

# DISTINGUISHED AWARDEE CITATIONS

## CATHLEEN BIGA, RN, MSN

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### HONORARY FELLOW

As a nationally recognized leader, educator and advocate for team-based cardiovascular care, process improvement, systems integration and organizational development, it is an honor to present Cathleen Biga, RN, MSN for Honorary Fellowship.

Ms. Biga began her career as a critical care nurse, but then moved rapidly into nursing administration, later serving as hospital vice president and as CEO. More recently, Ms. Biga served as executive director of the Heart and Vascular Institute before developing her own management consulting firm. Through her varied positions, Mr. Biga has become an expert in best practices and challenges associated with strategic planning, team building, financial management and value-based care. She has also emerged as an effective spokesperson on these topics.

In addition to her full-time positions, Ms. Biga has generously supported the CV community through volunteer work including service on the executive board and as CV section president for the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), president of the Cardiology Advocacy Alliance, and as consultant and speaker for Medaxiom. She graciously served as executive director of the Illinois and Wisconsin Chapters.

Ms. Biga's relationship with the ACC began more than a decade ago when she was tapped by Dr. James T. Dove to be a founding member of the College's CV Management Section. It was clear then, as now, that member service in nonclinical as well as clinical aspects of cardiology is critical to achieving our mission.

Since then, Ms. Biga has chaired or served on 17 ACC committees and work groups, and published ACC white papers on team-based care and cardiovascular leadership development. Her contributions have made her only the third non-FACC ever elected to the Board of Trustees. She now co-chairs the annual Cardiovascular Summit and is helping lead the College in our new CV Enterprise and Health Systems Strategy.

Ms. Biga leads with conviction and grace and her impact will be felt for many years. Through tireless effort, she has contributed to our profession and to the College in countless and, in many cases, unprecedented ways. It is only proper that we honor and welcome her as an honorary Fellow.

### C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC

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

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### DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP AWARD

For his ability to bring physicians together to collaborate, and for his dedication to the College for over 20 years, George D. Dangas, MD, PhD, FACC is a deserving recipient of this year's Distinguished Fellowship Award.

Throughout his career, Dr. Dangas has been a widely recognized Fellow of the ACC at a regional, national and international level. He has helped 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 ACC activities. His vision for engaging young cardiologists into ACC activities, in particular, has been both remarkable and innovative.

Dr. Dangas has been a member of the College since he began his cardiology fellowship. He presented his first abstract at ACC.96, became a Fellow in 1999, and has had many escalating levels of involvement within the College.

He has been very involved in the development of the ACC Annual Scientific Session. He was first involved as member, then co-chair and chair of both the ACC Interventional Symposium (ACCIS) and the ACC i2 Summit from 2004 through 2008, followed by sequential terms in the main ACC Scientific Session Program Committee. He first started systematic submission and evaluation of interventional case-based teaching sessions at ACCi2; this ever-growing type of competition has become a successful routine part of the Annual ACC Scientific Session, reaching hundreds of submissions yearly.

Dr. Dangas also applied his passion for interventional cardiology to help found the ACC Interventional Scientific Council & Section, serving as its first co-chair and chair. Subsequently, he was elected to the ACC Board of Trustees. During his term as a Trustee, he was an active proponent of the governance restructure, and the maintenance of certification related positions and proposals to the American Board of Internal Medicine. Currently, he serves in the special Board committee on audit & compliance and as an associate editor of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. In short, his accomplishments and contributions to the College are many; he is most deserving of the honor of Distinguished Fellow.

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

## **MONA FIUZAT, PHARMD, FACC**

### **DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATE AWARD**

For her outstanding contributions to cardiovascular medicine and health, Mona Fiuzat, PharmD, FACC, is a deserving recipient of this year's Distinguished Associate Award. Mona is an internationally recognized leader in heart failure research, one whose contributions to clinical knowledge are amply documented by over 100

peer-reviewed publications and multiple grant awards. She helped file a new drug application for the first heart failure drug to use pharmacogenetic targeting, and her work also contributed to the validation of two novel prognostic biomarkers for heart failure, both of which were approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In addition to her sterling work as a researcher and trialist, she has established a well-deserved reputation for service and leadership, mentoring multiple fellows in pharmacy and cardiology. Her tenure as the executive editor of *JACC: Heart Failure* helped establish the new journal as the world's highest-impact publication dedicated to heart failure research. She currently serves as a tireless advocate for cardiovascular drugs, biologics and devices as a senior advisor at the FDA.

