

DISTINGUISHED AWARDEE CITATIONS

MICHAEL C. HILES, MSEE, PHD

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

In addition to being an outstanding scientist, Michael C. Hiles, MSEE, PhD, is also an inspiring patient.

Dr. Hiles is senior vice president for research and development and chief scientific officer for Cook Biotech based in West Lafayette, IN. He also serves as adjunct professor at Purdue University. Throughout his 25-year career at Cook, Dr. Hiles has made major contributions in the fields of biomaterials, tissue engineering and cell-based therapies – leading to deeper understanding of the use of biomaterials in wound healing and advances in the evolving field of regenerative medicine. He has more than 50 patents in the field, numerous publications and is a sought-after lecturer around the world. Cardiology is early in reaping the benefits of new biomaterials, 3D printing and the creation of artificial organs, and we will see future advances because of the work of pioneers like Dr. Hiles.

Dr. Hiles' interest in biomaterials and cardiology stemmed, at least in part, from a personal history of congenital heart disease. Complications stemming from his congenital heart disease paralyzed him in the prime of his scientific career, but he hasn't let that stop him. He has never slowed from pursuing his scientific goals and still aspires to create an artificial blood vessel to treat vascular disease.

In addition to his scientific contributions, Dr. Hiles' personal journey has made me a better cardiologist. He is a reminder that what our patients do for us may be even more important than what we do

for them. Dr. Hiles is also living proof that our profession is made stronger when those with diverse experiences and perspectives are welcomed and included. It has been a privilege to be Dr. Hiles' cardiologist and I hope that we will all continue to benefit from both his research and his experiences as a patient.

Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC

DEBABRATA MUKHERJEE, MD, FACC

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP AWARD

As a tenured professor of internal medicine at Texas Tech University, Debabrata Mukherjee, MD, FACC, wears many hats, serving as chair of internal medicine, chief of cardiovascular medicine and as program director of the cardiovascular disease fellowship. He embodies all the skills of a tremendous clinician, educator and scientist. His willingness to share these talents with others, ultimately elevating the performance of his team, makes him most deserving of this honor.

Dr. Mukherjee himself is an enthusiastic lifelong learner. He first trained as a fellow in molecular cardiology before completing his internal medicine residency, cardiology fellowship and interventional fellowship. He has also completed his master's in clinical research and obtained certification in business administration. Dr. Mukherjee willingly shares his vast knowledge and serves as an outstanding role model for the value of multidisciplinary patient care, welcoming and mentoring all team members.

Dr. Mukherjee's knowledge is not restricted to the organizations he has served; his incredible body of work has been widely disseminated. Over the course of his career, he has authored or co-authored over 380 publications and 90 book chapters and has served in a myriad of editorial capacities to facilitate the work of others. He encourages collaboration in all aspects of the scholarly process, including clinical research, grantsmanship and publication, making a profound impact on innumerable individuals - and the practice of cardiovascular medicine itself.

All these traits have earned him national and international acclaim. He is a recipient of the Achievement in Cardiology Award from the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin, as well as Texas Tech University's Outstanding Contribution to Institutional Faculty Mentoring Award and the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award. As his accolades prove, he is a distinguished and exceptional mentor, scientist and physician who will continue to foster and promote excellence among all who are fortunate enough to meet him.

Tracy E. Macaulay, PharmD, AACC

JENNIFER M. BALLARD-HERNANDEZ, DNP, AACC

DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATE AWARD

A nationally board-certified family, gerontological, acute care and cardiovascular nurse practitioner, Jennifer M. Ballard-Hernandez, DNP, AACC, is currently field-based at the Tibor Rubin Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Long Beach, CA. In her role, she coordinates and manages end-to-end care for patients with acute and chronic illnesses, including heart failure, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, renal failure and coronary artery disease. She also collaborates with the VA National Transplant Network in the care of heart transplant patients.

An Associate of the ACC, Dr. Ballard-Hernandez is also a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the American Heart Association. At the national level, she represents the nation's veterans as the cardiology clinical nurse advisor to the Office of Nursing Services for the VA central office. In this advisory role, she was appointed to the VA/Department of Defense Hypertension and Dyslipidemia Clinical Practice Guidelines Writing Group, for which she co-authored the treatment standards and oversees the practice standards in the VA system.

