Distinguished Awardees

The ACC Distinguished Awards were established to recognize outstanding individuals making contributions to the cardiovascular profession.

On the pages that follow, you will find citations describing the contributions made by each of this year’s awardees.

Chair, 2018 ACC Awards Committee
Hector O. Ventura, MD, FACC

Master of the American College of Cardiology
Huon H. Gray, MD, FACC
Romsey, England
Christopher M. O’Connor, MD, FACC
Arlington, VA
Thad F. Waites, MD, FACC
Hattiesburg, MS
Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC
Indianapolis, IN

Lifetime Achievement Award
Barry J. Maron, MD, MACC
Swampscott, MA

Distinguished Fellowship Award
Jagat Narula, DM, MD, PhD, MACC
New York, NY

Distinguished Scientist Award (Basic Domain)
Elazer R. Edelman, MD, PhD, FACC
Cambridge, MA

Distinguished Scientist Award (Clinical Domain)
Kim A. Eagle, MD, MACC
Ann Arbor, MI

Distinguished Scientist Award (Translational Domain)
K. Lance Gould, MD, FACC
Houston, TX

Douglas P. Zipes
Distinguished Young Scientist Award
Salim Hayek, MD
Atlanta, GA

Distinguished Teacher Award
Thomas M. Bashore, MD, FACC
Durham, NC

Gifted Educator Award
Linda D. Gillam, MD, FACC
Morristown, NJ

Gifted Teacher Award
Allan S. Jaffe, MD, FACC
Rochester, MN

Distinguished Service Award
James E. Tcheng, MD, FACC
Durham, NC

International Service Award
Sarah Catherine Clarke, MA, MD, FACC
Cambridge, England

Distinguished Mentor Award
Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC
Newton, MA

Distinguished Associate Award
Janet Fredal Wyman, DNP, RNCS, AACC
Detroit, MI

Bernadine Healy Leadership in Women’s CV Disease Award
Carl J. Pepine, MD, MACC
Gainesville, FL

Presidential Citation
William J. Oetgen, MD, MBA, FACC
Alexandria, VA
**BARRY J. MARON, MD, MACC**

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

For his large body of work extending more than 40 years that has resulted in much of our current understanding of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), Dr. Maron is a deserving recipient of this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

His compendium of work has helped to clarify the natural history and clinical course of HCM, transforming what was considered a largely grim, unrelenting genetic condition without effective treatment options 20-30 years ago, to a contemporary and highly treatable disease compatible with extended life expectancy. Among many things, Dr. Maron and his colleagues are responsible for formulating the contemporary clinical understanding of HCM by establishing the currently used nomenclature for the disease and recognizing its prevalence in the general population—including recognizing that it is the most common genetic heart disease, occurring at a prevalence between 1:200 and 1:500. His work has been critical in identifying pathologic hallmarks of HCM and in establishing clinical diagnosis with echocardiography/magnetic resonance imaging, recognizing the implications of the genetic substrate and of understanding the clinical significance of left ventricular outflow obstruction. Most importantly, his work identifying novel and effective treatment interventions, including use of the ICD, has been instrumental in altering the clinical course of the disease.

Dr. Maron’s contributions also include a 35-year US National Registry of sudden death in young athletes, which contains data on almost 3,000 victims and has defined the myriad causes of these highly visible events. Dr. Maron and colleagues were the first to show that these athletic field deaths were often due to structural cardiovascular diseases, primarily HCM in the US. Furthermore, a series of reports from the Sudden Death Registry led directly to establishing highly regarded eligibility and disqualification standards for athletes with cardiovascular disease. These guidelines have proved useful for decision-making by practitioners, as formulated in the ACC-sponsored Bethesda Conferences #16, #26 and #36, all chaired by Dr. Maron over 25 years. These guidelines were recently renewed and revised. These and other contributions eminently qualify Dr. Maron for the honor of receiving the ACC Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Douglas P. Zipes, MD, MACC**

**JAGAT NARULA, DM, MD, PhD, MACC**

**Distinguished Fellowship Award**

As an exemplary role model for service, scholarship, education and mentoring, Dr. Jagat Narula showcases the best ideals of the college and is an outstanding choice for this year’s Distinguished Fellow Award.

