



## IAC Report of Activities Society of Interventional Radiology

February 23, 2019

**To:** M. Victoria Marx, MD, FSIR  
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*SIR Executive Officer / Chief Executive Officer*

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### SIR LEADERSHIP ON IAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sanjoy Kundu, MD, DABR, FRCPC

#### IAC CAROTID STENTING

Barry Katzen, MD

David Sacks, MD, *President*

#### IAC VEIN CENTER

Domenic A. Zambuto, MD, RPVI

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**IAC** VASCULAR TESTING . ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY . NUCLEAR/PET . MRI . CT . DENTAL CT  
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## IAC REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

### BACKGROUND ON IAC, STRUCTURE OF ITS DIVISIONS AND IAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each IAC division (Vascular Testing, Echocardiography, Nuclear/PET, MRI, CT/Dental CT, Carotid Stenting, Vein Center, Cardiac Electrophysiology and Cardiovascular Catheterization) offers a separate accreditation program and is led by a board of directors. Using common goals and methods, each division board establishes the IAC *Standards* and policies for accreditation within its specific specialty and renders accreditation decisions. The division boards are comprised of representatives from sponsoring organizations (refer to [Addendum](#) on Page 5) who support the divisions' activities, as well as members-at-large with specific expertise. These representatives come from a variety of specialties delivering and/or utilizing specific imaging/procedure modalities. Representatives from each of the nine divisions compose the IAC Board of Directors that provides governance to the IAC.

There are approximately 14,000 IAC-accredited sites across all imaging and procedural programs currently. Since its inception in 1991, IAC's accreditation program has been offered to facilities in the U.S. and Canada, with international expansion commencing this year as discussed below.

IAC is a CMS-approved Accreditation Organization (AO) for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (ADI) for Nuclear Medicine/PET, CT and MRI facilities that bill for Medicare Part B. In addition, there are multiple private payers with policies in place linking reimbursement to the accreditation status of the facility.

### IAC NEWS / UPDATES

- The 2019 IAC Officers: Michael Lilly, MD, RVT, RPVI, IAC Chair (representing SVS); Raymond Stainback, MD, FACC, FASE, Immediate-past Chair (representing ASE) and David Sacks, MD, IAC Chair-Elect (representing SIR), Merri Bremer, EdD, RN, ACS, RDCS, FASE, IAC Secretary (representing SDMS) and Robert Pizzutiello, MS, FAAPM, FACR, FACMP, IAC Treasurer (representing AAPM).
- The IAC Board convened for a IAC Strategic Planning session April 20-22, 2018. The 2019 Strategic plan was approved at the IAC Board Meeting on September 12, 2018.
- Independence Blue Cross of Philadelphia and AmeriHealth of New Jersey and Pennsylvania have mandated IAC Vein Center accreditation by April 1, 2019. It is anticipated the IAC will receive at least 125 new applicants. There is also activity with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas related to requiring IAC Vein Center accreditation.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health is reviewing IAC's application to be considered a recognized Cardiovascular Catheterization accrediting organization for facilities performing PCI without open heart surgical services in Pennsylvania.
- Released in 2016, the IAC Quality Improvement (QI) Self-Assessment Tool offers facilities a method for self-assessing their imaging studies and reports toward continuous process improvement. Data is collected, and facilities are provided with a quantitative report that targets opportunities for improvement. Use of the QI Tool may be used to satisfy the CMS MIPS Improvement Activity for the 2019 payment year.
- The IAC is pleased to announce a new medical sponsoring society for IAC Echocardiography, the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA). The representatives from the SCA and American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) will work with the IAC Echocardiography division to develop the *Standards* for perioperative transesophageal imaging in 2019.

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## STANDARDS REVISIONS

IAC provides a 60-day comment period for all proposed *Standard* revisions, providing sponsoring organizations, participating facilities and the public an opportunity to provide feedback prior to the finalization of the *Standards*.

### Vascular Testing

The current version of the [IAC Standards & Guidelines for Vascular Testing Accreditation](#) was published on January 15, 2018 and facilities were required to be in compliance by July 15, 2018.

A review of the *Peripheral Venous Testing Standards* was recently completed, resulting in a public comment period beginning in winter 2019 and revisions to be published in summer 2019. Facilities will have one year to come into compliance to the new Standards.

The IAC Vascular Testing Carotid Research Committee continues to make progress on its diagnostic criteria project. All the data has undergone interpretive review. The study data are currently being analyzed and the committee will meet in 2019 to review the results and determine plans for publication and dissemination of the study findings. It is anticipated that study results will be disseminated by the end of 2019.

### Vein Center

A review of the *Standards* is currently under way, resulting in a comment period beginning in winter 2019 and revisions to be published in summer 2019.

The Board of Directors is writing the Standards for deep venous procedures. There are approximately seven procedures that will be addressed in these *Standards*.

### Carotid Stenting

The board of directors provided revisions of the [IAC Standards for Carotid Stenting Accreditation](#) related to the timeframe for patients to have a follow up examination within 60 days after the carotid artery stent procedure that includes neurologic testing (mRS and NIHSS) and diagnostic imaging (e.g. Duplex ultrasound.)

The *Standard* revisions are currently available for public comment from January 17, 2019 through March 17, 2019.

## RESEARCH

IAC's research initiative began in 2012 and has resulted in numerous studies exploring whether participation in the accreditation process results in measurable quality improvement. The results are quite compelling; IAC accreditation leads to greater awareness of safety, standardization of processes, adherence to guidelines and most importantly, improved patient care.

***IAC Accreditation and Its Impact on Quality Patient Care*** was published in 2018 to highlight the results and can be accessed as a digital download at [intersocietal.org/researchsummary](https://intersocietal.org/researchsummary).