In addition to her accomplishments as a clinician, Dr. Ballard-Hernandez has published her work in numerous peer-reviewed journals. She has lectured both locally and nationally for many professional organizations and has served as investigator and co-investigator on a number of studies. Dr. Ballard-Hernandez serves on several national professional committees and currently sits on the ACC Federal Cardiology Section Leadership Council.

Dr. Ballard-Hernandez is a role model where striving for the highest quality of cardiovascular care while maintaining a fulfilling family life and pursuing personal well-being is concerned. Her commitment to her field, to her colleagues and to her patients is admirable, and makes her a worthy recipient of this distinguished award. She will continue to be a leader for years to come.

Mary P. Schoenbaum, RN, ACNP-C, AACC

CAROLE A. WARNES, MD, FACC

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

Carole A. Warnes, MD, FACC, is the Penske Foundation Professor of Clinical Medicine in the department of cardiovascular diseases and pediatric cardiology at Mayo Clinic. She founded Mayo's Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Clinic and has trained over 30 fellows in ACHD, many of whom have gone on to lead ACHD practices around the world.

Having served as the dean of Mayo School of Continuing Medical Education for 10 years, Dr. Warnes has been recognized at Mayo Clinic for educational excellence on numerous occasions. An eight-time recipient of the Cardiovascular Teacher of the Year Award, she has also received the Department of Medicine Leadership in Education Award, the Distinguished Educator Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Medical Education. She has also received the American Heart Association's (AHA) Laennec Master Clinician Award, ACC's Distinguished Fellowship Award and the International Society for Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ISACHD) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Warnes is a founding member of the ISACHD and a former president. At the ACC, she has been a Board of Trustees member, chair of the Education Standards and Outcomes Committee, a member of the Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee, chair of the 2008 ACC/AHA Guidelines for the Management of ACHD, chair of the Accreditation Committee, and chair of the Task Force for Training Guidelines in ACHD for COCATS 4. She is an author or co-author of over 200 peer-reviewed publications and nearly 50 book chapters.

She is a core faculty member of ACC's Emerging Faculty Program and has trained several hundred cardiologists in educational excellence. She is a passionate educator who can effectively present complex congenital heart diseases in an accessible manner.

Throughout her career, Dr. Warnes has been a master clinician and an excellent teacher who has trained and mentored numerous professionals worldwide. Without a doubt, she is most deserving of ACC's Distinguished Teacher Award.

Laxmi S. Mehta, MD, FACC

ANNAPOORNA S. KINI, MBBS, FACC

GIFTED EDUCATOR AWARD

Annapoorna S. Kini, MBBS, FACC, is a professor of medicine in cardiology, director of the cardiac catheterization laboratories and director of the interventional cardiology fellowship program at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. She has made remarkable contributions to patient care, to the advancement of interventional cardiology and to the education of cardiovascular trainees.

A master clinician, she helped make the cardiac catheterization laboratories at Mount Sinai among the busiest and best in the world. She regularly tackles the most complex interventional procedures successfully while maintaining an outstanding safety record. She is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which recognizes outstanding Americans from diverse ethnic backgrounds for distinguished achievements that exemplify our nation's ideals.

A revered teacher, Dr. Kini oversees the training of over 20 general cardiovascular fellows in diagnostic cardiac catheterization and a dozen fellows in interventional cardiology each year. Moreover, she shares her extraordinary technical prowess at live symposia, where she demonstrates to practicing interventional cardiologists ways to use the latest techniques in highly complex cases. The popularity of these educational programs is due in large measure to a consistency of performance that has made successful outcomes routine, even in the most challenging cases.

She couples a commitment to excellence with sensitivity and meticulous attention to the patient experience in cardiac catheterization laboratories. Her calm demeanor contributes to patient satisfaction and lends a feeling of security to patients, families and referring physicians. This inherent professionalism and dedication transmits to the fellows under her tutelage.