He epitomizes the ideal academic physician investigator. With prolific productivity resulting in nearly 800 papers to his credit, with many having been cited over 500 times, he is considered an original thinker who has continuously challenged collective wisdom.
with his novel discoveries. His research into the role of Apoptosis has changed the way we think about heart failure, his work on plaque hemorrhage helped us understand how plaques evolve into vulnerability, and more recently he pioneered the use of advanced imaging to understand how atheromatous plaques result in an acute coronary syndrome. He has shown in word and in deed that he is dedicated to serve a bigger purpose in cardiology and now is heavily invested in global health issues.

He has held important leadership positions in academia, as well as at the College. He was the founding editor-in-chief of JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging; he nurtured it for 10 years and grew it to be one of the most respected publications in the field of cardiac imaging worldwide. He is currently the executive editor of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. He has unflinchingly contributed to the ACC mission by serving in nearly 25 different positions or capacities in the College since 2004, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees. He has contributed regularly to guidelines and position papers from the ACC, chaired the COCATS 4 MMI guideline and was part of the ACCSAP 2017 writing group. He is a gifted teacher, a very successful mentor for dozens of trainees and a highly sought-after speaker both in the US and around the world.

Dr. Narula’s work, achievements and comportment abundantly represent everything that the distinguished fellow award stands for: outstanding individuals making outstanding contributions to the cardiovascular profession and making our college proud.

Y. S. Chandrashekhar, MD, FACC

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Elazer R. Edelman, MD, PhD, FACC

Distinguished Scientist Award (Basic Domain)

Dr. Elazer Edelman’s doctoral thesis defined and characterized polymeric controlled drug release systems, laying the foundation for transformative contributions to cardiovascular science in the fields of stent and endovascular graft design, therapeutic delivery from solid scaffolds, angiogenesis and tissue engineering. For this and his many other achievements setting a standard for clinical excellence, Dr. Edelman is a deserving recipient of this year’s Distinguished Scientist Award in the Basic Domain.

Beyond its fundamental importance in drug delivery, Dr. Edelman’s longstanding work on drug release from polymers has allowed many of the complex molecules now in clinical use in cardiology to be deployed safely. His vascular biology contributions have defined the role that endothelial cells play in native biology in health, in atherosclerosis and in cancer. They have also contributed directly to his extensive program in tissue engineering, which focuses on the biological impact of synthetic endovascular surfaces. Dr. Edelman is best known for a remarkable synthesis of quantitative vascular biology, immunology, materials science and pharmacology that has characterized biological responses to implanted devices. These fundamental insights were directly responsible for the development of modern endovascular stents and their drug-eluting capabilities. In recent years, similar integrative approaches have led to major refinements in endovascular valve-stents.

In addition to these notable achievements, Dr. Edelman’s work has contributed to regulatory guidelines and standards in the cardiovascular device field. He has highlighted the importance of translation to both clinical and basic research communities via leadership roles at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Science Translational Medicine Journal and elsewhere. In testament to his mentorship, he has trained a disproportionate number of impactful senior scientists who are active in the ACC today. His work has been
recognized through induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Inventors; he has also received numerous international awards for his contributions.

Throughout these activities, Dr. Elazer Edelman has set remarkable standards of clinical excellence, intellectual rigor, self-effacement and collegiality. He is truly deserving of this award.

Calum A. MacRae, MD, FACC

Kim A. Eagle, MD, MACC

2018 Distinguished Scientist Award (Clinical Domain)

As an innovator in the field of patient-centered research progression for over 25 years, Dr. Kim A. Eagle is a most deserving recipient of this year’s Distinguished Scientist Award in the Clinical Domain.

Dr. Eagle began his first faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), where he was responsible for residency training in internal medicine (1989-1991) and served as associate director of the fellowship training program until 1994.

In 1994, Dr. Eagle rose to clinical chief of cardiology at the University of Michigan and built upon his experiences in research by launching a series of clinical research initiatives that had significant impact. These included efforts to improve myocardial infarction care quality at the University of Michigan. While in Michigan, he also led the application of the American College of Cardiology Guidelines Applied in Practice (GAP) Initiative in 33 hospitals in the state. Dr. Eagle’s interest in improving global coronary care also inspired him to get involved in the formation of the GRACE registry, where he, and colleagues at more than 100 hospitals around the world, evaluated quality, outcomes and process in nearly 70,000 patients with acute coronary syndromes. This registry led to the creation of the GRACE Risk Score, now the standard risk-assessment tool used throughout Europe and the United States.