Mona's service and numerous contributions to the College are likewise exemplary. She served on the ACC Cardiovascular Team Section Working Group and was a faculty participant for the ACC Annual Scientific Session and the Fellow-in-Training roundtable discussions for the Heart Failure Section. She holds key national membership and leadership positions and has been honored as a Fellow of the ACC and of the Heart Failure Society of America.

Collegial, dedicated and highly motivated, Mona brings an important perspective to working with heart failure experts, one that improves our ability to care for patients and disseminate high-quality scientific knowledge.

Her achievements in cardiovascular medicine and research, her stature as an author and editor and her unstinting service to the College have earned her the Distinguished Associate Award.

**Robert Califf, MD, FACC**

## **SAMUEL J. ASIRVATHAM, MBBS, FACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

As an electrophysiology (EP) fellow at Mayo Clinic in 1999, Samuel J. Asirvatham, MBBS, FACC, initiated a weekly didactic EP tracings conference for other EP and cardiovascular fellows – a meeting that continues to this day.

That is only one example of his longstanding passion for education. Now a professor of medicine and pediatrics at Mayo, Dr. Asirvatham has spent his three-decade-long career firmly establishing himself as a preeminent and sought-after educator. The long list of awards he has received serve as evidence of the fact: the University of Wisconsin Excellence in Teaching Award; Mayo Clinic's Cardiovascular Diseases Division CV Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award (for 10 consecutive years); Mayo Clinic's Department of Medicine Internal Medicine Award; the ACC's W. Proctor Harvey, MD, Young Teacher Award; the Heart Rhythm Society's Distinguished Teacher Award; Mayo Clinic's Distinguished Educator Award.

Such accolades and plaudits are rivaled only by Dr. Asirvatham's scholarly output. Over the course of his career, he has authored or co-authored over 400 peer-reviewed original articles, five books, 54 book chapters, and over 80 editorials and commentaries. He has also reviewed manuscripts for dozens of journals and is a member of seven medical journal editorial boards. This robust body of work is evidence of Dr. Asirvatham's tireless commitment to the dissemination of knowledge.

With an unassuming nature that belies the incredible breadth and depth of his knowledge of cardiac anatomy and internal medicine, Dr. Asirvatham has spent the last 10 years as the program director of Mayo Clinic's electrophysiology fellowship program – for which he oversees administration, curriculum development and mentoring – distinguishing himself for his ability to distill even the most complex concepts into graspable kernels of knowledge. It is a gift that has endeared him to, and made a profound impact on, both the

medical students he has taught and the seasoned practitioners with whom he has collaborated.

**Thomas M. Munger, MD, FACC**

## **GLENN N. LEVINE, MD, FACC**

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### **GIFTED EDUCATOR AWARD**

Glenn N. Levine, MD, FACC exemplifies the very best in professionalism, clinical excellence, dedication to education and character. Dr. Levine is recognized internationally for his expertise and his teaching, lecturing and educational abilities and is most deserving of the Gifted Educator Award.

Currently a master clinician and professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) in Houston Texas, Dr. Levine has held many clinical positions while there. He has been the recipient of multiple awards, including six Baylor College of Medicine Fulbright & Jaworski, and Norton Rose Fulbright, faculty excellence awards. He was also awarded the prestigious Baylor College of Medicine Master Clinician Lifetime Award, recognizing his clinical skills and abilities to educate others on the management of patients with cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Levine has authored or edited 13 educational textbooks and handbooks, including a 1000+ page textbook and atlas on cardiovascular disease. Several of these books have additionally been published internationally in different languages.

Dr. Levine has led and first-authored six American Heart Association Scientific Statements. He has helped create national guidelines and scientific statements and initiated important new guidelines on the evaluation of chest pain and the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Levine has also been instrumental in changing the format and presentation of guidelines, making them more user-friendly to front-line practitioners.

Throughout his career at BCM, Dr. Levine has mentored dozens of residents and fellows, and involved them, as well as numerous junior staff, in national documents he has lead, committees he has served on, and dozens of book chapters he has invited them to co-author with him.