Dr. Kini exemplifies the qualities of a gifted educator who consistently and selflessly shares knowledge and skill with budding trainees in a challenging, technologically demanding field at the forefront of cardiology. The totality of her achievements and

contributions to medical education makes Dr. Kini a most deserving recipient of the ACC Gifted Educator Award.

Jonathan L. Halperin, MD, FACC

JAMES A. DE LEMOS, MD, FACC

DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD

James A. de Lemos, MD, FACC, is a shining example of what we should all strive to be as a mentor. Currently a professor of medicine and the Sweetheart Ball-Kern Wildenthal, MD, PhD, Distinguished Chair in Cardiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, he also previously served as the director of the cardiology fellowship program and has won every major teaching award at the institution.

Dr. de Lemos has made a point of generously sharing his research expertise: Of his over 300 original peer-reviewed research manuscripts, 200 have trainees as first authors. He has individually mentored 32 postgraduate trainees, 24 of whom currently have academic appointments around the country. Beyond direct mentorship, he also serves as a mentor's mentor, providing coaching to advance the careers of, and develop mentoring skills in, a multitude of junior and mid-career investigators. These feats serve as evidence of Dr. de Lemos's selfless and successful mentorship.

Prior trainees and colleagues have been witnesses to his passion and enthusiasm for science, his impeccable character, his absolute selflessness and his incredible generosity. He is completely dedicated to the success of his mentees and instills in them a deep confidence in their own abilities with constant encouragement and support. Dr. de Lemos is a role model who is as interested in his mentees' work-life balance and happiness as he is in their scientific achievements. He has also been a strong advocate for women in cardiology and underrepresented minorities, receiving the 2015 American Heart Association Women in Cardiology Mentorship Award for his efforts in this area.

Dr. James A. de Lemos is an exemplary mentor who has left an indelible mark on a generation of cardiologists who are current and emerging leaders. He is truly deserving of the American College of Cardiology Distinguished Mentor Award.

Amit Khara, MD, MSc, FACC

DHANUNJAYA R. LAKKIREDDY, MBBS, FACC

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dhanunjaya R. Lakkireddy, MBBS, FACC, can aptly be described as a "triple threat": an outstanding clinician and innovator; an internationally recognized researcher in the field of atrial fibrillation and left atrial appendage closure; and a great educator for colleagues, trainees and peers. He is also a proven leader, strategic planner and organizer, and has served the ACC with distinction.

Dr. Lakkireddy has long been a dedicated leader and volunteer in the ACC. He served as governor of the ACC Kansas Chapter from 2013 - 2017. During his tenure, he spearheaded multiple local initiatives aimed at promoting education and awareness of cardiovascular disease, including the Kansas Cardiovascular Symposium, the Day With the Cardiologist program, a student mentorship program and the One Million Pounds and Ten Million Miles program, which promoted mandatory basic life support skills in high schools.

He has also served on the Membership Committee of the ACC Board of Governors and on the ACC Population Health Committee and is currently chair of the ACC Electrophysiology (EP) Section Leadership Council. As Council chair, he has forged partnerships with organizations such as the Heart Rhythm Society and the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society, as well as with other ACC Sections.

A gifted organizer and educator, Dr. Lakkireddy has led educational meetings such as the Kansas City Heart Rhythm Symposium and the International Symposium on the Left Atrial Appendage. His social consciousness and commitment to raising awareness of

cardiovascular disorders is remarkable, particularly his work through the Global Atrial Fibrillation Alliance, of which he is a cofounder.

For all his accolades, Dr. Lakkireddy is a delight to work with – humble in his demeanor, infectious in his energy and enthusiasm, and always willing to help when you need advice, be it career, clinical or personal. He is, indeed, a deserving recipient of this honor.

Rakesh Gopinathannair, MBBS, FACC

JAGAT NARULA, MD, DM, PHD, MACC

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

For his continuous dedication to international causes and for being a role model for so many others, Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, MACC, is the recipient of the prestigious ACC International Service Award. It is the latest accolade for Dr. Narula, who has previously received the ACC Gifted Educator Award and the Distinguished Scientist Award.