His interest in improving quality, coupled with his previous work at MGH, led him to collaborate with two other colleagues on the formation of a new registry: The International Registry of Aortic Dissection (IRAD). The registry has worked to collect data on more than 8,000 patients worldwide with acute aortic dissection over the last 21 years.

Most recently, Dr. Eagle and colleagues worked to develop and study a program to improve childhood health, which now includes dozens of middle schools and several high schools in Michigan.

It is of the greatest enthusiasm by the cardiovascular community for Dr. Kim Eagle to receive the ACC’s Distinguished Scientist Award in Clinical Research.

Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MACC

K. Lance Gould, MD, FACC

Distinguished Scientist Award (Translational Domain)

For his work pioneering fundamental concepts in coronary physiology over the last 44 years, K. Lance Gould, MD, is a deserving recipient of this year’s Distinguished Scientist Award in the Translational Domain.

Dr. Gould completed his medical training at Case Western Reserve Medical School and his residency at University of Washington in Seattle. Following training, he spent two years focused on leprosy and measles in island populations in Hawaii, and then returned to Seattle to train in cardiology under Dr. Robert Bruce. He began work at University of Texas in 1979, where he focused his clinical and scientific efforts on coronary artery disease. Among many aspects of the disease, he focused on measuring its severity and on efforts to reverse it through risk factor modification, with a goal of lowering patient risk, lowering cost and improving patient outcomes. Dr. Gould currently works as professor and executive director of the Weatherhead PET Center for Preventing and...
Reversing Atherosclerosis, and holds the distinguished title of Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished University Chair at the McGovern Medical School, University of Texas at Houston.

His research on pressure flow characteristics of coronary artery stenosis established the basis of current clinical invasive and non-invasive coronary physiology, which has guided the management of coronary artery disease for millions of patients. Dr. Gould was the first to use pharmacologic stress for cardiac imaging and the first to develop and apply positron emission tomography (PET) for heart imaging. Using PET, he was the first to show that coronary artery disease could be not only slowed, but potentially stopped and reversed through medical and lifestyle management. His translational research in all aspects of coronary physiology have had lasting effects on cardiovascular medicine. His book, Heal Your Heart, How to Prevent or Reverse Heart Disease, is the first popular book to distill an extensive scientific literature into simple graphics and text for nonmedical readers.

Dr. Gould’s publications have been impactful, and his discoveries and innovations have helped us to improve the treatment of coronary artery disease in cardiovascular patients worldwide.

Jagat Narula, MD, DM, PhD, MACC

Salim Hayek, MD

Douglas P. Zipes Distinguished Young Scientist Award

For his significant contributions in a wide variety of research areas and his growing body of high-quality publications, Salim Hayek is a deserving recipient of this year’s Douglas P. Zipes Distinguished Young Scientist Award.

Dr. Hayek is an exceptional physician scientist who, despite being part of a busy clinical fellowship and raising a young family, has co/lead-authored over 65 manuscripts published in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Nature Medicine, JACC, Circulation and others. He is listed as a first author in at least 25 of these publications. His prolific research and writing ability are highlighted by the fact that 35 of these publications occurred in the past two years.

He has received over a dozen awards during his young career, including Emory’s university-wide Outstanding Postdoctoral Achievement Award, and gained recognition as an invited speaker at several national and international conferences and symposia.

Dr. Hayek has made significant contributions in a myriad of research areas including risk prediction, biomarker, circulating progenitor cells, cardiovascular imaging and chronic kidney disease. His most impressive accomplishment to date is in identifying soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor (suPAR) as a strong predictor of future kidney disease, and contributing to the characterization of the mechanism underlying that association. These findings were published with him as first author in the New England Journal of Medicine and Nature Medicine.

With more than ten percent of adults in the United States experiencing chronic kidney disease, this research into suPAR is hailed as a paradigm shift in identifying a primary role for the bone marrow in the development of kidney disease. His research suggests suPAR may also be the missing link in the association between cardiovascular risk factors and kidney disease. Because of Salim’s work, there are several studies underway exploring suPAR as a pathogenic factor of both kidney and cardiovascular disease and identifying therapeutic targets.

He is the embodiment of the perfect description of a physician scientist, and we look forward to his future contributions to science and medicine.