On a personal note, I have known Glenn to be an academic and clinical practice star. His career has been a shining example of what can be accomplished over the course of three decades of teaching and practice in medicine. It comes as no surprise that his glowing teaching evaluations speak of him as a role model whose teaching will forever influence future medical decisions made by anyone he has encountered.

**Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC**

## **MORTON KERN, MD, FACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD**

As a gifted teacher, esteemed scholar and master clinician, Dr. Morton Kern's devotion to nurturing the careers of all cardiovascular professionals highlights why he is most deserving of this year's Distinguished Mentor Award.

Dr. Kern is internationally recognized for his luminary work and expertise in cardiovascular hemodynamics, physiology and coronary intervention. Over the last four decades, Dr. Kern has published numerous manuscripts, editorials, book chapters and manuals—many of these documents forming part of the didactic foundation in cardiology fellowship. Dr. Kern's presentations on the national and international stage showcase his poise, humor and ability to incisively dissect a point. His ability to connect with fellows, nurses and colleagues and instill in them both empathy for patient care and intellectual curiosity have resulted in his receipt of numerous awards from distinguished organizations and societies.

With all the above accolades and accomplishments, however, his most important roles are that of mentor and trainee, which have affected many generations of cardiology fellows and cardiology nurses. Despite being one of the most coveted experts in the cardiology community, Dr. Kern makes time to be readily available to all members of the cardiovascular team. He is a tremendous role model and has shaped the careers of countless physicians and nurses. His ability to convey inclusiveness to all members of the care team is just one of his endearing characteristics. He treats all disciplines with respect and dignity, such that everyone who encounters him walks away feeling like a vital member of the team.

Dr. Kern is the quintessential definition of a mentor. Fortunate are the numerous cardiology fellowship trainees and cardiovascular team members who have grown from his unparalleled teaching and mentoring. My warmest congratulations to Dr. Kern on this very well-deserved award.

**Jennifer Ballard-Hernandez, DNP, NP, AACC**

## **EDUARDO MANUEL DA CRUZ, MD**

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### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Eduardo Manuel da Cruz, MD has dedicated his life to serving those in need, spending the decades of his career serving others through humanitarian organizations. For his firm intention to advocate for those who have less and to leave behind a global legacy that will serve as an example of compassion and solidarity, he is a deserving recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Da Cruz always knew he wanted to become a physician. After graduating medical school from the University of Costa Rica, he completed a pediatrics residency at the Hospital Nacional de Niños in Costa Rica, where his vision of combining pediatric cardiology and critical care blossomed. That vision became a reality once he was accepted as a Fellow into the Hôpital

Necker-Enfants Malades/Université René Descartes in Paris; he subsequently became the first double-board certified pediatric cardiologist and intensivist in Europe.

His humanitarian efforts began in the late 1980's in North Africa and Vietnam, fueled by the conviction that every privileged individual in the industrialized world should dedicate time to giving back to those in need in lower income countries. Throughout the following decades, he continued to very actively serve humanitarian organizations in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mozambique, Senegal, the UAE, Lebanon, Serbia and Latin America.

In 2007, Dr. da Cruz joined Surgeons of Hope Foundation, a United Nations-affiliated non-governmental organization dedicated to the care of children with congenital and acquired heart diseases in low income countries. He began as a board member, later accepting the role of vice-president and, ultimately, the president title he holds today. Since 2008, Surgeons of Hope has constructed a state-of-the-art pediatric cardiac center, provided training to local medical teams and treated almost 800 children in Nicaragua. In 2014, he traveled to San Jose, Costa Rica to enhance an existing surgical program at the Hospital Nacional De Niños where, since his intervention, it has been reported that hundreds of patients have been operated on and received treatment.

Dr. da Cruz is also currently a professor of pediatrics and head of the pediatric cardiac critical care program at the Children's Hospital Colorado at the University of Colorado, Denver. I am honored to nominate my colleague and good friend for this award.

**Charles-Edouard Catherine**

## **FAUSTO J. PINTO, MD, PHD, FACC**

### **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD**

The positions Fausto J. Pinto, MD, PhD, FACC, has held over the last 15 years would be the envy of any cardiologist: founder and

president of the European Association of Echocardiography; board member, vice president and president of the European Society of Cardiology; board member and president-elect of the World Heart Federation.

