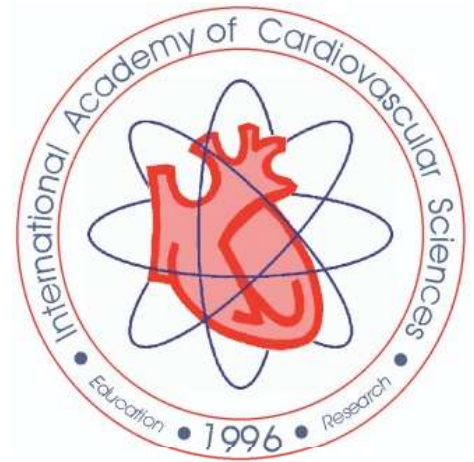


Promoting Cardiovascular Education, Research and Prevention

CV Network

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES

PUBLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ST. BONIFACE
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Globalization of Cardiology: A Visionary Talk by Dr. Wilbert Keon in 1997

Vision of Eminent Canadian Cardiovascular Surgeon for Globalization of Cardiology



Dr. Wilbert Keon

The Academy is pleased to reproduce the talk of Dr. Wilbert J. Keon (late), Founder and Director of The Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa in 1997. He was not only a great heart surgeon and researcher, but also a long-time Senator, Government of Canada. The Academy recognized him with highest honor by bestowing Medal of Merit.

“Globalization” has become a buzz-word (with little meaning but sounding impressive). Every day some politician, business or intellectual leader, or popular philosopher uses it to indicate that the world is good, the future bright, democracy is thriving and humanity is about to fulfill its glowing potential. The Globe and Mail of May 26, 1997 carried an article entitled “Canada is the Global Village” in which Sylvia Ostry begins the article with the statement “There is a growing view, approaching conventional wisdom, that the power of the nation state in business, commerce, politics and economics, its use in medicine is just beginning. Globalization in medicine is not recent, it has been with us for centuries- but not always recognized. Bruce Fye in his history of “American Cardiology” notes that “Historians and sociologists have interpreted the processes of globalization. It is a trend which mocks borders and ridicules sovereignty. It has been accelerated by the rapid growth of the Internet.

One of the first globalizers was Christopher Columbus (1451-1506). He was the first verifiable discoverer of the

New World. His four voyages opened the way for European exploration and colonization and irreversibly changed the course of world history. Ever since, the process has gone on, carrying with it new values, new ideas and new problems.

Chicken Little may have been mistaken when he/she thought the sky was falling but it is now clear to everyone that the world is shrinking. The process began slowly when the horseman replaced the man on foot, steam supplanted the sail, then the motor sped by the horse, and the jet substituted for the propeller. Ever increasing speed of travel and of communication, especially during the past fifty years, has drawn the peoples of the world together in a myriad of ways scarcely imagined a few decades ago. Few, if any, human activities have been unaffected, certainly not cardiology and clearly not heart research. How has this globalization come about?

World War II, the end of which fifty years ago was celebrated last summer left many legacies, many of them disagreeable. But amongst the beneficial was the intellectual ferment that followed the war and has produced more changes in less time than ever before in human history. In economics the Bretton Woods Conference (of 44 nations) laid plans for financial arrangements following the conflict and prepared the way for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund. Once the economy became international, it was easier for other activities to follow suit. The origin and growth of the United Nations, dedicated to solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character accelerated globalization immeasurably. The World Bank and the World Health Organization are but two of many agencies promoting international cooperation.

History of International Cardiology:

The first glimmerings of the International Society of Cardiology (ICS) occurred in Prague on the occasion of the national meeting of the Czechoslovak of Cardiology, June 2-3, 1933. Due to the political instability of Europe culminating in World War II, nothing was accomplished until hostilities ceased. In 1946, during the Second Interamerican Congress of Cardiology held in Mexico City, sixteen eminent cardiologists from Europe and America agreed to form the International Council of Cardiology held in Paris in 1950. Dr. Ignacio Chavez of

Mexico played a creative role in the Interamerican, International and Canadian cardiovascular organizations¹. The first World Congress of Cardiology was attended by about a thousand cardiologists representing 28 national societies. Since then once one has been held every four years; locations have been Washington, D.C. (1954, 1986), Brussels (1958), Mexico City (1962), New Delhi (1966), London, England (1970), Buenos Aires (1974), Tokyo (1978), Moscow (1982), Manila (1990) and Berlin (1994). The thirteenth World Congress will be held in Rio de Janeiro in April 1998 and the fourteenth in Sydney in 2002. Dedicated to the promotion of the study, prevention and relief of cardiovascular diseases, and with nine Scientific Councils composed of experts from all over the world, the international organization (ISFC) has had an enormous global influence on the discipline of cardiology.

As with national societies of cardiology, the scope of the ISC was limited by the financial resources available. To counter this obstacle, an International Cardiology Foundation (ICF) was formed in 1957 by Drs. Paul D. White and Louis N. Katz, with an office in New York, and was a forerunner of the International Cardiology Federation (ICF) established in 1970 during the London World Congress Cardiology, with headquarters in Geneva. It soon attracted the participants of 27 national heart foundations. It eventually became apparent that the objectives of both the ISC and the ICF would be promoted by a merger of the two organizations and this was effected during the eighth Congress in Tokyo, 1978.

The combined organization, the International Society and Federation of Cardiology (ISFC) now consists of 125 organizations: 71 Societies of Cardiology and 54 Heart Foundations representing 78 nations. The ISFC has three Continental Societies of Cardiology -- the Asian-Pacific (1956), the European (1950) and the Interamerican (1944), as well as Continental Federations such as the European Heart Network and the Interamerican Heart Foundation. The linkage of the talents and resources of both lay and professional members as well as the generous financial support by the pharmaceutical industry and governments for research and development has enhanced the fundraising potential of the organization for the benefit of its educational and research programs.

International Heart Research:

It is belief of John Kenneth Galbraith that people are the common denominator of progress and the progress is certain when people are free and educated. As in economic growth so it is in science. With the spectacular growth of interest and activity in cardiovascular research came the realization that to eliminate heart disease require unravelling of its most basic mechanisms. To achieve this necessitates research in areas beyond traditional clinical boundaries -- the study of cells at molecular and atomic

levels, the fundamental processes of life itself. A small group of friends interested in subcellular and molecular biology formed an International Study Group for Research in Cardiac Metabolism (ISGRM) and held its first meeting in Dubrovnik in 1968. The Study Group grew rapidly in numbers and scope and at its Tokyo meeting in 1976 changed its name to the ISHR.

Expansion of ISHR has confirmed. From a handful of friends, the organization has grown to over 4000 scientists organized in North America, Europe, Latin America, Japan, China, India, Australia and the CIS (former Soviet Union). It holds numerous sectional meetings in all continents each year and an international congress every three years. Its journal, the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, is one of the most important of the world's cardiovascular publications. The growth of ISHR is widely attributed to Dr. N.S. Dhalla of Winnipeg who served as Secretary General for 17 years and then became its President.

The XV Congress of ISHR was held in Prague, July 2-7, 1995 and was attended by over 1800 cardiovascular researchers. In addition, there were pre-congress satellite meetings in Venice, Munich, Stuttgart and Rotterdam involving many hundreds more and a post-congress meeting in Budapest where over 300 scientists discussed the cardiovascular diseases associated with diabetes mellitus. During the Congress, registrants from 40 countries presented hundreds of papers at the cutting edge of current biochemical, molecular and genetic research. The range of topics was astonishingly wide -- from regulation of ion channels of vascular smooth muscle and endothelial cells, the molecular structure of cardiac proteins, and the cellular mechanisms of arrhythmias all the way to the most recent concepts of the mechanisms and management of cardiac ischemia and congestive heart failure. Rapid progress in understanding the heart and circulation in health and disease is underway and the prospects for further advances are encouragingly bright.

The Canadian delegation to Prague numbered 55 and several others participated in the satellite symposia. At a spectacular opening ceremony, the President of ISHR, Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla, Winnipeg, Canada, challenged the world cardiovascular community to build an International Network of Cardiovascular Centres of Excellence for combating heart disease by sharing resources and expertise. He emphasized the necessity of combining talents and efforts in both clinical practice and basic science if major breakthroughs are to be achieved.

Because heart disease is still the leading cause of death on a global scale, it is easy to overlook the enormous progress made in the past 50 years. During the past half century,

more progress has been made in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease than had been achieved in all of the millions of years before. It has been called the “golden age of cardiology”. This advice has been due to unprecedented research made possible by financial support by heart foundations and governments throughout the world. Additionally, individual donors such as you, who are supporting the Ottawa Institute, have helped the process immeasurably. No better example of cause and effect in human conduct is provided than the role of adequate funding in the prevention and cure of disease.

Fifty years ago, cardiovascular disease accounted for about 55% of deaths in developed countries and treatment for all of them was either non-existent or ineffective. Today there is worthwhile treatment for all forms and helpful preventative measures are increasingly available. The death rate has been reduced to less than 43% in Canada – this is a saving of over 3½ million lives.