Dr. Narula has made outstanding contributions to the College and to the global cardiovascular community. Internationally recognized as a gifted mentor, teacher, clinician and scientist, he has made significant contributions to cardiology through innovation, education and global advocacy. He has shaped the careers of countless current and future leaders in cardiovascular medicine.

Dr. Narula is a global ambassador for the ACC and has been active in ACC's international programs and initiatives. He has been instrumental in promoting collaborative efforts between the ACC and the World Heart Federation (WHF), which helped facilitate the partnership for ACC.20 Together With World Congress of Cardiology.

Professor of medicine and director of the cardiovascular imaging program at Mount Sinai's Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute and the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Cardiovascular Health, Dr. Narula also serves as the associate dean for global health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

He is the author of over a thousand original research publications and numerous books. Dr. Narula is the executive editor of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and is a past editor-in-chief of *Global Heart*, the journal of WHF, and *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging*.

Dr. Narula is WHF vice president-elect and previously chaired WHF's Scientific Policy and Advocacy Committee. He serves on the Advisory Council on Global Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences. He has been a leader in global advocacy working with the World Health Organization and has contributed immensely to the population health initiatives across the world.

John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC

ANDREW L. WIT, PHD, FACC

DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD (BASIC DOMAIN)

Andrew L. Wit, PhD, FACC, has deep roots in both the cellular and clinical electrophysiology of arrhythmias. During his 50 years in electrophysiological research, he has authored over 200 scientific publications on arrhythmia mechanisms and co-authored books on the ventricular arrhythmias of ischemia and infarction and the electrophysiological foundations of cardiac arrhythmias.

He was at the founding of His bundle electrocardiography in Anthony N. Damato, MD's laboratory, developing a programmable stimulator for quantifying AV nodal and His Purkinje refractory periods before commercial stimulators were available. His studies described that a conduction block of premature impulses could occur in the His bundle as well as the AV node and showed the "gap" in AV conduction phenomenon.

In 1970, Dr. Wit joined the department of Brian F. Hoffman, MD, at Columbia University – then the mecca of experimental electrophysiology. He discovered the endocardial arrhythmogenic

border zone in experimental infarcts. His descriptions of the anatomy and cellular electrophysiology of the border zone led to a collaboration with Mark Josephson that detailed the occurrence and structure of the endocardial border zone in healed human infarcts where clinical VT arises.

Later, Dr. Wit described an arrhythmogenic epicardial border zone as another site of VT origin. In conjunction with these studies, he participated in the original development of computerized mapping methodology and characterized reentrant circuits that cause VT in infarcted hearts. Mapping led to the discovery of nonuniform anisotropy, gap junction remodeling and source-sink mismatch in reentrant circuits. The laboratory research led to today's use of mapping technology in clinical electrophysiology to locate and characterize VT circuits.

In the 1970s, automaticity and reentry were the mechanisms known to cause cardiac arrhythmias. Dr. Wit described triggered activity caused by delayed afterdepolarizations (DADs) in atrial muscle cells and properties of DADs that enabled clinical triggered atrial tachycardias to be identified. Triggered arrhythmias has become an important addition to the classification of arrhythmogenic mechanisms.

Melvin M. Scheinman, MD, FACC

JEROEN J. BAX, MD, PHD, FACC

DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD (CLINICAL DOMAIN)

Jeroen J. Bax, MD, PhD, FACC, is the consummate clinician-scientist whose accomplishments merit the Distinguished Scientist Award (Clinical Domain).

Dr. Bax is professor of cardiology at Leiden University, where he serves as the director of noninvasive imaging and director of the echocardiography laboratory in the department of cardiology. His main interests include clinical cardiology, heart failure, cardiac resynchronization therapy and the clinical application of multimodality imaging.

He has had a profound influence on the field of cardiac imaging by developing innovative imaging applications for the management of patients with heart failure with preserved and reduced ejection fraction, aortic and mitral valve disease, and stable atherosclerotic coronary disease. His contributions started with small, single center, observational studies, evolved to large multicenter randomized trials, and resulted in guidelines for the selection of patients and measurement of response.