And though these appointments no doubt inspire respect, their true significance lies in the long record of achievement to which they allude. In his illustrious career, Dr. Pinto has distinguished himself for his important contributions to post-cardiac transplant atherosclerotic disease and imaging methods, the more than 300 papers he has published, and the 1,500 presentations he has delivered and chairmanships he has held.

For his clinical and scholarly excellence, Dr. Pinto has been recognized worldwide, and bestowed with national and international awards, honorary degrees by scientific societies and medical schools on four continents, and countless invitations to deliver keynotes.

Even these notable accomplishments, however, pale in comparison to Dr. Pinto's broader legacy. In over 30 years of practice, he has worked tirelessly to disseminate innovation and knowledge in cardiovascular medicine. His vision, wise leadership, and personal and professional elegance have served both to inspire and connect cardiovascular professionals throughout Asia, Europe, and North and South America.

Perhaps no greater service can be rendered to the global cardiovascular community than to remind us all - regardless of the unique challenges we face in the cities, countries and regions where we practice - that we are united in our pursuit of a singular mission: to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.

For his longstanding commitment to this ambitious ideal, it is my distinct pleasure to add another title to Dr. Pinto's long list of honorifics: Recipient of the 2019 ACC International Service Award.

**João Morais, MD, PhD, FACC**

## **ARTHUR M. FELDMAN, MD, PHD, FACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD (BASIC DOMAIN)**

For his seminal contributions to our understanding of the biology of the failing heart over a 30+ year investigative career, Arthur M. Feldman MD, PhD, FACC is a deserving recipient of this year's Distinguished Scientist Award in the Basic Domain.

Dr. Feldman is a graduate of Gettysburg College (BS), Louisiana State University (MD) and the University of Maryland (PhD), and completed his postgraduate training at Johns Hopkins University. A quintessential physician-scientist, he has pursued investigation of basic cardiovascular biology while translating the laboratory observations into novel therapeutic and diagnostic modalities for the treatment of patients with heart muscle disease.

Using cellular and molecular techniques, animal models and human trials, his laboratory has performed seminal studies on G protein-coupled receptor signaling, pro-inflammatory cytokines and novel heart failure related genes. An outstanding mentor and educator, Dr. Feldman has trained over 50 pre- and post-doctoral fellows and mentored numerous medical students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty. Many of his trainees now occupy leadership roles.

Dr. Feldman has held significant academic leadership positions, including chief of the division of cardiology and director of the UPMC Cardiovascular Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, chair of the department of medicine at the Thomas Jefferson University, and executive dean and chief academic officer at Temple University.

He has served as president of the Heart Failure Society of America, president of the Association of Professors of Cardiology, and founding editor-in-chief of the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science. Dr. Feldman was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the Association of University Cardiologists, and the American Clinical and Climatologic Association. He has received numerous prior awards including the Distinguished Alumnus of Gettysburg College,

the Rolex Achievement Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Kimmel Cancer Center, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Heart Failure Society of America, and the Barry Collier Award from the Association for Clinical and Translational Science.

## **Barry London, MD, PhD, FACC**

## **ROBERT O. BONOW, MD, MACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD (CLINICAL DOMAIN)**

For his more than four decades of work that have had major, direct impact on cardiologists and their patients worldwide, Robert O. Bonow, MD, MACC is a deserving recipient of this year's Distinguished Scientist Award in the Clinical Domain.

Dr. Bonow received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He served as senior investigator in the cardiology branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute from 1976 to 1992, and was chief of the division of cardiology at Northwestern University from 1992 to 2011. He is currently serving as the Goldberg Distinguished Professor of Cardiology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

He is a highly cited clinical investigator with over 570 papers in the medical literature and 115 book chapters to his name. Dr. Bonow is also the editor in chief of *JAMA Cardiology* and is one of the four editors of *Braunwald's Heart Disease: A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine*.

For over four decades, Dr. Bonow's efforts, particularly in cardiac imaging, have been at the cutting edge of clinical research in the fields of valvular heart disease, coronary artery disease, ischemic left ventricular dysfunction, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. His sustained body of work has had major, direct impact on cardiologists and their patients in this country and abroad.

Dr. Bonow is a past president of the American Heart Association, a Master of the American College of Cardiology and a Master of the American College of Physicians. He currently serves on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the NHLBI.