The spectacular progress on all fronts against heart disease is gratifying and encouraging. It has shown that concerted effort can overcome seemingly impassible barriers. But there is no room for complacency – the large toll of heart disease remains unacceptable. While there is satisfaction in viewing the accomplishments of the recent past, it is even more exciting to reflect on the future. It is unlikely that the needed advances of the future will be based on the same principles that have served us well in the past. What is required now is to unravel the basic mechanisms underlying cardiovascular diseases in order to eliminate or prevent them entirely. To do this will necessitate research in areas outside the traditional boundaries of cardiac science. It means studying cells at molecular and atomic levels, learning the fundamental processes of life itself, and particularly the molecular defects that give rise to the most prevalent afflictions of humanity. With the fusion of genetics and molecular biology that has already begun, it is likely that advances of the past will be dwarfed by the progress of the future. It will not be easy, it will require the best brains with the finest facilities, but it must not be allowed to fail. Continued support for research can make it happen.

To cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and to basic scientists, the impressive decline in cardiovascular mortality and morbidity in the past 50 years is gratifying. It means that good science and hard work can overcome problems in both the ISFC and the ISHR and in fact that a recent survey³ shows that some Canadian institutions rank with the United States as the world’s highest by citation impact in cardiovascular and respiratory medicine. Of the 14 countries (the G-7 and seven others), Canada ranked 7th in population but 3rd in citations (after U.S. and U.K.) despite ranking 13th in gross expenditure on research and development per capita. It speaks well for the quality of

research in this country but also indicates that Canadian researchers are deserving of substantially more financial support.

There is another aspect to the globalization of cardiovascular activities that warrants satisfaction and pleasure. It is warmth of friendships and the breadth of cooperation that is apparent among the many nations sharing in the scientific and humanitarian pursuits of the international cardiovascular community. In a world still ravaged by war, hatred, racism and violence, it is reassuring to find members of all races, colors and religious affiliations working harmoniously together for the benefit of humankind. Such cooperation is seen not only in collaboration of the ISFC with the World Health Organization, UNESCO and other international organizations.

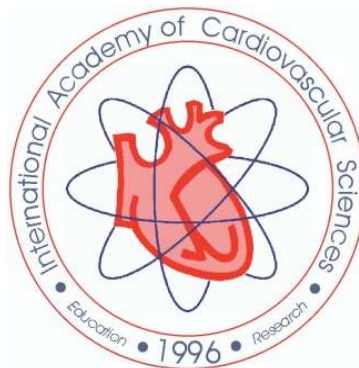
Daily newscasts provoke misgivings about human nature and behavior. Reflection on the globalization of cardiology and the benefits of heart research sends a beacon of radiance through a sometimes-murky scene. Let us enjoy the light!

International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences:

A new initiative was launched last year in Winnipeg under the direction of Professor Naranjan S. Dhalla. It is named the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. It will differ from the other international organizations in two ways: 1) it will be primarily concerned with education and 2) it will concentrate on parts of the world that need it the most.

The mission of the Academy is to promote cardiovascular education of professionals and lay people as well as to recognize and publicize major cardiovascular achievements throughout the world. It has already held meetings in Dominica and Egypt and has others planned for Brazil and Greece.

Editor’s note: The photo of Late Dr. Wilbert Keon is taken from the media release by the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, which was reproduced with permission (<https://www.ottawaheart.ca/media-release/university-ottawa-heart-institute-family-mourns-loss-true-visionary-pioneer-and-leader>).



Dr. Roberto Bolli Receives Doctor of Science Honorary Degree



Dr. Roberto Bolli (L) Receiving D.Sc. (Hon) degree from Prof. Radoslav Gajanin, Rector of the University of Banja, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska.

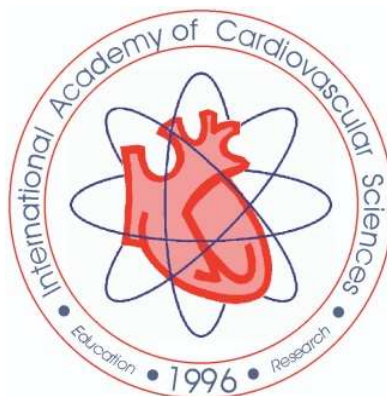
Dr. Roberto Bolli, Past President of the IACS, was awarded a Doctor of Science Honorary Degree from the University of Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on November 7, 2025. This award took place during a ceremony celebrating the 50-year jubilee of the University

of Banja Luka, which was attended by more than 300 educators and policy makers, including the President of the Republic of Srpska, the Secretary of Higher Education of the Republic of Srpska, the Rector of the University (Prof. Radoslav Gajanin), the Dean of the Medical School (Prof. Ranko Skrbic), 16 other Deans, the Secretary of Health of Serbia, the Chairman of the Rector's Conference of the Republic of Srpska, the Chairman of the Rector's Conference of BiH, the President of the Students' Parliament of the University of Banja Luka, and many other leaders and political figures.

Only 2 D.Sc. (Hon) degrees were awarded: one to the Foreign Minister of Hungary, Peter Sijarto, and one to Dr. Bolli. During his remarks, the President of the Republic congratulated Dr. Bolli for this award and, after the ceremony, went to personally congratulate him.

Dr. Bolli expressed his gratitude, pointing out that this recognition made him proud. "I see this award as an introduction to a long-term cooperation between our institutions. This country has high moral values and faith in God. I assure you I will continue to support research at the University," said Dr. Bolli. A summary of the ceremony can be found at [UNIBL celebrated 50 years of successful work and development | UNIBL](#)

This is Dr. Bolli's third Doctor of Science Honorary Degree: the first was awarded by the University of Kragujevac (Serbia) in 2019 and the second from the University of Timisoara (Romania) in 2025. A few days before receiving the D.Sc. (Hon) Award in Banja Luka, Dr. Bolli was also recognized at the meeting of the European Section of the IACS in Prague, where he was bestowed Honorary Membership in the Czech Society of Cardiology and the Andras Varro Award from the IACS. The academy congratulates Dr. Bolli for these outstanding awards.



Dr. Grant Pierce Received IACS Medal of Merit at the 12th IACS-North American Section Meeting in Las Vegas, USA

During the 12th IACS- North American Section Meeting in Las Vegas, USA on September 18-20, 2025, Dr. Grant Pierce was bestowed with the IACS Medal of Merit, which is the highest honour awarded by the Academy. His Significant scientific accomplishments are detailed below:

A. Academic Career



Dr. Grant Pierce

Grant N. Pierce received his undergraduate degree from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Canada before being awarded his MSc from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada under the directions of Drs Angelo Belcastro and Arend Bonen. He received his PhD from the Department of Physiology at the University of Manitoba under the supervision of Dr. Naranjan Dhalla. After postdoctoral studies at

UCLA under the mentorship of Drs. Ken Philipson and Glenn Langer, he returned to the University of Manitoba to assume a faculty position in Medicine and the Department of Physiology where he ultimately became a Distinguished Professor. Along that journey, Dr Pierce was one of 5 Professors who together created the Albrechtsen Research Centre at St Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, Canada. It became a world class research home for Dr Pierce for the next 38 years. For 15 of those years, Dr. Pierce served as its Executive Director of Research.

There he established the Canadian Centre for Agri-food Research in Health and Medicine (CCARM) which has become an internationally recognized resource in nutraceutical and functional food research excellence for both basic science and clinical trials. He also established the RBC Youth BioLab in the Research Centre, a one-of-a-kind lab for children who visit daily throughout the year to carry out educational experiments in biology. Dr. Pierce is currently a Distinguished Emeritus Professor at the University of Manitoba.

B. Research Accomplishments

Dr. Pierce has been highly productive over his career with 300+ published research papers, over 260 of these were

peer reviewed in some of the top cardiovascular (CV), nutritional, biochemistry & cell biology journals including

Circulation Research, the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, Cardiovascular Research, the American Journal of Physiology, the Journal of Biological Chemistry, the Journal of Cell Biology, the Journal of Nutrition, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Pharmacology Reviews, and many others. He has authored or edited 8 textbooks. He has >11,500 citations, a Google Scholar H-index of 67 and an i10-index of 208. Dr. Pierce has produced many seminal research findings during his career.

These include (in chronological order):

1) Pioneered research in the identification of a diabetic cardiomyopathy when this concept was not accepted in the late 1970's/early 80's. It is now a well-accepted concept with clinical implications.

2) Pioneered research into the mechanism responsible for ischemic/reperfusion (I/R) injury in the heart. One of three labs in the world that initially proved that the involvement of a Na/H and Na/Ca exchange cascade is critical for I/R injury.

3) First to show a cause-and-effect relationship between Chlamydia pneumonia infection and atherosclerosis.

4) Currently a leader in the health-related benefits of natural health products. He has provided seminal data on the beneficial cardiovascular actions of dietary flaxseed.

5) Dr. Pierce pioneered the measurement of nuclear protein import in cardiovascular cells and how it can adapt to changing physical and chemical conditions inside and outside of the cell. This transport across the nuclear membrane is important because it effectively regulates gene transcription and translation and it may be critically involved in pathogenic situations. It is, therefore, a novel target for therapeutic interventions in the future.

6) Dr. Pierce, in collaboration with Drs. Pavel & Elena Dibrov, discovered a novel antibiotic compound that targets bacterial energy metabolism, the first novel antibiotic platform in half a century. This compound has

the potential to avoid the challenge of multi-drug resistance exhibited by most bacteria today.