Jochen Reiser, MD, PhD
Thomas M. Bashore, MD, FACC

Distinguished Teacher Award

With a cardiovascular career spanning more than three decades and characterized by a true passion for patient care and teaching, Dr. Thomas Bashore is a deserving recipient of this year’s Distinguished Teacher Award.

Dr. Bashore is regarded as one of the leading cardiovascular educators and clinicians in the world. Since he came to Duke in 1975 as a Fellow, he has held nearly every leadership position—from serving as director of the cardiac cath labs, becoming a founding member of the Duke Heart Center and initiating the Duke mobile cath services, to building the valvular service and rising to vice-chief of clinical services.

Despite these accomplishments, however, his most important position is perhaps the 12 years he served as the fellowship director, training and affecting many generations of cardiology fellows.

Even today, his ability to connect with trainees and colleagues and to instill in them an intellectual curiosity, drive and empathy for quality patient care makes him the ultimate cardiovascular educator. At Duke, he won the Eugene A. Stead Teaching Award twice—when it was first initiated over 30 years ago, and again last year. Additionally, he has been awarded the Cardiology Fellow Teaching Award so often that the award itself was renamed as the “Tom Bashore Teaching Award”. He has also won the Duke School of Medicine Master Clinician/Teacher Award and the Leonard Palumbo Faculty Achievement Award.

With all these accolades and accomplishments, the most impressive thing about Dr. Bashore is the unassuming and affable way in which he interacts with patients, colleagues and trainees. His love for cardiovascular education may only be surpassed by his love for Duke basketball. It is with that in mind that we would say the ultimate measure of his affect is that that most of the Fellows and faculty at Duke “want to be like Tom.”

Manesh R. Patel, MD, FACC

Linda D. Gillam, MD, FACC

Gifted Educator Award

For her outstanding teaching skills and expertise, Dr. Linda Gillam is a deserving recipient of this year’s Gifted Educator Award.

Dr. Gillam is the current medical director of Atlantic Health System Cardiovascular Service Line. Outside of her current role, her superb teaching ability and expert knowledge in echocardiography and valvular heart disease resulted in over 70 invitations to deliver lectures at local, national and international conferences.

Gillam has earned her expert reputation through 100 peer-reviewed publications, 11 working group reports, and 35 invited manuscripts, editorials and reviews throughout her career. She has also authored 14 books and book chapters, with her most recent book credit entitled Essential Echocardiography: A Companion to Braunwald’s Heart Disease. She is also the co-editor with Catherine Otto, MD of the textbook Advanced Echocardiographic Techniques. Her work centers around topics related to echocardiography, including of the evaluation of native and prosthetic heart valves using echocardiography, the clinical application of echocardiography, and guidelines for use of advanced echocardiography imaging techniques, specifically transcatheter interventions.

Among her many accolades, she is the first woman to receive the Distinguished Teacher Award from the American College of Cardiology. Additionally, the American Society of Echocardiography awarded her the Richard Popp Gifted Teacher Award in 2005. She was bestowed the 2008 McDonald Lectureship Award of the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation and was invited to deliver the 2011 Laennec Clinician/Educator Lecture at the American Heart Association Annual Scientific Session.

In summary, Linda Gillam is an excellent teacher and has devoted a major portion of her academic career in this effort. Her award is richly deserved.

Sanjiv Kaul, MD, FACC
**ALLAN S. JAFFE, MD, FACC**

**Gifted Teacher Award**

Dr. Allan S. Jaffe, who has multiple areas of expertise, interest, service and advocacy in cardiology, is deservedly the recipient of this year’s Gifted Teacher Award.

Though currently best known for his luminary work in coronary thrombolysis and more recently in the use of cardiac biomarkers, my first contact with Dr. Jaffe was in his role as co-chair of the NIH randomized clinical trial (ENRICHD) evaluating the impact of depression on acute myocardial infarction. His participation was enthusiastic, science-based and appropriately inquisitive, and he demonstrated mentoring skills both to his colleagues and to the junior staff members. I also worked with Dr. Jaffe on the recent AHA/ACC Clinical Practice Guideline on NSTE-ACS. He was always available for the detailed insights we required, was willing to provide the latest information, effective in obtaining consensus and an important contributor to the final document.