Among his honors are the Distinguished Fellowship Award and Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Cardiology; the Distinguished Leadership Award, Distinguished Achievement Award, Gold Heart Award, and James B. Herrick Award of the American Heart Association; the Denolin Award of the European Society of Cardiology; and the John Phillips Memorial Award of the American College of Physicians. An endowed chair was established in his name at Northwestern University in 2012.

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

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

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

For his demonstrated ability to formulate relevant and difficult questions and to work toward answers by designing research programs in both the translational and randomized clinical trial spaces, Douglas L. Packer, MD is a deserving recipient of this year's Distinguished Scientist Award in the translational domain.

Dr. Packer received his medical degree from the University of Utah, and subsequently completed his cardiology Fellowship at Duke University in 1985. He remained at Duke for the next three years as faculty, where he published on clinical electrophysiology topics.

In 1988, Dr. Packer transferred to Mayo Clinic, where has remained the last 30 years, and is currently the John Nasseff Sr. Professor of Medicine. Dr. Packer has held a Clinical Investigator position at Mayo since 1989. During his time at Mayo, he has maintained a very active translational electrophysiology laboratory. His research topics have included the effects on syncytial cellular refractoriness and conduction due to antiarrhythmic drugs, ischemia, and heart failure; biophysical myocardial effects of various ablation energy

sources and catheter technologies; and intracardiac echo and myocardial imaging for assessment of ablation biophysical effects.

He has also maintained a vigorous clinical portfolio of research interests, including serving as local PI and on committees for multicenter trials like MUSTT, AFFIRM, CRYOSTOP-AF and SCD-HeFT. He just completed the CABANA trial as overall PI; this multicenter, NIH/industry sponsored trial examines several endpoints for ablation versus drug therapy in AF patients.

In 2015, Dr. Packer and collaborators published on the use of carbon ion particles for performing catheter-free AV nodal ablation in a porcine model. While the use of photon therapy was published earlier this year for structural VT, this more targeted use of radiotherapy potentially offers the opportunity to approach, in a very precise manner, a number of different arrhythmias that have been previously approached invasively. This project is near-term proceeding into clinical phases of testing and has potential to be a disrupter in the clinical arena of arrhythmia ablation.

He is a past president of Heart Rhythm Society and is sought after as an international and national speaker, consultant, and collaborator.

**Thomas M. Munger, MD, FACC**

## **AMIT V. KHERA, MD**

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

Amit is simply the best young scientist I have worked with in my 20 years as a clinician and investigator at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Broad Institute. He is highly deserving of the Douglas P. Zipes Young Scientist Award.

Dr. Amit Khera received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010, completed his residency in internal medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2013 and his cardiology Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School in 2016. He also holds a Masters of Science in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health.

During his time at the University of Pennsylvania, he was highly committed and productive during his year of research, co-authoring 11 peer-reviewed publications, which led to a first-authored paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that has been cited over 1,300 times since its publication in 2011.

Since Dr. Khera applied for Fellowship, he expressed a clear desire to obtain formal training in human genetics as the foundation in developing new insights into the basis for human disease. From those days through his post-doctoral fellowship onward, he has thrived and quickly established himself as leader of key research projects in that arena. For example, Dr. Khera's analysis of familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) mutations determined that for any level of circulating cholesterol, those who harbor a FH mutation are at substantially increased coronary risk. This work was published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and directly informed the Dutch government's decision to resume funding for its FH screening program and ongoing efforts by the US-based FH Foundation to integrate genetics into routine clinical practice.

Moving forward, Amit is leading efforts within the MGH Center for Genomic Medicine to help identify patients with inherited risk of cardiovascular diseases and implement algorithms for screening or preventative care. His ongoing efforts to understand how DNA variance contributes to individual risk and therapy response are sure to keep Dr. Khera at the forefront of cardiovascular investigation.

In summary, Amit has made exceptional contributions as a young clinician and scientist. He is brilliant, humble, and creative. Amit has and will continue to deliver high returns for biomedicine.

**Sekar Kathiresan, MD**

## **MARTHA GULATI MD, MS, FACC**

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

Martha Gulati, MD, MS, FACC is a true leader and role model for her steadfast advocacy for women's health and for empowering women in

medicine. She has clearly carried on the work of Bernadine Healy and has forever changed the field of cardiovascular disease in women. For that, she is the most deserving recipient of this year's award.