Dr. Pierce has been the Primary Supervisor for 25 PhD & MSc students, as well as 17 postdocs and visiting scientists who have gone on to successful careers and leadership roles as University Professors, Department Chairs, Clinicians and Surgeons, Clinical Directors, Research Directors, Clinical Research Scientists, Senior Managers in the pharmaceutical industry, Project Managers, Technology Transfer Managers, Physician Assistants, Clinical Physiotherapists, Directors of Regulatory Affairs, Health Canada Senior Compliance Officers, Research Facilitators, medical students and postdoctoral fellows in Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Cuba, Argentina and the USA. His postdoctoral fellows have gone on to successful faculty positions in Canada, Japan, France, Lebanon and the Czech Republic, positions in industry and many have become physicians.

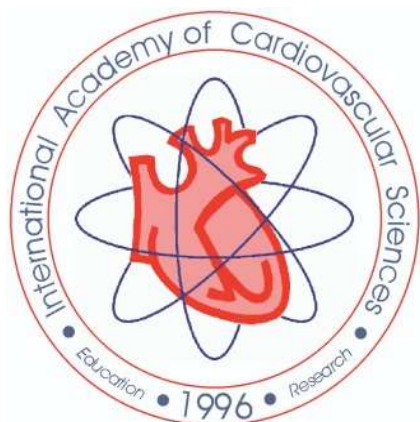
C. Service

Dr. Pierce was the longest serving Editor that the Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology has ever had since its inception in 1964. He was the Assistant/Associate Editor of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry for over 30 years. He has been a member of Editorial Boards for Circulation Research, Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, American Journal of Physiology:Heart and Circulatory Physiology, and the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, amongst others. Dr. Pierce has served as an elected member of the Executive Council for the North American Section of the International Society for Heart Research, President of the North American Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and is its current World President. Dr. Pierce has been involved in the organization of more than 90 international meetings and been an invited speaker on his own data at over 200

national and international conferences as well as 175 University & public forums. Dr. Pierce served as a member, Vice Chair or Chairperson of 90 different grant review panels all over the globe. For three years, he was Chair of the Executive Review Committee for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada where he oversaw all peer review.

D. Awards and Distinctions

Dr. Pierce's research has brought garnered over 100 personal awards and distinctions from 9 different countries. Several deserve attention here. Dr Pierce was an elected Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the American Physiological Society, the International Society for Heart Research, the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and the Royal Society of Medicine (London). Dr. Pierce was inducted as a Fellow into the Royal Society of Canada. Induction into the Royal Society of Canada "represents Canadian scholars, artists, and scientists, peer-elected as the best in their field... from all branches of learning who have made remarkable contributions in the arts, the humanities and the sciences, as well as in Canadian public life." Dr. Pierce received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Government of Canada and the 2016 Research Canada Leadership Award. Dr. Pierce was invested with the Order of Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba's highest honour which recognizes citizens who have achieved excellence thereby enriching the social, cultural or economic well-being of the province. In 2023, he received the Order of Canada, the highest distinction for a citizen in Canada. Presented by the governor general, it recognizes "outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation of Canada".



Dr. Mehta Gives Keynote Address at the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin Annual Meeting

The Academy is pleased to provide the transcript of the keynote address by Dr. Jawahar (Jay) L. Mehta, President-Elect of the IACS, at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 4, 2025. It represents a reflection of his thought process.

"I am honored to be invited to give the keynote address this evening. I'm grateful to the organizers of the meeting for inviting. I'm honored and privileged to be surrounded by my close friends and family. This will be an unusual keynote address in that I'll give you three messages. They're very important for good life, good living, and overall happiness.

The First Message:

It is based on a study called the Harvard Longevity Study or the Harvard Study of Adult Development, also known as the Grant study. I'm sure some of you have heard about it, but many of you may not have. This study started tracking the lives of 724 Harvard undergrads since 1938 to understand what makes people thrive and live happy, healthy lives.

The study began with Harvard undergrads and inner-city men, but extended to include their spouses and children to understand what makes people thrive and live happy, healthy lives. Later, the study included their spouses, men, women, and their children. These subjects were evaluated at least every two years by questionnaires or through information from their physicians and by personal interviews. Information was gathered about their mental and physical health career enjoyment, their retirement experience, and marital quality. This study has collected extensive data now for over 85 years, including medical exams, interviews, and later DNA analysis and brain scans. This study is unique partly because of the long follow up of the cohort and partly because of the high social status of some of the study participants. Among the most notable participants included Ben Bradley, an editor of the Washington Post and the US President John F. Kennedy. The goal of this study was to identify predictor of healthy aging.

The key findings of this study are as follows:

- Good relationships and social connections are the most important predictors of a long and happy life, more so than genetics, social class, or education.
- Number and quality of social connections significantly impact health and happiness. Participants in warm relationship experienced less chronic diseases and cognitive decline.

- Loneliness is detrimental. The study found that loneliness can be as harmful as premature eating, leading to poor health and short lifespan.
- The study also showed that early personality traits are not fixed and that people can change and grow throughout their lives.
- Alcoholism is a disorder of great destructive power. So is smoking.
- Eating more vegetables and less meat is good for you.
- Meditating helps, even for 5, 10, 15, or 20 minutes a day. No fixed time duration.
- Financial success depends on relationships, not IQ or intelligence.

The Second Message:

- Always challenge what you read or hear. Nothing is permanent- religious dogmas, countries' borders, societal values, technical know-hows and relationships.
- Search for truth, research makes you a good person, a good physician. Search for new causes of disease, mechanisms of disease and treatments. As mentioned earlier, nothing is fixed. Medical diagnoses, diagnostic techniques and treatments change, often radically, over time. For example, when I was a medical resident almost 50 years ago, nitrates and aspirin were contraindicated and digoxin and lidocaine were the treatments of choice for patients with myocardial infarction, all now gone. Patients were given strict bed rest for three months. Most patients with lung disease, kidney disease, and heart disease were given prolonged bed rest. And so were pregnant and postpartum women.
- As a physician who has observed much, I urge you to do what is right for your patients. Don't be greedy. Believe me, you'll never be hungry.
- Don't do procedures just because you can do them; do procedures because patients really need them.
- Don't be the first to use a new medicine or a new procedure.

The Third Message

This is particularly dear to my heart.

- Giving is more pleasant than receiving. Give to the community and those who deserve. This world has given you more than you ever expected or deserved. After all, you can't take it with you. Try to die poor.
- Make friends without concern for faith and religion. I attribute my success to friends who helped me move up. These were Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, atheists. They helped me simply because I got along with them. Some of these friends became family friends, and invited me to their homes, countries, and communities. They sheltered when I was a refugee. They took care of

me when I was not well-off, and gave me all kinds of awards and honors.

- Most recently, my friends named me a “Jewel of India”. I'm so proud of this honor. Stay close to your friends. Tom Andreoli, who recruited me to UAMS, used to say, “stay close to friends, but even closer to your enemies”; you don't know when you would need them. Stay close to your family.

I end this keynote address with “Visvadev Kutumbkum”, the whole world is one family.

For full transcript and meeting detail, please visit <https://vimeo.com/1128509462?fl=pl&fe=sh> password is Drss2025



Dr. Jawahar (Jay) Mehta

President-Elect of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences:

Dr. Jawahar L. Mehta, MD, PhD
 Stebbins Chair in Cardiology
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Lorrie Kirshenbaum, Winnipeg, Canada
Melchior L. Lima, Vitoria, Brazil
Ali J. Marian, Houston, USA
Tatiana Ravingerova, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
Rhian M. Touyz, Montreal, Canada



Academy Announces Fellowship Award to Six Cardiovascular Investigators

Dr. Andras Varro, President of IACS, is pleased to announce the election of the following six Fellows effective December 1, 2025. (The maximum number of Active Fellows of the Academy does not exceed 250 at any given time):

1. Dr. Amarjit S. Arneja, Victoria, Canada
2. Dr. Roberto Ferrari, Ferrera, Italy
3. Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister, Orsay, France
4. Dr. Maria Kontaridis, Utica, USA
5. Dr. Michael Kutryk, Toronto, Canada
6. Dr. E. Douglas Lewandowski, Columbus, USA

Dr. Amarjit S. Arneja



Dr. Amarjit S. Arneja

Dr. Arneja was born in Punjab India, graduated in 1969 from Sardar Patel Medical College, Bikaner, Rajasthan. He immigrated to Winnipeg in 1973, and completed his residency and fellowship in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) in 1979. He joined the section of PM&R, Department of Medicine University of Manitoba (UM) as Assistant Professor in June 1980.

He was the founding Director of Amputee Program, Musculoskeletal Program at Health Sciences Centre in 1980 and the founding Co- Director of the Stroke Program at Saint Boniface General Hospital in 1983, UM in Winnipeg. He introduced and implemented in 1984 a use of Post-Amputation Mobility aid (PPAM-a temporary prosthesis) in Manitoba, an early ambulatory rehabilitation device to use after amputations of lower limbs. This device features an inflatable air splint that helps early mobilizations, reduces residual limb swelling (oedema) and allows for safe partial weight bearing. This device also facilitated training in postural reactions, balance and gait, ultimately preparing the residual limb (stump) for a definitive (permanent) prosthesis. Use of PPAM aids in our amputee population in Manitoba proved to achieve better wound healing, reduced stump pain, early fitting of definitive prosthesis and decreasing length of stay in hospital.