Dr. Bax has had a similar impact on the selection of patients for transcatheter aortic valve replacement, imaging assistance during the procedure and the assessment of procedural success. He has contributed substantially to the evaluation of stable coronary disease and assessment of myocardial viability facilitating selection of these patients for percutaneous or surgical revascularization.

President of the European Society of Cardiology from 2016 - 2018, Dr. Bax is currently the deputy editor of the *European Heart Journal*. He is a contributing editor to ACCEL audio digest; an associate editor of the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology*, *Structural Heart Disease and Heart*; and editor of the *ESC Textbook of Cardiovascular Imaging* (2010 and 2014). He served as an associate editor of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* under Editor-Emeritus Anthony N. DeMaria, MD, MACC and as editor of *Education in Heart*.

Among Dr. Bax's many honors are the ACC Douglas P. Zipes Distinguished Young Scientist Award, the ESC Silver Medal, the Marie Parijs Research Award - Leiden and the Marie Curie Lecture at the annual meeting of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine.

John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC

BENJAMIN D. LEVINE, MD, FACC

DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD (TRANSLATIONAL DOMAIN)

Benjamin D. Levine, MD, FACC is professor of internal medicine/ cardiology and the Distinguished Professor of Exercise Sciences at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

He is the founder and director of the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine (IEEM) at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas. Founded in 1992, IEEM is one of the premier laboratories in the world for the study of human clinical and integrative physiology. His research interests center on the adaptive capacity of the circulation in response to exercise training, deconditioning, aging and environmental stimuli such as spaceflight and high altitude.

A consummate clinician, teacher and scholar, Dr. Levine has published over 300 peer-reviewed journal articles, reviews, book chapters and technical papers while serving on the editorial boards of numerous journals.

A renowned sports cardiologist who treats athletes with cardiovascular medical problems from around the world, Dr. Levine serves as a consultant to the NCAA, the NHL, the NFL, the USOC, USA Track and Field, and other athletic organizations. He is regarded as one of the founding authorities in the field, having contributed to its inception and growth. He was one of first to demonstrate that elite Olympic athletes have extraordinary cardiac compliance - the mechanism by which endurance athletes achieve very high stroke volumes and aerobic power.

Dr. Levine has been a key contributor to the guidelines for the management of athletes with heart disease since 1994. He is incredibly active in teaching the next generation of sports and exercise cardiologists locally, nationally and internationally. He has become the second opinion for other renowned sports cardiologists due to his clinical acumen and understanding of complex physiology.

His career is marked by consistent scientific discovery in the field of cardiovascular physiology. As one of the catalysts that launched the investigation of athlete physiology through innovative research, he has helped develop the field of sports cardiology.

Matthew W. Martinez, MD, FACC

CARLO R. BARTOLI, MD, PHD

DOUGLAS P. ZIPES DISTINGUISHED YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

I want to congratulate Carlo R. Bartoli, MD, PhD, for receiving the 2020 Douglas P. Zipes Distinguished Young Scientist Award.

Dr. Bartoli's academic accomplishments are unique. He is a fellow in the integrated cardiovascular surgery training program at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. For the past five years as a trainee, Dr. Bartoli built a translational biophysics laboratory that leads the field in understanding biophysical mechanisms of blood trauma in patients supported by artificial circulation. As principal investigator, Dr. Bartoli has demonstrated the ability to oversee multiple laboratory investigations, obtain funding from a variety of sources, establish international scientific collaborations, manage a scientific team, publish in top-tier, peer-reviewed journals, and present at international meetings while learning how to perform cardiovascular surgery.

Dr. Bartoli has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and presented more than 30 talks worldwide. His numerous honors include the ACC Young Investigator Award (Basic and Translational Science), the ACC JACC: Heart Failure Young Author Achievement Award, the Best Resident Scientific Paper of the Year Award from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and the International Society of Mechanical Circulatory Support's International Collaborative Research Award.

Perhaps even more notably, Dr. Bartoli is committed to training the next generation of physician scientists. Indeed, three of his six mentees are attending MD or PhD training programs at Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis and Mt. Sinai.