Dr. Martha Gulati is the chief of cardiology at the University of Arizona in Phoenix and is the physician executive director of the Heart Institute at Banner University Medical Center. She is the author of the best-seller, *Saving Women's Hearts* and is a co-author of the *Cardiovascular Disease in Women* chapter in *Braunwald's Heart Disease: A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine*. Dr. Gulati serves as the editor-in-chief of *CardioSmart*.

Dr. Gulati currently serves the principal investigator (PI) of the St. James Women Take Heart Project and a co-investigator (Co-I) in the Women Ischemic Syndrome Evaluation (WISE), co-I on the Women's Health Initiative (WHI), and What is the Optimal Method for Ischemia Evaluation in Women? (WOMEN) Study, and PI of the Syndrome X Trial: Identifying UnderLying Endothelial Dysfunction and Testing Treatment Outcomes in Women (STILETTO) Study. She conceptualized and launched an award-winning YouTube video series in 2016, *Heart to Heart*.

Dr. Gulati received the first Heart of Women's Health CREDO (Coalition to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Cardiovascular Outcomes) Award in 2011, and the Red Dress Award in 2012, and the Group Achievement Award by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 2015.

When I first met Dr. Gulati decades ago, what struck me is her fervent passion in advancing women in medicine. Dr. Gulati exemplifies a true leader. She influences and inspires the next generation of clinicians, particularly female cardiologists and aspiring cardiologists, to forge ahead with their dreams and transform them into reality.

**C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD, FACC**

## **RICHARD ALLEN WILLIAMS, MD, FACC**

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### **DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

For dedicating his 50-year career to uplifting healthcare for minorities and continuously improving diversity in medical education, Richard Allen Williams, MD, FACC is the most deserving recipient of the inaugural Distinguished Award for Diversity & Inclusion.

Dr. Williams was the first African American postgraduate trainee when he performed his Cardiology fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in 1968. In 2004, Dr. Williams was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Harvard Medical School, in recognition of his extremely impactful work in founding the Central Recruitment Council of Boston Hospitals in 1969. The Council served to recruit black and Hispanic interns, residents and fellows into Harvard, Tufts and Boston University medical schools for the first time in their history.

Dr. Williams founded the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC) in 1974 focused on decreasing healthcare disparities in cardiovascular disease among African Americans. Over the past 45 years ABC has grown, and now includes virtually all black cardiologists in the country and has international reach. With his leadership, it has affected change in black cardiovascular health status through its educational programs aimed at control and reduction of coronary heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, heart failure and kidney disease.

Dr. Williams also founded the Minority Health Institute (MHI) in California to address the problem of healthcare disparities and inadequacies of care delivery to poor minorities. He is currently completing his ninth book, *Blacks in Medicine: Clinical, Demographic and Socioeconomic Correlations*, which explores the history and clinical experience of African Americans, and the impact of healthcare reform on disparities.

Dr. Williams believes in giving back to the community, doing what's right and being an engaged participant and champion in everything he does. He is an inspiration to all those he encounters to continue the work he started.

**Cheryl Pegus, MD, FACC**

## **MARTIN B. LEON, MD, FACC**

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### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

A leader among leaders, a legendary educator, a constant source of inspiration, a transformative visionary: These are just a few of the ways the individuals who supported the nomination of Martin B Leon, MD for this year's Lifetime Achievement Award described him.

There is no single individual who fits the description for this award more closely than Dr. Leon. He has achieved a lifetime of excellence as an exceptional researcher, mentor and educator. His legacy of academic excellence includes over 2,000 peer reviewed publications, the director or co-director of over 100 international education programs, the national principal investigator for over 50 clinical trials and 20 international career achievement awards.

Dr. Leon is undoubtedly one of the greatest thought leaders in the field of cardiology, considered one of the "founding pillars of interventional cardiology". He has been involved in virtually every major development within interventional cardiology over the past 30 years and it is widely accepted that no individual has had a greater impact on the field of structural heart disease.

Dr. Leon's impact has not been limited to interventional cardiology. He is committed to building bridges and not walls. No individual has done more to break down barriers between interventional cardiology and cardiac surgery. Dr. Leon is widely acknowledged as the driving force for the heart team approach to patient care. He has also worked tirelessly with the regulatory agencies to optimize patient care.