### Vascular Testing

#### **IAC Vascular Testing Carotid Stenosis Interpretation Criteria: Update**

The IAC Vascular Testing Carotid Research Committee continues to make progress on its diagnostic criteria project. All the data has undergone interpretive review. The study data are currently being analyzed and the

committee will meet in 2019 to review the results and determine plans for publication and dissemination of the study findings. It is anticipated that study results will be disseminated by the end of 2019.

## Abstracts

### Vein Center

- Presented at the International Vein Congress, April 19, 2018: Patient Safety and Outcomes Issues Discovered during Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Site Visit. *J Vasc Surg.* 2018; 6:557-558. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvsv.2018.05.009>
- Presented at American Venous Forum February 17, 2017: Characteristics of First Vein Center Facilities Accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). *Journal of Vascular Surgery Venous and Lymphatic Disorders*, 2017 Jan; 5(1):159-160. DOI: 10.1016/j.jvsv.2016.10.041

### Vascular Testing

- Presented at the Society for Vascular Medicine's 2017 Annual Scientific Sessions: Characteristics and Accreditation Problems of Vascular Testing Facilities Applying for Accreditation by Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). *Vasc Med.* 2017; 22:253-274. [DOI:10-1177/1358863x17704159](https://doi.org/10.1177/1358863x17704159).
- Presented at the 2018 International Symposium for Endovascular Therapy: Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Carotid Artery Facility Stenting Survey Results: Accreditation Improves Quality. *J Vasc Interv Radiol.*

### Carotid

- Presented at the American Society of Neuroimaging's 2018 Annual Meeting: Improved Quality at Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Carotid Stenting Facilities. *J Neuroimaging.* 2018; 28:225-233. doi:10.1111/jon.12507
- Presented at the Society of Interventional Radiology's 2018 Annual Meeting as an oral abstract: A Snapshot of Carotid Artery Stenting Current Practice: Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Accredited Facilities vs. Non-Accredited Facilities. *J Vasc Interv Radiol.* 2018; 29 (4):S36-S37 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jvir.2017/12/007>
- Presented at the 2018 International Symposium for Endovascular Therapy: Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Carotid Artery Facility Stenting Survey Results: Accreditation Improves Quality. *J Vasc Interv Radiol.*

### Quality Improvement Tool (Applicable to All Divisions)

- Presented at the American Board of Medical Specialties Conference 2017: Usefulness of the IAC Quality Improvement (QI) Self-Assessment Tool at One Year.
- Presented at the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging 2018 Annual Meeting as an oral abstract: Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) QI Self-Assessment Tool Utilization Improves Accreditation Outcomes.

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

IAC integrates numerous marketing/communications activities designed to ensure that current and prospective customers, including the SIR membership, are aware of the accreditation programs and understand the value these programs provide as a tool for demonstrating facilities' commitment to quality patient care.

Helpful resources include accreditation/reaccreditation live webinars which provide useful tips to those preparing their accreditation applications. In addition, IAC identifies clinical, specialty topics and invites guest presenters to speak on subjects related to quality in medical and procedural imaging. Our special topic, live webinars are successful in drawing large numbers of participants, often surpassing 1,000 attendees. The webinars are offered free-of-charge and participants have the opportunity to earn corresponding continuing education (CE) credit. IAC will reach out to SIR for future live webinars that might be of interest to the society to co-sponsor and market to its membership.

IAC will be present at the SIR 2019 as an exhibitor and looks forward to connecting with SIR's membership.

Throughout 2019, IAC is once again maintaining an advertising presence in SIR's publications including a full-page four-color ad in the March 2019 issue of *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology*.

Planned for 2019 is a first-time project to recognize facilities accredited by IAC in three or more modalities. Facilities qualifying for the multi-modality accredited facility recognition program will receive a special banner from the IAC that can be proudly displayed in their patient waiting area or lobby to help spotlight this achievement to patients. IAC looks forward to showcasing these facilities and their use of the banner to illustrate their comprehensive commitment to quality patient care, as the program progresses.

The IAC encourages SIR to submit society news and we will publish the content on our website and social media sites, including details of upcoming events, annual meetings and continuing medical education (CME) opportunities offered by SIR. The IAC extends the opportunity to the SIR to use its mailing list, free-of-charge, with an approved mail piece.

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**We hope you find the details of this report useful. The IAC appreciates the ongoing collaboration with your society as we work to evaluate and recognize facilities' ongoing commitment to quality patient care through the accreditation process. IAC continues to sustain a collaborative and collegial relationship amongst all of the sponsoring organizations' members.**

## ADDENDUM

### IAC SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

- Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals (ACVP)
- American Academy of Neurology (AAN)
- American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (AAOMR)
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)
- American Academy of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNSF)
- American Association of Neurological Surgeons / Congress of Neurological Surgeons Cerebrovascular Section
- American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)
- American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)
- American College of Surgeons (ACS)
- American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM)
- American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)
- American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS)
- American Society of Echocardiography (ASE)
- American Society of Neuroimaging (ASN)
- American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR)
- American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC)
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)
- American Vein and Lymphatic Society (AVLS)
- American Venous Forum (AVF)
- Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)
- International Society for Musculoskeletal Imaging in Rheumatology (ISEMIR)
- Neurocritical Care Society (NCS)
- Pediatric and Congenital Electrophysiology Society (PACES)
- Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI)
- Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR)
- Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery (SCVS)
- Society for Vascular Medicine (SVM)
- Society for Vascular Nursing (SVN)
- Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS)
- Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU)
- Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (SCA)
- Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT)
- Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS)
- Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)
- Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS)
- Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI)
- Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technologist Section (SNMMITS)
- Society of Pediatric Echocardiography (SOPE)
- Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound (SRU)
- Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology (SVIN)
- World Molecular Imaging Society (WMIS)