Dr. Bartoli's track record of early scientific productivity and commitment to advancing the field of cardiovascular medicine and training physician scientists suggest that he will be a leader in cardiovascular medicine for years to come.

Michael A. Acker, MD, FACC

LESLEE J. SHAW, PHD, FACC

BERNADINE HEALY LEADERSHIP IN WOMEN'S CV DISEASE AWARD

Currently professor of medicine and radiology at the Dalio Institute of Cardiovascular Imaging at Weill Cornell Medical College, Leslie J. Shaw, PhD, FACC, has had a productive career in cardiovascular imaging and outcomes research that has been marked by exemplary leadership in women's cardiovascular disease (CVD).

She has been the principal or co-principal investigator on 37, mostly federally funded, studies, many related to CVD in women. She was the first to recognize that the health resource consumption and economic burden of women with symptoms and signs of ischemia who have nonobstructive coronary artery disease (CAD) is similar to those with obstructive CAD. This is only one example of many innovative and original findings from her clinical investigation.

Her research has ranged from the evaluation of clinical and novel imaging risk markers, to test accuracy, prognosis, clinical outcomes and cost-effectiveness. She is also among the most skilled collaborators with whom I have had the opportunity to work, exemplifying the "team science" concept necessary for today's successful clinical investigations.

Additionally, she has conducted many studies among ethnically and racially diverse women, including those with diabetes, metabolic syndrome and/or obesity. Importantly, she has worked tirelessly on many ACC projects, including the Imaging Section Leadership Council, the CathPCI Registry®, the Task Force on Appropriate Use and the Quality and Equitable Health Care Gaps for Women study.

Dr. Shaw is the executive editor of *JACC: Imaging* and sits on the board of numerous other high-impact journals. Many of her 740 publications are cited in guidelines and expert consensus documents that impact day-to-day clinical practice and are required reading for those interested in CVD among women, cardiovascular imaging or cost-effective cardiovascular care. She is also the author of two books and 34 book chapters. Her teaching efforts include didactic coursework over two decades at several major institutions and many extramural educational programs.

Carl J. Pepine, MD, MACC

PAMELA S. DOUGLAS, MD, MACC

PAMELA S. DOUGLAS DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Throughout her entire career, Pamela S. Douglas, MD, MACC, has been a trailblazer not only in advancing cardiovascular science but also as an advocate and leader for diversity across medicine.

Currently the Ursula Geller Professor of Research in Cardiovascular Diseases at Duke University, Dr. Douglas has also served as chief of cardiovascular medicine at Duke and at the University of Wisconsin, respectively – quite an accomplishment, given the scarcity of women in this role. She was the first female president of the American Society of Echocardiography and the second woman to be president of the American College of Cardiology.

In recognition of her vision, effective leadership and passion for diversity, Dr. Douglas was appointed founding chair of ACC's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion (D&I), launching a comprehensive D&I strategy that has rapidly become recognized as critical to the College's mission and incorporated as a pillar of ACC's Strategic Plan.

In addition to becoming part of the fabric of the ACC, the D&I Task Force is changing the culture of cardiology with new policy statements on workforce issues, close partnerships with program directors and Chapter leaders, and a clinical trials bootcamp training for women and underrepresented cardiologists. Much of the success of the Task Force is due to Dr. Douglas's vision, leadership and tireless commitment, as well as her collaborative and inspirational nature.

Dr. Douglas is truly a champion of an inclusive workforce. She is a world-class leader and role model who has inspired many women to not only seek a career in medicine but also to aspire and attain leadership roles. All of the current women in leadership roles within the ACC and many underrepresented minorities have benefited from her leadership, mentorship and support. She has inspired the College's guiding values in adopting "diversity as the metric and inclusivity as the outcome."

Laxmi S. Mehta, MD, FACC

CHARLES ANTZELEVITCH, PHD, FACC

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Charles Antzelevitch, PhD, FACC, is a professor and the executive director of cardiovascular research at the Lankenau Institute for Medical Research and professor of medicine and pharmacology and experimental therapeutics at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.