As an expert clinician, his competence in laboratory medicine is unparalleled, evidenced by his recognition by the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, where he initiated a joint symposium with the ACC, to gain consensus on use of cardiac biomarkers in clinical testing. He was the US representative to the biomarker exploration within the European Society of Cardiology, where he played a major role in establishing consensus for the third universal definition of myocardial infarction and the role of cardiac troponin and testing.

Dr. Jaffe is a sought-after lecturer and has participated in sessions at virtually every meeting of the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology and European Society of Cardiology in recent years. He is an author of an impressive 460 peer reviewed publications, in addition to editorials and book chapters.

Dr. Jaffe currently works as professor of medicine and pathology at the Mayo Clinic, where he also chairs the division of core laboratory services and has master’s faculty privileges in clinical and translational science.

Fortunate are the numerous trainees and colleagues who have profited from his incomparable teaching and mentoring.

Nanette K. Wenger, MD, MACC

**JAMES E. TCHENG, MD, FACC**

**Distinguished Service Award**

For conspicuous innovation and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a clinical investigator, interventional operator, esteemed professor and informatics architect, Dr. James E. Tcheng is a more than deserving recipient of this year’s Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Tcheng has supported the American College of Cardiology and the National Cardiovascular Data Registry for over 30 years. He was one of the original interventional cardiology fellows under Richard Stack, and advanced as a clinical investigator for antiplatelet therapy, laser atherectomy and coronary device development. A cardiovascular Jedi, his polymathic sagacity has been widely respected among teachers, scientists, engineers, physicians and diplomats, who all value his knowledge and wisdom. His dedicated service to others and volunteerism earned him the appellation “Obi-wan Shinobi”, after the pioneering chronic total occlusion guidewire he designed.
A tireless advocate for continuous quality improvement, he has oriented our nation’s electronic infrastructure toward efficient, effective and timely care. Leveraging his experiences with the Duke Cardiovascular Diseases Databank, Dr. Tcheng re-invented himself with the dawn of the 21st century to be an expert in medical informatics and information management, shepherding a legion of computer scientists, database managers and policy strategists into the new expanses created by the wide adoption of electronic health records.

His contributions to the global standards for cardiovascular data storage and exchange are a lasting foundation that will touch the lives of patients and caregivers for years to come. By his courage, bold interventional spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of immeasurable complexity, Prof. Tcheng reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the medical profession and the American College of Cardiology.

David F. Kong, MD, FACC

Sarah Catherine Clarke, MA, MD, FACC

International Service Award

For her dedication and passion in serving the College, and her many contributions in bringing our world closer, Dr. Sarah Catherine Clarke is a most deserving recipient of this year’s International Service Award.

Educated in Cambridge, Dr. Clarke has continued her career as a consultant interventional cardiologist at the Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, UK. Despite a busy clinical practice, she has worked tirelessly to further the mission and vision of the ACC and the British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) in fostering links with the Irish Cardiac Society, ACC and ESC. As vice president of the BCS, she chaired three annual conferences and successful joint sessions with each group. As president, she developed an extensive strategic plan encompassing improved communication, international education and enhanced research networks. As ACC Governor of the Great Britain and Ireland Chapter, she developed close relations through new joint sessions at each annual conference, and fostered a governance model with enhanced representation. She was appointed as co-chair of the ACC International Centers of Excellence Committee, and has worked to improve the standards of care throughout the world. She was recently elected as the European representative to the Assembly of International Governors and has served as editor of the ACC International eNewsletter, selecting relevant guidelines and research for our members practicing outside the US. She promoted workforce diversity as a member of the Women in Cardiology Leadership Council, and became a tremendous mentor for many young cardiovascular leaders.

A compassionate clinician, leading educator and visionary leader, Dr. Clarke has a warm style of communication that invites collaboration and teamwork, enhances open discussion and improves outcomes. She commands the respect of seasoned educators and young trainees alike, and thus has developed into such an effective international servant. It is with great honor that we recognize this service.

C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC

Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC

Distinguished Mentor Award

For his selfless devotion to nurturing the careers of those growing in their careers, Dr. Deepak L. Bhatt is a deserving recipient of this year’s Distinguished Mentor Award.