He was the founding director of the Day Hospital Rehabilitation Program in 2002. Development of the Rehabilitation Day Hospital (RDP) in Manitoba allowed for more coordinated and efficient rehabilitation in recent amputee populations reflected by decreasing length of stay in hospital, better outcomes and increased compliance attendance in outpatient amputee clinics. In Manitoba Indigenous represent over 10% of the population, but amputation rates are 18 times higher. 30% of the amputees in Manitoba are indigenous who live in remote communities with decreased health care access. The barrier to health care access was addressed and now Indigenous amputees stay in room and board settings in Winnipeg and they achieve rehabilitation, with improvement in their quality of life and have easy access to diabetic foot care and amputee rehabilitation.

In 2007 based on a national survey of amputee inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation programs the RDP at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre appeared to have the most comprehensive program offered in Canada. He has been the recipient of several War Amps Of Canada Awards for recognition of providing excellent care and high quality care, valuable and innovative services to the war amputee patients.

He introduced a new innovative state of the art injections treatments for Myofascial Pain with Dr. Hy Dubo Head of the Section of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in 1986 to relieve the chronic soft tissue pain, and this program very popular and educated hundreds of physicians in Manitoba and across Canada by arranging symposiums and workshops at the city, provincial and national level. He has been an active member of many esteemed professional societies including International Academy of Cardiovascular sciences (IACS), which has given him

opportunities to present at their annual conferences, his clinical research papers and has chaired the sessions. It was an Honour that IACS in 2021 approved establishment of "Dr. Amarjit Arneja Distinguished Visiting Professorship Award for the Prevention of Heart Disease". He has been the consultant at the Cardiovascular Institute St. Boniface Hospital which has given him a wonderful network to do research and has published many papers with Dr. N S Dhalla and Dr. Pram Tappia.

One of his major interests has been mentoring medical students and residents in medicine and Continuing Medical Education (CME). He has trained 50 residents for fellowship in the section of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the UM. He has organized more than 100 symposiums and workshops at the city, provincial and national level with UM, Association Of Rehabilitation Medicine Of Manitoba (ARMM), Manitoba Association Of Asian Physicians (MAAP), Royal College Of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Canadian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Lions Club International, War Amps of Canada, Canadian Arthritis Society and several Sikh and Hindu temples in Winnipeg. As the director of the CME section of Rehabilitation Medicine for 25 years, He has been able to invite several world-renowned speakers to lecture at the Internal Medicine & section of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Grand Rounds & at the Residents half day Academic Sessions.

He retired as associate professor in September 2019 and then moved to Victoria BC. During his tenure of nearly 40 years, He was active in clinical practice, teaching, administration and research. He has published 56 papers including abstracts and in peer reviewed journals and has written three chapters in the books and a chapter in E Medicine related to Cardiovascular and Peripheral Vascular Disease, Diabetic Foot Ulcers, Wound Healing, Amputations, Pain Management, Musculoskeletal Disorders and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (COPD). He has received research grants over \$750,000. At his retirement "Dr. Amarjit Arneja Visiting Professorship Endowment Fund was established by the UM"

Apart from his professional contributions and achievement, his membership on a variety of Boards has provided the opportunity to make a significant contribution to policy governance and to improve the quality of life of many community groups. He was on the executives of the Board of Manitoba Tennis Association 1984-1993, Executive of

Board of Human Rights Commission 1994-2004, Councillor College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba 2000-2007 (Executives 2004-2007) and bencher Law Society of Manitoba 2013-2020. He is humbled to receive several prestigious awards and honours that has recognised his professional achievements and community service. Some of these include:

- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba - Silver Pin-2007
- Manitoba of Asian Physicians - Lifetime Achievement and Service of Excellence Award-2012.
- Association of Rehabilitation of Manitoba Leadership and Service of Excellence Award-2012
- Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Medal Award-2013.
- Innovation and Mentorship- Recognition Award by Manitoba Medical College Student Association 2014-2015.
- Academic Teaching Award Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba.
- Doctors of Manitoba Distinguished Service Award- 2018 (Highest Honour Bestowed by Doctors Manitoba).
- War Amps of Canada- Service and Patient in Excellence Award 1994, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004 and 2008.
- India Canada Culture and Heritage Association (ICCHA) - 2010.
- Lions Club International- Recognition and Appreciation for educational seminars to Seniors and Humanitarian Award for educational services - 2016.
- India Canada Culture and Heritage Association (ICCHA) - Distinguished Leadership Award - 2018.
- Sikh Society of Manitoba- Highest Honour bestowed for Service of Excellence and appreciation for Educational Services - 1998.
- Law Society of Manitoba - 2020.

Dr. Arneja has been a Motivator, Collaborator, Innovator, Mentor, Educator and has provided dedicated and excellent patient care to Manitobans.

Dr. Roberto Ferrari



Dr. Roberto Ferrari

Dr. Roberto Ferrari obtained Degree in Medicine with full marks and laude in 1974. Driven by a keen interest in research, Professor Ferrari proceeded to complete his PhD degree in the field of cardiac metabolism at the Cardiothoracic Institute of the National Heart Hospital through the University of London (1980-1982).

He served as an Honorary Assistant Research Fellow at the National Heart Hospital in London from 1978 to 1989, and as a Senior Research Fellow at the Rayne Institute of St. Thomas' Hospital in London (1989-1996). In 1987 he was appointed as Associate Professor of Cardiology at the University of Brescia, Italy and became Full Professor of Cardiology at the University of Ferrara in 2000. Later in 2020, Dr. Ferrari was appointed as Emeritus Professor at the University of Ferrara.

Dr. Ferrari has held a number of high profile and prestigious positions including President of the world section of the International Society for Heart Research (2004-2007), President (Elected-effective-Past President) of the European Society of Cardiology (2006-2012), Board Member of the World Heart Federation (2010-2012) and from 2010 -to date, Dr. Ferrari is the Founder of European Heart for Children. He has received a number of awards including Gold Medal from the European Society of Cardiology in 2010, Andreas Grüntzig Award from the Swiss Society of Cardiology in 2013 and the Late Science Award from the Heart Failure Association in 2022.

Dr. Ferrari is the author of more than 1200 peer review scientific papers. Ferrari's scientific contributions are recognized in both the field of basic and translational medicine, as well as clinical research. Ferrari's extensive research contributions have led to significant changes in cardiology practice guidelines and resulted in the successful registration of related pharmaceutical products. He currently serves as Chairman of several multicentre trials: EUROPA, PREAMI, BEAUTIFUL, SHIFT, SIGNIFY, MULTI STRATEGY and ATPCI. Dr. Ferrari's contributions in clinical medicine have led to changes in cardiology practice guidelines and facilitated the registration of pharmaceutical products

Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister



Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister

Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister is currently Emeritus Director of Research at INSERM, former head and founder of the LabEx LERMIT and honorary director and founder of the Laboratory of Signalling and Cardiovascular Pathophysiology - Inserm unit 1180. His lab is based at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Paris-Saclay.

After graduating as an electrical engineer from Supélec in 1978, he moved first to theoretical biology for doctoral studies (PhD in 1980) and then to cellular physiology during the two and half years of postdoctoral studies at Dalhousie University (Halifax, Canada) and Emory University (Atlanta, GA, USA). He returned to France in 1983 and became a researcher at INSERM. He obtained a Doctorat d'Etat ès Sciences in 1987.

His main research interests are directed toward physiological and pathophysiological aspects of neuroendocrine regulation of heart function, cardiac membrane receptors and their signalling cascades, and cellular control of cardiac ion channels. His combined approach to organ physiology, cellular electrophysiology, fluorescent imaging, molecular biology and biochemistry has led him to unveil major paradigms in cardiac pathophysiology now forming the basis of current knowledge. He demonstrated that intracellular

microdomains of cAMP and cGMP signaling govern the various responses of the heart to hormones and neuromediators such as catecholamines, natriuretic peptides and NO.

He showed that these domains are controlled by a large family of phosphodiesterases (PDEs), enzymes responsible for the degradation of cAMP and cGMP. He also showed that PDEs are strongly modified during hypertrophy and heart failure (HF), resulting in a loss of signaling compartmentation that favors disease progression. He showed recently that activation of specific PDEs restore cAMP compartmentation in the failing heart, a proof of concept for a novel therapeutic approach in HF.

Dr. Fischmeister has published over 200 papers; including 185 in peer-reviewed international journals, accumulated >15000 citations (with 47 papers cited >100 times), and his current H-index is 69. He has been invited to 190 scientific meetings and >120 seminars around the world. He has

served as external referee for NIH, NSF, MRC, Wellcome Trust, CNR, Telethon, Government of Canada, etc.