He has a complete and clear focus on patient care, innovative approaches, academic excellence and total devotion to the next generation of leaders. He is a role model for thousands of colleagues. With a driving personality he is one of the most giving colleagues in the field of cardiology and has always shared the credit. He is a larger-than-life visionary, the hardest working individual any of us have ever known and a trustful colleague and friend. Rarely will an individual rise to the level of expertise and impact among his peers but still maintain humility, inclusiveness and the continued pursuit of excellence that defines his ethos. This award is the crowning achievement of a career well worked and a life well lived.

**Michael J. Mack, MD, FACC**

## **MICHAEL H. CRAWFORD, MD, FACC**

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### **MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY**

For his exception contributions to the College, and for his service as a role model to others, Michael H. Crawford, MD, FACC is a more than deserving recipient of the Master of the American College of Cardiology distinction.

Dr. Crawford is an internationally recognized cardiovascular authority, a skilled clinician, outstanding educator, experienced administrator and prolific scholar. Dr. Crawford began his distinguished career after receiving his degree in medicine from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Following a series of distinguished contributions to organizations including the University of Texas, San Antonio, the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque and Mayo Medical School, he returned to UCSF, where he now works as a professor of clinical medicine.

In 1991, Dr. Crawford began his involvement with the College through participation in the ACCSAP Writing Committee. A year later he was elected by his colleagues to serve as Governor of the New Mexico Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. In the nearly four decades since, Dr. Crawford has made exceptional

contributions to the College. He has served on our Board of Trustees, contributed to multiple College educational initiatives, conducted research in a wide variety of cardiovascular topics, lectured nationally and internationally, and published hundreds of scientific papers. All of this while guiding and participating in successful clinical practice programs. These are the key attributes that support the mission of our College.

Dr. Crawford has been and will continue to be a role model for others as one of the best in our profession. He has demonstrated a consistent dedication to quality, mentorship with caring and humility, welcome collegiality, and a willingness to share an exceptional knowledge in furthering the College's mission. In doing so he has earned the designation of Master of our College, a deserved recognition for his service to cardiology.

**Joseph V. Messer, MD, MACC**

## **LINDA D. GILLAM, MD, FACC**

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### **MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY**

Dr. Linda Gillam has worked tirelessly and with the highest distinction for the American College of Cardiology for over twenty years. For her distinguished leadership and contributions to science and teaching, she is a deserving recipient of the designation of Master of the American College of Cardiology.

Dr. Gillam began her leadership within the College as governor of the Connecticut Chapter, subsequently serving on the BOG steering and nominating committees. She was member of the ACC-AHA Task Force on Echocardiography Guidelines, the Annual Scientific Session Program Committee, Finance Committee and Board of Trustees. She has also held roles on the PAC Executive Committee, Medicare Carrier Advisory Board, Clinical Quality Committee, Imaging Council, AUC Committee, Imaging Think Tank and helped lead the MACRA Task Force. She is an active member of the Health Affairs Committee and section editor for ACCSAP.

Her recognition as a leader extends beyond ACC. She has held roles within the American Heart Association and American Society of Echocardiography as well—including as the second female president of ASE. She is also the immediate past president of the National Board of Echocardiography.

Dr. Gillam has made important scientific contributions in valvular heart disease and echocardiography, including multimodality imaging, timing of surgical intervention, mitral regurgitation assessment and intraprocedural echo for TAVR. She has over 100 peer-reviewed, seminal papers and served on editorial boards of many principal journals in cardiology.

Dr. Gillam is recognized as an outstanding teacher, developing a nationally renowned echocardiography program at Hartford Hospital, and a multidisciplinary valve program and echocardiographic core laboratory at Columbia University. She was awarded the Richard Popp Gifted Teacher Award by the ASE and Gifted Educator Award by ACC.

Dr. Gillam's current role is shaping cardiovascular care. She is chair of cardiovascular medicine and director of the service line for the five hospital, Atlantic Health System. In sum, Dr. Gillam is a compassionate, dedicated and renowned researcher, teacher and clinician, well deserving of this distinction.