As has once been said about the hallmark of a true mentor — “A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you”. Dr. Bhatt embodies this quote through his mentorship and sage advice. I have known and worked with Dr. Bhatt for close to 14 years now, and have benefitted tremendously; I can safely say that I would not be where I am in my academic career without his mentorship.
As many who have benefitted from his mentorship will attest, one of his unique qualities is his perennial availability, despite being one of the busiest and most sought-after people within the cardiology community. He is dedicated to responding to all questions nearly instantaneously, and his responses are always thoughtful. He will find time to call when his mentees have questions, and will seek me out at national meetings to discuss important issues. No question, however minor, is unimportant, and I know that I will have his undivided attention whenever needed. Despite his meteoric rise and success, he remains unbelievably humble, unassuming and approachable. He is selfless and cares deeply about the progress of his mentees. Above all, he is a tremendous role model, and has shaped the careers of innumerable students, residents and fellows. As I transition to a mentorship role myself, he is the person that I seek to emulate the most in this regard.

My heartiest congratulations to Dr. Bhatt on this very well deserved award.

Dharam J. Kumbhani, MD, SM, MRCP, FACC

**Distinguished Associate Award**

In recognition of her service to the College and recognition as a role model for others, Janet (Gigi) F. Wyman is a deserving recipient of this year’s Distinguished Associate Award.

Gigi has been a member of the ACC since 2004, when membership first opened to non-physicians. She quickly became involved, taking on leadership roles in the ACC Michigan Chapter and serving as the first CCA State Liaison. She took an early role in providing expertise on state level team-based advocacy issues. She has also been deeply involved in education at both the chapter and national level, serving on committees, planning programs and presenting at the ACC Annual Scientific Session.

Three years ago, her contribution to the ACC became much greater as she assumed the role of chair of the Cardiovascular Team (CVT) Council, and as part of that role continued her support of several of the professional CVT work groups. She also became a key participant in the think tank and writing committee for the policy paper on team-based care that was published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and helped lay the groundwork for the ACC Competency Statement in Cardiovascular Care for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants.

As past chair of the CV Team Council she continues to contribute a great deal of her time, passion and wisdom to the College. Gigi has given so much of herself to the ACC and has been a tireless advocate for helping it become the professional home for all practitioners. She has often gone the extra mile to make a difference for the members of the College she serves. Through her wonderful example she has taught us how to put the team first.

George P. Rodgers, MD, FACC

**Bernadine Healy Leadership in Women’s CV Disease Award**

Dr. Bernadine Healy’s work identified and sought to inform the public and the medical community that heart disease is not just a disease
that strikes males. Dr. Pepine’s research and educational work is furthering her findings. As such, he is a deserving recipient of this year’s Bernadine Healy Leadership in Women’s CV Disease award.

His dedicated and specific outstanding work has fundamentally changed our understanding of myocardial ischemia in women. Dr. Pepine’s commitment to education, his impeccable bedside manner and culturally sensitive practice approach are a winning combination, helping empower women to understand their diagnosis and treatment while teaching them how take charge of lifestyle factors within their control. In addition to serving as a past president of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Pepine has an extensive 30+ year record in service to the ACC, including numerous years as an executive committee member, member of the JACC/ACC Publications and Editorial Coordination Committee, and as a senior member of the Publications Committee. With more than 800 publications in peer-reviewed journals, many of which further our understanding of disease in women, Dr. Pepine’s vast research contributions exemplify those of someone truly worthy of this award.

Dr. Pepine is an internationally recognized leader, and principal investigator at University of Florida, Gainesville in the WISE NIH/NHLBI study, which has highlighted the burden of cardiovascular disease in women, related both to obstructive and non-obstructive coronary disease. He has served as a mentor to so many in our field, training the next generation to follow in his footsteps and carry the torch in general cardiovascular investigation, care and education, as well as specifically in women’s heart disease. Dr. Pepine has committed his career to strive for answers in women’s heart disease at every level that the Bernadine Healy Award seeks to recognize: research, teaching, practice and service.

Shivani Dhawan, MS, CCRP

William J. Oetgen, MD, MBA, FACC

Presidential Citation

Dr. William J. Oetgen’s leadership, adept communication and unerring approach to cardiovascular science, quality and education have benefitted the College—and cardiovascular medicine—greatly. For his unwavering dedication and service to the ACC as a member and as staff, it is an honor to award him the 2018 ACC Presidential Citation.

Dr. Oetgen began his illustrious career following medical training by volunteering to serve as an internist and flight surgeon at the US Army Hospital in Seoul, Korea. He was trained in adult CV disease at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC and there served as the director of the coronary care unit. His active duty Army service as assistant chief of the cardiology service ended in 1986, at which time he began private practice. In 1999, Dr. Oetgen retired as a colonel in the medical corps of the US Army Reserve.