He has reviewed papers for >20 different journals and is currently on the Editorial board of *Circulation*. He has been President of an INSERM Study Section (2008-2012), vice-Dean of research of the Faculty of Pharmacy of University Paris-Sud (2015-2020) and deputy vice-president of research for life sciences of the University Paris-Saclay (2020-2022). He is an elected member of a number of professional organizations, member of the Academia Europaea, Past-President of the European Section of the ISHR. He has received several prizes and awards (Jeanne-Philippe Beziat Cardiology Prize 2012, Alain Castaigne Prize 2014, Grand prix de Cardiologie Lamonica 2016, Peter Harris Distinguished Scientist award of the International Society for Heart Research 2022, Naranjan Dhalla Honorary Lecture Medal from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences 2024). He has also trained >30 young post-graduate researchers, half of them coming from foreign countries.

Dr. Maria Irene Kontaridis



Dr. Maria Kontaridis

Dr. Maria Irene Kontaridis is the Executive Director, Gordon K. Moe Professor and Chair of Biomedical Research and Translational Medicine, and the Director of Research at the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) in Utica, NY. She also holds a part-time faculty appointment as an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), Department of Medicine/Division of Cardiology in Boston, MA. Dr. Kontaridis received her undergraduate degrees (B.A. and B.S.) from the University of Florida in Classics and Chemistry and subsequently obtained her master's degrees in pharmacology and biomedical and Biological Sciences from Yale University in 1999 and 2001, respectively. In 2002, she was awarded a Ph.D. from Yale University for work with Dr. Anton Bennett on the role of protein tyrosine phosphatases, especially SHP2, in cell growth and skeletal muscle differentiation.

Dr. Kontaridis' interest in continuing to work on SHP2 phosphatase led her to accept a postdoctoral position with Dr. Benjamin Neel, at BIDMC in 2003. Her work as a postdoctoral fellow garnered extramural support from the American Heart Association and the NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00). In 2007, Dr. Kontaridis was promoted to Instructor, and in 2008, was recruited to the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology at BIDMC as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard

Medical School. In 2015, she was named Director of Basic Cardiovascular Research and in 2016 was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 2018, Dr. Kontaridis moved to the MMRI in Utica, NY to become the Director of Research, and in 2020, she was promoted to Executive Director. In 2025, Dr. Kontaridis received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from SUNY Polytechnic Institute, in recognition for her achievements in biomedical research.

Dr. Kontaridis' independent research program focuses on the fundamental mechanisms underlying congenital heart disease and end-stage heart failure, as well as the processes that lead to abnormal development, aberrant signaling and disease onset of lupus, gastrointestinal disease, autism, and cancer. Her lab utilizes a myriad of tools and techniques, including iPSCs, genetic mouse model systems, and molecular biology techniques. Her work has been awarded grants from the Milton Foundation, the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, the Saving Tiny Hearts

Foundation, the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, the Alliance of Lupus Research, Lupus and Allied Diseases, Inc, the American Heart Association (AHA), Department of Defense (DOD), and the National Institutes of Health (NHLBI-R01s and NCATS-TRND), and has garnered support from industry and pharmaceutical companies (Onconova, Novartis, GSK, Arqule).

Dr. Kontaridis is also actively involved in the medical and research communities and has established herself in several significant leadership roles. In Boston, she served as co-chair for the Joint Committee on the Status of Women at Harvard Medical School and as Chair of the Research Safety Committee at BIDMC and as a member of the Harvard Medical School Biomedical and Biological Sciences Faculty Program. Locally, she serves on the Boards of the Mohawk Valley American Heart Association Chapter, the Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises and the Kelberman Foundation (Autism).

Nationally, Dr. Kontaridis is an appointed Fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA) and served as Chair of the Early Career Committee for the BCVS, Chair of the AHA Early Career Councils on the Council of Operations Committee, and as member of the National AHA Manuscript Committee. Nationally, she is currently the Chair of the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Council (BCVS) for the AHA.

Dr. Kontaridis is also an elected Council member and was appointed Fellow of the International Society for Heart Research-North American Section (ISHR-NAS). She has also co-chaired and organized the Weinstein Conference for Developmental Cardiology in 2015, the AHA BCVS Summer Conference in 2016, and is the co-chair for the Olympiad in Cardiovascular Medicine Symposium in Greece, which occurs every 4 years.

Dr. Michael Kutryk



Dr. Michael Kutryk

Dr. Kutryk received his MSc degree in cardiovascular physiology in 1990 from the University of Manitoba. He then went on to complete his PhD studies in 1991 from the same institution. Dr. Kutryk obtained his MD degrees also from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

He completed Specialty Certification in Internal Medicine and Subspecialty Training in Cardiology at the Royal Victoria Hospital and McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Kutryk's training in cardiology was followed by a 4-year post-doctoral research and clinical training program in Interventional Cardiology at Erasmus University and University Hospital Rotterdam – Dijkzigt.

Dr. Kutryk is currently an Associate Professor and Clinician Scientist at the University of Toronto and Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science at Ryerson University.

Dr. Kutryk is the Director of Interventional Cardiology Research at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Canada. Dr. Michael Kutryk, who is both an interventional cardiologist and researcher at St. Michael's Hospital and the head of cardiology at the Sault Area Hospital, has been helping to establish the partnership between the two health-care centres. He leads a basic research lab at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute dedicated to translating basic science findings to clinical application. He is also a Scientist, Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Science.

Dr. Kutryk's areas of expertise include endothelial progenitor cell biology, gene therapy for vascular diseases, cell-based gene therapy strategies, angiogenesis, and miRNA signaling in health and disease. His lab has been very successful in taking promising new treatment strategies from concept through preclinical assessment, through to major, multicentre clinical trials. Recently, his research has focused on tissue engineered vascular grafts and cardiac valves and epigenetic regulation of genes related to Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia, a disease of dysregulated angiogenesis.

Dr. Kutryk has made significant contribution for initiating a program for promoting clinical scientists.

Dr. E. Douglas Lewandowski



Dr. E. Douglas
Lewandowski

Dr. E. Douglas Lewandowski, Ph.D. is a Professor and the Jack George Chair in Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Ohio State University (OSU) College of Medicine in Columbus, OH, in the Divisions of Endocrinology, Diabetes, & Metabolism and Cardiovascular Medicine and in the Department of Biological Chemistry

and Pharmacology. His research focuses on targeting mechanisms of adverse metabolic remodeling in early heart failure and the metabolic cross talk between the heart and other organs during the progression of cardiac disease. A pioneer in the evaluation of metabolic rates in functioning organs using stable isotope kinetics and nuclear magnetic resonance detection schemes, he is a recipient of a MERIT Award (R37, a 10-year R01) from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH and an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association. He is also a recent recipient of the Research Achievement Award from the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR), the Bernard and Joan Marshall Distinguished Investigator Award from the British Society for Cardiovascular Research, and the Naranjan S. Dhalla Innovative Investigator Award from the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences.

He obtained a B.A. from the University of Chicago and Ph.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, TX. He joined the Cardiology faculty in the Department of Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX., where he began work on the metabolic basis of contractile dysfunction in the postischemic heart. For this work he received the inaugural Young Investigator Award from the Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (renamed the International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine).

He was recruited to Harvard University Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. There, he established ^{13}C NMR methods to quantify TCA cycle flux and rates of metabolite transport across the mitochondrial membrane in intact hearts, enabling study of metabolic

communication between the cytosol and the mitochondrial matrix in normal and diseased hearts. This advance (Yu *et al. Biophys J*, 1995) challenged dogma that had previously led to erroneous measurements of metabolic flux using NMR.

He joined the University of Illinois School of Medicine at Chicago (UIC COM) in Chicago, as Professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics and the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine and Department of Bioengineering. He was Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research and served as Interim Head of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. He was named a University of Illinois Scholar, conferred by the President of the University of Illinois. Doug's work at UIC COM led to the realization that triglyceride turnover is a key fuel source for ATP production and importantly, of ligands activating PPAR-alpha, and that diminished triglyceride turnover in failing hearts was linked to impaired PPAR-alpha target gene expression. He also established ^{13}C NMR based detection of the rates of transporter dependent fatty acid entry into the cardiomyocytes of normal and diseased hearts and the combined use of MRS of cardiac triglyceride content with ultra-high field, high resolution cardiac tagged MRI measures of transmural strains across the ventricular wall of the *in vivo* mouse heart.

Further work elucidated and established new understanding of mechanisms for altered fuel utilization as a mediator of contractile function in the ischemic and reperfused myocardium of a highly translational model of the *in vivo* heart in a closed chest conscious pig model (Kudej *et al. Circulation*, 2002; Kudej *et al. Cardiovascular Research* 2011).

Dr. Lewandowski was the first to combine *in vivo* gene therapy with metabolic studies of the heart (Del Monte *et al. Circulation*, 2001; O'Donnell *et al. J Mol Cell Cardiol*, 2009; Lewandowski *et al. Circ Res*, 2013; Carley *et al. J Lipid Res*, 2013). He developed a novel scheme for expression of microRNAs to suppress maladaptive metabolic signaling in failing hearts (Lahey *et al. Circ Res*, 2018). A specific application of this approach led him to elucidate the mechanism for the long-observed, but not previously understood, mismatch between glycolytic rate and glucose oxidation in the failing heart (Pound *et al. Circ Res*, 2009; Lahey *et al. Circ Res*, 2018). This finding identified the cause as increased anaplerotic flux through malic enzyme in failing human hearts and animal models that robs cardiomyocytes of oxidative ATP production from glycolytic end products. His most recent work using novel

therapy on preclinical models of heart failure has shown remarkable cardioprotection against adverse cardiac remodeling and is the basis for a current pending US patent. He serves on the Editorial Boards of *Circulation* and *Circulation Research*, as a Senior Consulting Editor for the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, with past editorial board appointments on the *American Journal of Physiology* and *Frontiers in Fatty acid and Lipid Physiology*.