**Athena Poppas, MD, FACC**

## **CHRISTOPHER J. WHITE, MD, FACC**

### **MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY**

For his outstanding leadership within the College and his pioneering contributions to interventional cardiology, Christopher J. White, MD, FACC is a deserving recipient of the designation of Master of the American College of Cardiology. A graduate of Case Western Reserve Medical School, Dr. White completed his residency and fellowship at Letterman Army Medical Center in

San Francisco. He then served at Letterman and later at Walter Reed as medical director of the catheterization laboratories and cardiovascular research.

After completing active duty military service, he joined Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans as director of the catheterization laboratory. Following a three-year stint in Glasgow, Scotland as the director of invasive cardiology for HealthCare International, he returned to Ochsner and is currently professor and chairman of the department of medicine for the Ochsner Clinical School-University of Queensland. He also holds the positions of medical director of value-based care and system chairman for cardiovascular diseases for the 14 hospital health system.

Dr. White is regarded as a pioneer in interventional cardiology, especially in the areas of peripheral and carotid artery disease. He is past president of the Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) and served as editor-in-chief of *Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions*. He is currently an editor of *Progress in Cardiovascular Disease* and has published more than 300 manuscripts and presented more than 100 scientific abstracts. Dr. White is also a highly regarded educator, training numerous cardiology fellows, and has been active in the development of national training guidelines.

Dr. White has held multiple roles within the College including serving as steering committee chairman for the NCDR's carotid and peripheral revascularization efforts and is presently the associate editor for *JACC: Interventions*. He has served as co-chair of the Annual Program Committee and been part of the faculty for the CV Summit. He is also a member of the Interventional Section Leadership Council.

**Robert C. Hendel, MD, FACC**

## C. MICHAEL VALENTINE, MD, FACC

### MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY, ACC PRESIDENT, 2018-2019



C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC, is a senior cardiologist at the Stroobants Cardiovascular Center of Centra Health in Lynchburg, VA. He has practiced clinical cardiology there since 1990 with expertise in cardiac catheterization and intervention, device placement and arrhythmia therapy, clinical quality, leadership and practice development.

Valentine received his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, where he was named Outstanding Senior, and earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia. He completed his medical residency and fellowship in cardiovascular disease at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Valentine's practice was one of the first developed into an advanced system, participating in over 90 clinical trials, and leading quality and advocacy efforts in the Commonwealth. It became one of the first early integrated practice models in the US, joining Centra Health in 2005. As an early adopter, the practice assisted many other integrating practices with effective governance and system excellence. Valentine served as director of Clinical Quality for eight years, and president from 2009-2012. Centra was recently named a national TOP 50 Cardiovascular Hospital for the seventh time. Additionally, its international work in Tanzania and Vietnam has served as a model for training cardiologists in developing countries.

Valentine has a long history with the ACC, becoming active in the College's Virginia Chapter in 1993. Working with John Brush, MD, FACC, he helped develop Quality Pay for Performance programs that continue today, and published on discharge systems that lower readmission rates and improve outcomes. He later served as

governor of the Virginia Chapter and was appointed to the ACC's national Advocacy Committee (now known as the Health Affairs Committee) in 2001. Valentine also chaired the ACC's Medical Director's Institute, which brought the concept of Appropriate Use to the Board of Trustees (BOT).

As chair of the ACC Board of Governors in 2006, Dr. Valentine helped advance the College's national Door-to-Balloon (D2B) initiative, which proved successful in helping hospitals meet the guideline-recommended D2B times of 90 minutes or less. Later, as a member of the ACC BOT, he developed the Cardiovascular Summit with former president James T. Dove, MD, MACC, to enhance high quality and efficient care and physician leadership of service lines and health systems. Valentine served as ACC Treasurer from 2012-2015 and was elected Vice President in 2016.

Valentine enjoys working with students and residents and has been recognized twice as Outstanding Teacher. He has served as principal investigator in four clinical trials with Centra and has been recognized by Top Doctors in Virginia, Best Doctors in America, and is the current Honorary Chair of Medicine and Surgery for Centra Health.

Valentine is married to the Honorable Shannon Valentine, a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates and current Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia. They have three adult children, who are equally as active.

We honor Dr. Valentine with the MACC designation as a result of his tireless dedication to the College as a leader, and his work over the last year as ACC president to further ACC's mission to transform care and improve heart health worldwide.