Prior to joining the ACC as staff, Dr. Oetgen also co-founded Apollo Medical Management Company and Maryland Health Care Associates, a multi-specialty practice that grew to more than 90 physicians by the time of his retirement from cardiovascular practice in 2010.

Throughout his time practicing in cardiology, Dr. Oetgen was instrumental to ACC’s success at the member level, serving on many committees and steering the direction of the College. In addition to serving as a member of the ACC Board of Trustees, he also served as chair of the NCDR® PINNACLE Registry Steering Committee and as co-chair of the Medical Professional Liability Working Group.

In 2011, Dr. Oetgen joined the ACC staff, and now serves in his current role as an executive vice president of the ACC. He directs the Division of Science, Education & Quality, which is responsible for clinical practice guidelines and policy statements, national quality initiatives, including the National Cardiovascular Data Registries (NCDR), educational activities, publication of the JACC Journals and accreditation.
Dr. Oetgen is currently a clinical professor of medicine at the Georgetown University School of Medicine. In 2005, he joined the Board of Directors of MedStar Health, Inc., a ten-hospital integrated health system in the Baltimore-Washington region, and in 2017, he was elected as chair of the MedStar Health Board of Directors.

Dr. Oetgen has been instrumental in fostering collaboration with his characteristic diffident, kind and personable approach. The College has benefitted greatly from Dr. Oetgen’s contributions and efforts as a member, and even more from his executive leadership on the staff.

Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC

Huon H. Gray, MD, FACC

Master of the American College of Cardiology

Dr. Huon Gray has established a legacy of service to the College, excellence in research and quality patient care, exemplary leadership and wise council. For his dedication and tireless commitment, he is a most deserving recipient of the designation of Master of the American College of Cardiology.

Originally from Liverpool, Dr. Gray was educated in London and attended medical school at St. Thomas’ Hospital, receiving his MBBS and MD through the University of London. He was a recipient of the British Heart Foundation Research Fellowship. After many years of service in defining quality care, he became deputy national director for heart disease in the department of health for England. In 2013, he was appointed national clinical director for cardiac care for the National Health System, a role he continues to hold today. This has left little time for clinical care in Southampton, where he is still revered as a consultant cardiologist, having given up his interventional practice for his national service.

Huon’s service to the College is equally impressive. After a very successful presidency of the British Cardiovascular Society, he was invited to serve on the initial International Council of the ACC in 2006, and was elected chair in 2008. His calm demeanor and collaborative leadership style advanced his roles as Chair of the International Council and Assembly of International Governors. He was elected as only the second international member of the Board of Trustees, and later asked to serve on the Annual Meeting Committee, Nominations Committee and the Governance Task Force. He now serves on the Governance Committee, and has been chosen to chair this critical committee in 2019. He travels extensively for the College, always bringing his engaging manner, quiet intellect and cautious optimism to each meeting.

Dr. Gray is a rare leader. Self-effacing and humble, he listens intently and garners the respect of all whom he encounters, with the ability to forge consensus among even the most difficult rivals. He has been a tremendous example and mentor for all of us that aspire to lead with conviction and grace, and embodies the attributes of a true Master. He will continue to serve the College very well in this role, and we honor him as such tonight.

C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC

Christopher M. O’Connor, MD, FACC

Master of the American College of Cardiology

Christopher O’Connor is one of the leading authorities in the field of heart failure in the world, who has filled roles in research, teaching, clinical care and administration throughout his career. He has made multiple important contributions to the College over the years and is extremely deserving of the Master of the American College of Cardiology designation.
Dr. O’Connor attended undergraduate and medical school at the University of Maryland and completed his post-doctoral training at Duke University, where he spent the next three decades holding the ranks of professor, chief of cardiology and director of Duke Heart Center. He has served as chief executive officer of Inova Heart and Vascular Institute in Virginia since 2015.

Chris O’Connor is one of the premier clinical investigators in the world and has been the principal (PI) or co-principal investigator of 20 national/international trials supported by NIH or industry. He served as the PI of the NHLBI-sponsored HF-ACTION trial that defined the role of exercise in heart failure, serving as the basis for changes in guidelines and reimbursement. He was the PI of the ASCEND-HF trial, the largest in acute heart failure, as well as SADHART, a trial of antidepressant therapy in heart failure. Most recently, he led the CAT-HF trial that studied the treatment of sleep apnea in heart failure. He has served on over 90 executive or data safety monitoring committees, and his work has resulted in over 400 scientific publications. Chris is a giant in the field of heart failure and clinical trials.