He has served as a fulltime member of two NIH study sections and multiple *ad hoc* assignments, and chaired numerous NIH Special Emphasis Panel review groups. Finally, Dr. Lewandowski has launched the careers of multiple trainees who themselves have gone to become independent scientists making important contributions.

Report on the 12th Annual Meeting of the IACS-North American Section, Las Vegas, USA, September 18-20, 2025

Buddhadeb Dawn

Professor and Chairman, Department of Internal Medicine
Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at University of Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
Corresponding Email: buddha.dawn@unlv.edu

The 12th Annual Meeting of the North American Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS) was held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 18-20, 2025 (www.iacs-nas-meeting.org). Consistent with the overarching missions of the IACS, the broad objectives of this meeting were to disseminate the current knowledge in cardiovascular research and therapy, discuss translational approaches for novel diagnostic and treatment strategies, and promote mentoring and collaboration across institutions and countries.

This meeting was organized in collaboration with several notable academic partners, including the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), University Medical Center of Southern Nevada (UMC), and the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). Over the past year, the Organizing Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee worked tirelessly with the Conference Chair, Dr. Buddhadeb Dawn, to develop a robust scientific and educational program. The conference was made possible through generous contributions from multiple individual patrons and donor families, and foundations, in addition to industry sponsors and exhibitors.

During the opening ceremony, welcoming remarks were offered by the academic leaders from the NSHE, UNLV, UNR, and UMC. The keynote and plenary lectures following the opening ceremony were delivered by world-renowned scientists, including two members of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, Dr. Kathryn Moore, New York University and Dr. Andrew Marks, Columbia University. Other speakers during this 2½-day meeting included

numerous highly distinguished academic and physician leaders from 55 universities, hospitals, and academic institutions from 8 countries. More than 200 attendees were equally diverse, and included scientists, physicians, graduate and medical students, trainee physicians and postdoctoral fellows, other healthcare professionals, and lay members of the community.

The conference program featured eighteen sessions, including three sessions for named awards: Roberto Bolli Young Investigator Award, Buddhadeb Dawn Young Investigator Award, and Gary Lopaschuk Graduate Student Award. Each session focused on a specific scientific or clinical area with 4 or 5 presentations. The talks covered a wide range of topics in basic cardiovascular sciences, clinical and therapeutic advances, and translational studies with robust and diverse scientific contents.



Plenary session in progress on the opening day.

In addition to information directly related to heart and vasculature, excellent talks were presented also on obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, inflammation, artificial intelligence, precision medicine, circadian rhythm, diet, exercise, omics, and gene therapy, to name a few. Special emphasis was given to actively involve trainees, students, and early-career researchers and physicians. Consistently, multiple learners and junior faculty from diverse institutions participated as speakers at various sessions. Several UNLV and UNR faculty scientists and physicians also presented their research findings or discussed important clinical topics at this meeting.



Dr. Grant Pierce (M) receiving the IACS Medal of Merit from Dr. Naranjan Dhalla (L) and Dr. Roberto Bolli (R).

Aside from the outstanding scientific contents, one of the highlights of this conference was an evening session during the welcome dinner, which highlighted the rapid growth of biomedical industry and related business operations in Nevada. Moderated by the Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, NSHE, Dr. Marcia Turner, this session featured panelists from the UNLV, UNR, and UMC. The panelists emphasized the substantial and increasing opportunities for industry collaborations and translation of innovative research discoveries in Nevada.



Dr. Buddhadeb Dawn (M) receiving the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award from Drs. Roberto Bolli (L) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).



Dr. Michael Czubryt (2nd L) Receiving the IACS Distinguished Leadership Award from Drs. Buddhadeb Dawn (2nd R), Naranjan Dhalla (R) and Dr. Roberto Bolli (L).



Dr. Devendra Agrawal (2nd L) Receiving the IACS Distinguished Service Award from Drs. Naranjan Dhalla (L), Roberto Bolli (2nd R) and Buddhadeb Dawn (R).



Dr. Vladimir Jakovljevic (M) receiving the Grant Pierce Award from Drs. Buddhadeb Dawn (L) and Andras Varro (R).

The conference also offered a lunchtime satellite session on Friday September 19 that was focused on various research grants offered by the National Institutes of Health.



Dr. Jagat Naraula (2nd L) Receiving the IACS James Willerson Award from Drs. Buddhadeb Dawn (L), Andras Varro (2nd R) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).



Dr. Ali J. Marian (2nd R) Receiving the IACS Howard Morgan Award from Drs. Buddhadeb Dawn (L), Naranjan Dhalla (2nd L) and Andras Varro (R).



Dr. Petr Ostadal (2nd L) Receiving the IACS Jawahar Mehta Award from Drs. Buddhadeb Dawn (L), Andras Varro (2nd R) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).

Dr. Renee Wong, Chief of Heart Failure and Arrhythmias Branch at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute presented a broad range of highly relevant information on

funding opportunities, mechanisms, timelines, and other aspects of various application processes at the NIH. She also addressed numerous questions from the audience in a lively post-session Q&A time.

Another important satellite session focused on research career and mentoring was offered in the evening of Friday September 19. Professor Roberto Bolli from the University of Louisville offered many pearls of wisdom for trainees and junior scientists from his decades of experience in biomedical research and patient care. This was very well attended and very well received by numerous trainees, students, and junior scientists.

A poster session was organized in the evening of Friday September 19, which was extremely well attended. Multiple teams of judges evaluated posters and engaged presenters in vigorous scientific discussions. Amongst the presenters were multiple students, residents and postdoctoral fellows from diverse academic institutions. Best posters in several different categories were selected for awards.

Consistent with the IACS traditions, the Academy presented several prestigious awards to individuals who have made major contributions in research, education, healthcare, and administration. Some of the notable awardees included Dr. Ali J Marian (Howard Morgan Award for Distinguished Achievements in Cardiovascular Research), Dr. Petr Ostadal (Jawahar Mehta Award for Clinical Scientists), and Dr. Maria Kontaridis (Suresh Tyagi Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences). In addition to awards bestowed upon Established Investigators, in separate competitions, two Young Investigators were selected to receive the Roberto Bolli Award and the Buddhadeb Dawn Award. The best presentation by a graduate student received the Gary Lopaschuk Award. Because of broad participation by attendees from fifty-five academic institutions, the meeting provided unparalleled opportunities for networking,



Attendees and judges interact with the presenters during the Poster Session.

professional development, mentoring, and future collaborations. During the oral and poster presentations, graduate and medical students, clinical residents and fellows, postdoctoral trainees, and young investigators enjoyed abundant opportunities to interact with highly accomplished scientists, academic leaders, and mentors.

A major strength and a unique feature of this meeting was the highly synergistic confluence of scientific and academic leaders from several continents to promote science, education, mentoring, collaboration, and patient care. Many attendees from external academic institutions and foreign countries were summarily impressed with the rapid growth in science and biomedical initiatives in Las Vegas and Nevada. Many expressed interests in learning more. All-in-

all, the 2025 IACS-NAS meeting was a success on every account.

The organizers would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to all speakers, moderators, staff, and the attendees for their enthusiastic contributions and participation. The next Annual Meeting of the IACS-NAS is scheduled for September 10-12, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky. Further detail will be in the next quarterly issue of CV Network. We hope to see you there!

Editor's note: The Academy wishes to thank Dr. Morris Karmazyn for providing the funds to support Margaret Moffat and Morris Karmazyn 8 poster awards at the North American Section meeting in Las Vegas.

Call for Papers Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology

Call for Papers – Proceedings of the 12th Annual Meeting of IACS-NAS 2025

The proceedings from the conference will be published in the [Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology](#) (CJPP). This collection will feature papers from attendees of the conference.

Guest Editors:

Dr Buddhadeb Dawn, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Dr Ali J. Marian, Institute of Molecular Medicine, McGovern Medical School, Houston, Texas, USA.

More details on the collection webpage: <https://cdnsiencepub.com/topic/cjpp-iacs-nas-2025-lasvegas>

Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2026.

Dr. Naranjan Dhalla as Chief Guest at the Indian Pharmacological Society 2025



The Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS) held its major 2025 conference, IPSCON 2025, at Panjab University, Chandigarh, from November 20-22, 2025, focusing on "Empowering Young Minds to Transform Pharmacology for Viksit Bharat (Developed India)," with Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla as the Chief Guest delivering a key address that set a positive tone for the conference. This event, the 55th annual conference, featured more than 1,200 delegates, numerous symposia, technical sessions and awards for young researchers, connecting global experts with Indian pharmacologists. Indeed, networking opportunities for young pharmacologists and industry experts were presented. The prestigious Prof. N. S. Dhalla Oration Award was presented to Dr. Tejal R. Gandhi by the Indian Pharmacological Society during the event. Further information can be obtained by visiting: www.ipsccon2025.com.