His contributions to our understanding of the function of the heart in both health and disease have been innovative, producing a paradigm shift in our appreciation of a wide diversity of mechanisms and novel approaches to diagnosis and therapy of a broad spectrum of cardiac diseases. His publications include over 550 original papers and reviews, over 380 abstracts and seven books.

Among Dr. Antzelevitch's numerous scientific achievements is the discovery and characterization of reflected reentry, phase 2 reentry and late-phase 3 early afterdepolarizations as mechanisms of extrasystolic activity capable of precipitating life-threatening ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation. His pioneering work also served to demonstrate electrical heterogeneity within ventricular myocardium, particularly transmural dispersion of repolarization, and the discovery of a unique population of cells, named M cells - opening new doors to our understanding of electrophysiology and pharmacology of the heart and arrhythmic mechanisms.

Additional foundational contributions to the field include the delineation of the cellular and ionic basis for the long QT, Brugada, and short QT syndromes, as well as catecholaminergic VT, and his design of novel approaches to therapy of these syndromes; the cellular and ionic basis for the J wave and T wave of the electrocardiogram; his work uncovering the genetic basis for Brugada, short QT, long QT and early repolarization syndromes and the design of novel therapeutic modalities; and his discovery of a novel therapy for atrial fibrillation using atrial-selective sodium channel blockers.

Dr. Antzelevitch's work places him in the very highest echelon of scholars globally contributing to the knowledge base in electrophysiology over the past 10 years.

Douglas P. Zipes, MD, MACC

MICHAEL J. MACK, MD, FACC

MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

Michael J. Mack, MD, FACC, is a larger-than-life figure in the field of modern cardiovascular disease, surgery and the American College of Cardiology. A Fellow of the ACC, he was the recipient of the 2012 ACC Presidential Citation Award.

His contributions to the College include two terms served on the Board of Trustees, as well as participation on the Governance Committee and the Governance Task Force. He has served on the ACC NCDR Management Board, the ACC Nominating Committee, the Board of Trustees Communications Task Force, the Accreditation Task Force, the Interventional Section Leadership Council and the Summit for Interventional Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery. He is also an associate editor of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and sits on the ACC Innovation Work Group.

In addition to these numerous responsibilities and honors, Dr. Mack is a practicing and world-renowned cardiovascular surgeon.

He has been president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) and, in that role, a critical leader working with the ACC, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on the development, implementation and continued accomplishments of the TVT Registry, as well as the field of structural heart disease as a discipline. He has been the driving force in bringing cardiovascular surgery and cardiology ever closer together through his work with the ACC and STS.

Dr. Mack was a motivating force behind the development of the heart team concept, which is now a bedrock principle of modern cardiovascular care and embedded in the ACC guidelines. Without his eager and active participation, the entire concept of the heart team in cardiovascular surgery would never have been as widely accepted and embraced as fully by professional societies and US and international regulatory agencies alike.

David R. Holmes Jr., MD, MACC

WILLIAM J. OETGEN JR., MD, MBA, FACC

MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

William J. Oetgen Jr., MD, MBA, FACC, has been a member, a leader and a senior staff member of the American College of Cardiology, for three decades.

Dr. Oetgen served in leadership positions on numerous ACC Committees from 1992 through 2011, including the Government Relations Committee, the PINNACLE Registry Steering Committee and the ACC Board of Trustees. In 2011, Dr. Oetgen joined the ACC staff, and assumed the role of executive vice president overseeing the College's Science and Quality, Education and Publishing divisions in 2013. During his ACC tenure, Dr. Oetgen's leadership was essential in helping to expand the *JACC Journals* globally, streamline the clinical guideline process, reinforce the value of NCDR registries, grow ACC Accreditation Services, articulate the importance of professionalism, foster ACC's participation in multi-stakeholder efforts and much more. In 2019, Dr. Oetgen was honored with a Presidential Citation for his work in advancing solutions to controversial Maintenance of Certification requirements, including the creation of the ACC's Collaborative Maintenance Pathway.

