with heart failure, and other cardiovascular diseases. In addition to observational studies, she leads several clinical and implementation trials locally and nationally.

Dr. Sterling has authored more than 145 peer-reviewed publications, and her research has been supported by federal and foundation funding from the NIH-National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Science Foundation, American Heart Association (AHA), Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and others. At the national level, Dr. Sterling served as the Inaugural Chair of the AHA's Primary Care Science Committee and she is a member of their Implementation Science Committee, Outpatient Quality Advisory Committee, and Council on Clinical Cardiology/Women's Health. Through these roles, she has shaped national scientific statements and recently served on the first-ever CKM clinical guidelines. She also serves as an Associate Editor at *Circulation: Population Health and Outcomes*.

Dr. Sterling received a BA, *magna cum laude*, from Cornell University and an MD-MPH from Rutgers University. She completed an Internal Medicine residency (primary care) at Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian Hospital, followed by an AHRQ-funded T32 health services research fellowship, where she obtained a MS in clinical epidemiology from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.