Report on the 1st Italian Society of Cardiovascular Research -IACS Partnered Meeting, Imola, Italy

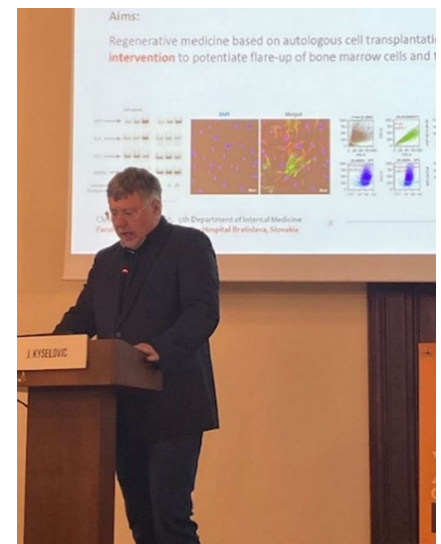
Grant Pierce

Past President of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences and Distinguished Professor
University of Manitoba

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From October 23-25th, 2025, the international Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS) formally partnered with the Società Italiana di Recherche Cardiovascolari (SIRC), the Italian Society of Cardiovascular Research in the XXV Congress in Imola Italy. The SIRC holds a biomedical conference in Imola every two years, this one entitled Bridging Discovery and Therapy in Cardiovascular Science. The conference was hosted by the SIRC President, Dr Vincenzo Lionetti, a Professor at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy. Frequent participants in IACS conferences around the world would recognize Dr Lionetti from his many talks at our IACS conferences in Europe and North America. The meeting room was packed with over 200 interested faculty and remained that way the entire time of the meeting. There were 41 invited talks presented and scores of posters that resulted in many lively interactions. The presenters came from eight countries including Slovakia, USA, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium and Canada. The talks covered all aspect of molecular cardiology, translational medicine, clinical cardiology and vascular biology. Plenty of young friendly faces in the crowd insured that the meeting was a resounding scientific and social success.



Left: Drs. (From L to R) Kyselovic, Lionetti, Tuana, and Pierce; Middle: Dr. Antonia Zaza; Right: Dr. Kyselovic giving their Presentations.

Report of the 11th European Section Meeting of the IACS Prague, Czech Republic

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The 11th European Section Meeting of the IACS was held in Prague, Czech Republic, between November 2nd to 4th 2025. The Meeting venue was Vienna House by Wyndham Diplomat Hotel with 300 attendees consisting of leading cardiovascular researchers with 116 invited speakers from 22 countries: Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina,



Dr. Petr Ostadal (R) Gives Welcome Address along with Drs. Milos Taborsky (L), Ales Linhart (2nd L) and Zuzana Motovska (2nd R).

Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, the UK and the USA. Dr. Petr Ostadal served as Organizing Committee Chair of the Meeting and Dr. Zuzana Motovska served as the Program Committee Chair. Galen-Symposium s.r.o. was the Conference Organizing Agency (Chaired by Mrs. Hana Stredova).

The Meeting comprised 14 sessions organized according into the following scientific topics: **1.** Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology 1; **2.** Molecular and Circadian Mechanisms; **3.** Cardiogenic Shock and Cardiac Arrest; **4.** Novel Experimental and Therapeutic Approaches; **5.** Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy 1; **6.** Ischemia-Reperfusion and Cardioprotection; **7.** Metabolism, Lipids and Systems Regulation; **8.** Exercise Effects and Novel Pharmacological Intervention; **9.** Coronary Artery Disease, Atherosclerosis, Protection and Regeneration; **10.** Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy 2; **11.** Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology 2; **12.** Hypertension and Preventive

Cardiology; **13.** Coronary, Valvular and Structural Heart Disease; **14.** Heart Failure and Hemodynamics. There were also 3 special symposia, entitled: IACS Symposium 1: Advances in Cardiovascular Sciences; IACS Symposium 2: Roberto Bolli Symposium for Cardiovascular Investigators and IACS Symposium 3: Advances in Cardiovascular Medicine. In addition, there were 3 separate young investigator awards session on Valvular Heart Disease; Coronary Dysfunction and Vascular Remodeling and Heart Failure, Cardiomyopathy and Protection. Furthermore, a Symposium by the Czech Cardiology Society as well as 2 symposia with industry sponsored presentations entitled Innovation Symposium 1 and Innovation Symposium 2 were also held. There were 4 poster sessions.

The Conference began on November 2nd with the opening ceremony and welcoming messages from Dr. Petr Ostadal (Prague, Czech Republic, Chair of the Meeting and President of the Czech Society of Cardiology), Dr. Ales Linhart (Vice-President of the Czech Society of Cardiology), Dr. Zuzana Motovska (Executive Secretary of the Czech Society of Cardiology) and Dr. Milos Taborsky (Past-President and Board Member of the Czech Society of Cardiology). Following these messages, Honorary Membership Awards of the Czech Society of Cardiology were presented to Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum (Winnipeg, Canada), Dr. Gilles Montalescot (Paris, France), Dr. Roberto Bolli (Louisville, USA), Dr. Perry Elliott (London, U.K.) and Dr. Joseph A. Hill (Dallas, USA). In addition, the Czech Society of Cardiology bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla (Winnipeg, Canada), in recognition of his outstanding and lasting contributions to the field of cardiology.

Dr. Vladimir Jakovljevic (Kragujevac, Serbia, President of IACS-ES), Dr. András Varró (Szeged, Hungary, President of IACS), and Dr. István Baczkó (Szeged, Hungary, Secretary General IACS-ES) then presided over the *Plenary Session*. The first speaker of this session was Dr. András Varró who gave the Presidential Address and a talk entitled “Effect of a selective IKur inhibitor, XEN-D0103, on dog and human cardiac ventricular and Purkinje fiber”. This was followed with the Naranjan Dhalla Honorary Lecture given by Dr. Suresh Tyagi (Louisville, USA) on “Epigenetics and morning heart attacks”.

He was also presented with the Honorary Medal. Dr. Rhian Touyz (Montreal, Canada) gave the first plenary lecture entitled “Cardiovascular oncology: Cancer therapy related



Dr. Roberto Bolli (M) Receiving Honorary Membership Award from the Czech Society of Cardiology.

hypertension”, which was followed by the second plenary lecture by Dr. Roberto Bolli on “Heart failure with preserved ejection fraction: The new frontier”. A welcome dinner concluded the first day of the meeting.

The second day (November 3rd) of the conference began with 3 parallel sessions. Session 1 (*Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology 1*) was chaired by Drs. Istvan Baczko and Milos Taborsky) and consisted of 6 speakers. Dr. Norbert Laszlo Jost (Hungary) presented on “The comparison of the properties and role in cardiac action potential of the atrial and ventricular transient outward potassium current” this was followed by talks by Dr. Ursula Ravens (Germany) on “Mechano-sensitive channels and arrhythmia- Effect of axial stretch on Ca²⁺ sparks in atrial cardiomyocytes”; Dr. Istvan Baczko on “Electrophysiological and antiarrhythmic effects of a new analogue of mexiletine”; Dr. Marketa Bebarova (Czech Republic) on “Functional analysis in three probands suffering from “true” idiopathic ventricular fibrillation”; Dr. Carol Ann Remme (The Netherlands) on “Novel therapeutic strategies for inherited arrhythmia syndromes and the session ended with a talk by Dr. Marek Hozman (Czech Republic) on “Conventional vs. Optimized PERiprocedural analgesedation vs. Total IntraVenous anesthesiafor Pulsed-Field Ablation: A randomized controlled trial (COOPERATIVE-PFA). The *Innovation Symposium 1* was chaired by Drs. Petr Tousek and Richard Rokyta. The 4 speakers in this session were Dr. Lukasz Koltowski (Poland) who spoke about “From pixels to predictions: CCTA and AI transforming cardiology”; Dr. Antje Deppe (Germany) presented on “A quick look at innovation in the heart recovery programme”; Dr. Petr Ostadal spoke about “Synchronized pulsatile ECMO – The future of circulatory mechanical pacing and this session

was concluded with a talk by Dr. Pavel Leinveber (Czech Republic) entitled “ VDI monitor- Use of ultra high frequency ECG in clinical pacing. The third parallel session for the morning (*IACS Symposium 1: Advances in Cardiovascular Sciences*) was chaired by Drs. Andras Varro and Grant N. Pierce (Canada). The first speaker of this session was Dr. Gerd Heusch (Germany) who presented on “The vago-splenic axis in cardioprotection”, this was followed by presentations by Dr. Ricardo Gelpi who spoke about “Effects of Polluted Air on the Pathophysiology of myocardial ischemia”; Dr. Marketa Hlavackova (Czech Republic) on “Epitranscriptomic regulation in the heart”; and Dr. Milos Stojiljkovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) ended the session with his talk on “Pyridostigmine treatment significantly alleviates isoprenaline-induced chronic heart failure in rats”. This was followed by the coffee break and Poster Session entitled “*Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology*” and “*Biomarkers and Cardioprotection 1*” with 15 posters on display and presentation for the competition.