Outside of the ACC, Dr. Oetgen has served the profession and patients in the United States Army, based at the Walter Reed Medical Center, and as a member of the reserves. Following 30 years of service, he was a consultant to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and the Federal Aviation Administration. He also continues to teach students, residents and fellows as a faculty member of the Georgetown University School of Medicine, and is active with MedStar Health Inc., based in Columbia, MD, where he most recently served as chair of the Board.

Dr. Oetgen's many contributions to the ACC – both as a member leader and then as a staff leader – have been essential to the College's success and moving us closer to achieving our mission and vision.

Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC

GEORGE P. RODGERS, MD, FACC

MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

For his distinguished leadership, exceptional contributions across many domains and dedicated service to the College over 25 years, George P. Rodgers, MD, FACC, is a most deserving recipient of the designation of Master of the American College of Cardiology.

Like many great leaders, Dr. Rodgers developed his skills at the local level, serving the ACC Texas Chapter, first in an advocacy capacity, and later as its governor. After becoming chair of the ACC Board of Governors (BOG) in 2007, he developed the “No Chapter Left Behind” program, which greatly expanded the College's impact in states with modest financial and personnel resources.

Dr. Rodgers' depth of knowledge has enabled him to participate in and lead diverse and important committees and Presidential Task Forces, including CV Teams and CV Practice of the Future, Team-Based Care, Fellowship Education Redesign, Medical Professional Liability Insurance, and Clinical Competence and Training.

Even after his election to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Rodgers continued to serve on major ACC Committees, including the Advocacy Committee – on which he played an important role in the development of the first Political Action Committee Board – and the

Governance; BOG Nominating; and Budget, Finance and Investment Committees. He was also instrumental, through his work in health system integration and the Cardiovascular Leadership Institute, in helping create and grow the Cardiovascular Summit conference. The scope of his service is evidence not only of the extent of Dr. Rodgers' curiosity, but also the breadth of his expertise.

A protégé of the late Dr. James T. Dove, Dr. Rodgers uses the same leadership style to forge consensus, break down barriers and achieve extraordinary results. Humble, kind and dryly humorous, he has forged a legacy of accomplishments matched only by his compassion as a clinician, teacher, role model and mentor to those of us fortunate enough to serve alongside him.

C. Michael Valentine, MD, MACC

RICHARD J. KOVACS, MD, FACC

MASTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY, ACC PRESIDENT, 2019 – 2020



Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC, is the Q. E. and Sally Russell Professor of Cardiology at Indiana University (IU) School of Medicine and the service line leader of Indiana University Health Cardiology.

A graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine, Kovacs completed an internship and residency at the IU Medical Center. His fellowship training also was at IU, where he served as chief fellow and chief medical resident.

He joined the full-time faculty of the IU School of Medicine in 1986 as assistant professor, subsequently serving as the medical director and CEO of Methodist Research Institute. He also served as senior clinical research physician at the Lilly Research Laboratories of Eli Lilly and Company. He returned full time to the IU School of Medicine faculty in 2003.

Kovacs is a clinical cardiologist and serves as the service line leader of cardiology for IU Health Physicians. In this role, he is responsible for the coordination of patient care activities across all the hospitals served by the IU faculty cardiologists.

At the IU School of Medicine, Kovacs has served as the associate dean for clinical research and associate director of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. He has served as the chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Biomedical Sciences and as the chair of the IRB Executive Committee.

Additionally, Kovacs oversees the cardiovascular evaluations of players at the annual National Football League Scouting Combine.

His research focuses on three clinical topics: quality and measurement of quality, drug safety and sports cardiology.

Kovacs has a long history of leadership and involvement with the ACC. He has chaired the Science and Quality Committee and was a co-chair of the committee that revised the AHA/ACC Eligibility and Disqualification Recommendations for Competitive Athletes with Cardiovascular Abnormalities. He has served on the Joint ACC/AHA Taskforce on Practice Guidelines, the NCDR Management Board and the Cardiac Safety Research Consortium.

A past member of the ACC Board of Trustees, Kovacs has chaired the ACC Board of Governors and served as ACC secretary and vice president. We thank and honor him with the MACC designation for his tireless dedication to the College as a leader and his work this past year as ACC president to further the ACC's mission to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health worldwide.