Dr. O’Connor has a well-deserved reputation as an excellent educator and is frequently sought as a teacher/lecturer. Perhaps his greatest accomplishments have been the young investigators that he has mentored, many of whom have gone on themselves to be authorities in the field.

Of his many contributions to the ACC, his service as editor of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Heart Failure stands out as a special contribution. He gave birth to the Journal and has made it the number one rated publication in its field.

The ACC has set a high bar to be recognized as an MACC, but Dr. O’Connor exceeds it in every regard. While the MACC award honors Dr. O’Connor, he likewise reflects honor upon the award.

Anthony DeMaria, MD, MACC

Thad F. Waites, MD, FACC

Master of the American College of Cardiology

Dr. Thad Waites is an extraordinary individual who has a distinguished record of service to his patients, his community, his profession and the College. For this commitment to the College and his leadership in cardiovascular medicine, Dr. Waites is worthy of the honor of Master of the American College of Cardiology designation.

Dr. Waites started his medical career as an intern at Emory University, followed by three years as a US Navy Reserve flight surgeon. He went on to be on staff in the section of cardiology at the Ochsner Foundation where he received the accolade of teacher of the year. He has served as the medical director of cath lab for Forrest General Hospital since 1990.

He is past president of the Mississippi Chapter and on the Board of Governors for the ACC. He quickly earned the respect of his co-governors and went on to become chair of the Board of Governors and the secretary of the College. His interpersonal skills are such that people naturally gravitate to him and more importantly, want to learn about his vision and participate in any change process required.

Presently, Dr. Waites serves as the chair of the Health Affairs Committee. Under his leadership, this committee has formulated the college’s eight guiding principles intended to serve as a lens through which to evaluate new health care legislation as it emerges. These principles will help us ensure legislation protects patient access to quality, cost-effective care and ensure continued investment in cardiovascular research, prevention, and health care workforce development.

Anyone that knows Dr. Waites knows him to be thoughtful, measured and articulate. He exemplifies the honor, integrity, intelligence, training, compassion and dedication to patients, to his colleagues, and to our profession that underlie the core strengths and values of the ACC.

Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC

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Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC
Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC

Master of the American College of Cardiology

ACC President, 2017-2018

Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC earned both her BA and MD from the University of Minnesota. She completed her internship and residency at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas and her cardiology fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Walsh served as assistant professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, as well as assistant professor of radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania from 1990 to 1992, and from there joined what is now St. Vincent Medical Group in Indianapolis, IN.

Her areas of expertise include nuclear cardiology, heart failure and cardiac transplantation with a special interest in cardiovascular disease in women. She is the medical director of the Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation Programs, director of nuclear cardiology at St. Vincent Heart Center and clinical associate professor of medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine. She is program director of the St. Vincent Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation fellowship.

She is past president of the Indiana affiliate of the American Heart Association, past board member of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and a current board member of WomenHeart—the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease. She has served as an associate editor of HeartWatch and currently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Cardiac Failure, as an editorial consultant for JACC: Heart Failure and a reviewer for multiple scientific journals. She is the author of more than 80 articles and book chapters.

Dr. Walsh has represented the American Board of Internal Medicine on the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine and she previously served the ABIM as a member of the Congestive Heart Failure PIM Committee.

Dr. Walsh’s teaching activities include instruction of students, residents and fellows and she lectures frequently on heart failure, heart disease in women and topics in nuclear cardiology. She is actively involved in clinical research in heart failure, nuclear cardiology and systems approaches for quality initiatives in the practice setting. She received the Wenger Award for Medical Leadership in 2014 and has been elected by her peers for inclusion in Best Doctors in America annually since 2005.

She has been active in her local Chapter, previously serving as president of the Indiana Chapter of the ACC, and has served on and chaired multiple committees and work groups.

Throughout her tenure as a member, and now as president of the American College of Cardiology, she has been instrumental to the success of the College and in fostering collaborations with our partners nationally and worldwide. We thank her for her immense contributions to the College and are grateful for her continued work and support.