After the coffee break and the first poster session, the conference continued with 3 simultaneous sessions. Session 2 entitled “*Molecular and Circadian Mechanisms*” was chaired by Drs Michael Czubyrt (Canada) and Inna Rabinovich-Nikitin (Canada) and began with a talk by Dr. Michael Czubyrt on “Scleraxis: a stress-responsive regulator of wound healing and fibrosis”. This was followed by presentations by Dr. Ana Gomez (France) on “How RyR2 phosphorylation tunes the heart rate for fight or flight”; Dr. Balazs Horvath (Hungary) on “Role of protein kinase A and calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II in beta-adrenergic regulation of potassium channels”; Dr. Inna Rabinovich-Nikitin on “The cardiac pathophysiological outcomes of circadian disruption during pregnancy” and Dr. Katherine Dibb (U.K) who



Dr. Naranjan Dhalla (M) Receiving Lifetime Achievement Award from the Czech Society of Cardiology.

spoke on “Dysferlin in the heart: Supporting structure, safeguarding rhythm”. With this talk the session ended. Parallel session 3 on “*Cardiogenic Shock and Cardiac Arrest*” was chaired by Drs. Jan Belohlavek (Czech

Republic) and Petr Ostadal. The first speaker in this session was Dr. Jan Belohlavek who presented on “Prague-OHCA contribution to cardiac arrest knowledge”. This was followed by Dr. Jaroslava Tereza Kovarova (Czech Republic) who talked about “Near death experiences (NDE) in patients with refractory cardiac arrest treated with conventional and extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation in light of further research”. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Petr Ostadal entitled “Who may benefit from ECMO in cardiogenic shock?”; Dr. Mikulas Mlcek (Czech Republic) spoke about “Microcirculation in CPR-experimental data”, and the session ended with a presentation by Dr. Mohammad Abumayyaleh (Germany) on “Clinical outcomes in patients with cardiogenic shock treated with wearable cardioverter defibrillation: Data from a multicenter international registry”. The morning ended with organization of the *Young Investigator Awards Session 1: Valvular Heart Disease*. This session with 6 speakers was chaired by Drs. Radek Pudil (Czech Republic) and Hana Linkova (Czech Republic) and began with a talk by Dr. Nadeem Elmasry (The Netherlands) on “Impact of right ventricle to pulmonary artery coupling on outcomes in patients with primary mitral regurgitation”; followed by talks by Dr. Yuki Obayashi (The Netherlands) on “Concomitant mitral regurgitation in severe aortic stenosis-insights from the CURRENT AS Registry-2”; Dr. Petr Kovar (Czech Republic) on “Substance XXX-an unknown compound similar to N,N-dimethyltryptamine in pig serum after experimental cardiac arrest”; Dr. Jingjing He (The Netherlands) on “Association between body mass index, left ventricular remodeling, and long-term outcome in patients with bicuspid aortic valve”; Dr. Huihong Tang (The Netherlands) spoke on “The importance of sex differences in left ventricular remodeling for risk stratification of patients with aortic regurgitation” and Dr. Veronika Puchnerova (Czech Republic) on “The clinical course of phenotype-negative patients with the positive genotype of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy”. Conference attendees were then invited for lunch.

The meeting continued after lunch with another 3 parallel sessions. Session 4 entitled “*Novel Experimental and Therapeutic Opportunities*” was chaired by Drs. Danina Muntean (Romania) and Cristina Molina (Germany). This session opened with a presentation by Dr. Norbert Szentandrassy (Hungary) on “Conclusions from 20 years of cellular AP recordings: AP parameter correlations, solution-, age-, and sex-dependence”. The next speaker in this session was Dr. Cristina Molina who spoke about “Human specific cGMP regulation: cGMP measurements in living human cardiomyocytes reveal new NO-based drug targets”, followed by a talk entitled “Precision in practice: Direct biochemical monitoring of drug efficacy for personalized cardiovascular therapy” by Dr. Attila Toth (Hungary) and by Dr. Jakub Tomek (U.K.) who spoke about “New advances in computational modeling of the

heart”. The session ended with a talk by Dr. Danina Muntean who spoke about “Monoamine oxidases link oxidative stress to inflammation in the pathogenesis of vascular dysfunction: insights from rodent models to humans”. Parallel Session 5 entitled “*Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy I*” was chaired by Drs. Filip Malek (Czech Republic) and Vojtech Melonovsky (Czech Republic).

The first speaker in this session was Dr. Marketa Adamova (Czech Republic) who presented on “Analysis of the quantity of protein products of the titin gene in patients with dilated cardiomyopathy”. This was followed by Dr. Filip Malek (Czech Republic) who spoke about “Reaching target fundamental drug doses in patients with chronic heart failure: MOST HF”; Dr. Vojtech Melonovsky (Czech Republic) who presented on “Pulmonary congestion assessment by automated quantitative photon-counting computer tomography in heart failure patients”, and finally in this session Dr. Attila Kiss (Austria) spoke about “SGLT2 inhibitors and cardiac metabolic remodeling: Insights from models of heart failure, ischemia and hypertrophy”. The third parallel session was the *Czech Society of Cardiology Symposium* that was chaired by Drs. Petr Ostadal and Ales Linhart. This session opened with a talk by Dr. Gilles Montalescot (France) on the topic “Antiplatelet therapy in ACS/PCI”. The next speaker was Dr. Zuzana Motovska who spoke about “Cangrelor in cardiogenic shock, DAPT SHOCK AMI”. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Perry Elliot on “Cardiomyopathies: leading the way in cause-specific management” and finally the session ended with a presentation by Dr. Ales Linhart who spoke on “Czech contribution to Fabry disease”. Then came the coffee break and poster session on “*Biomarkers and Cardioprotection 2*” and “*Ischemia-reperfusion injury, Oxidative Stress and Pharmacotherapy*”.

The last 3 parallel sessions of the first day included, Session 6 entitled “*Ischemia-Reperfusion and Cardioprotection*” and was chaired by Drs. Paramjit S. Tappia (Canada) and Bohuslav Ostadal (Czech Republic). In this session there were 3 speakers. The first presentation was by Bohuslav Ostadal who spoke on “Hypoxia and the immature heart”. This was followed by Dr. Naranjan S. Dhalla who spoke about “Modification of ischemia-reperfusion injury by polyclonal antibodies against sarcolemmal Ca^{2+}/Mg^{2+} -ecto ATPase”. The final presenter in this session was Dr. Paramjit S. Tappia who presented on “Role of lysophosphatidylcholine in ischemia-reperfusion injury”. Session 7 on the topic of “*Metabolism, Lipids and Systems Regulation*” was chaired by Drs. Monika Bartekova (Slovakia) and Amir Ravandi (Canada). This session opened with a presentation by Dr. Monika Bartekova on “Cardioprotective potential of flavonoid quercetin in aged diabetic fatty rats”. The next presenters were Dr. Jerzy Beltowski (Poland) who spoke

about “Green tea polyphenols inhibit metabolic syndrome-associated cardiomyopathy by modifying endogenous reactive sulphur species”; Dr. Harpal S. Buttar (Canada) who presented on “The critical roles of healthy gut microbiomes, antioxidant diets, and lifestyle modifications in preventing cardiovascular disease”; Dr. Marija Vavlukis (Macedonia) on “Oxidative stress and immune/inflammation in metabolic syndrome: the effect of Rosuvastatin” and Dr. Amir Ravandi who spoke on “Expanding the precision toolbox: The role of lipidomics in cardiovascular disease”, with which this session closed. The 3rd parallel session was entitled “*Young Investigator Awards Session 2: Coronary Dysfunction and vascular Remodeling*” and was chaired by Drs. Michael Aschermann (Czech Republic) and Petr Kala (Czech Republic). First in this session was a talk by Dr. Veronika Gasparkova (Czech Republic) on “Comprehensive coronary functional testing in patients with angina pectoris with nonobstructive coronary arteries: A single-center experience”, this was followed by talks by Dr. Csaba Horvath (Slovakia) on “Sex differences in cardiac damage to pressure overload: the role of inflammation and oxidative stress”; Dr. Laima Caunite (The Netherlands) who spoke on “Prediabetes in ST-elevation myocardial infarction patients: implications for left ventricular function one year post-infarction”; Dr. Libor Jelinek (Czech Republic) on “The effect of a comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation program on exercise parameters in patients with arterial hypertension”; Dr. Yipu Ding (The Netherlands) presented on “Sex based differences in association with plaque burden and ischemia-a CREDENCE Trial substudy”. The session ended with a talk by Dr. Matus Miklovic (Czech Republic) on “New double-hit rat model of myocardial infarction with pulmonary hypertension”.

At the end of the scientific sessions, delegates and special guests congregated for the *IACS Awards Ceremony*. This part of the conference was chaired by Drs. Naranjan S. Dhalla, Vladimir Jakovljevic, Andras Varro and Grant Pierce. Dr. Dhalla announced the following recipients for the IACS Awards. The Bohuslav Ostadal Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences was presented to Dr. Joseph Hill; Karl Werdan Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences was presented to Dr. Buddhadeb Dawn; Lorrie Kirshenbaum Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Science was awarded to Dr. Marketa Hlavackova; Andras Varro Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences was presented to Dr. Milos Stojiljkovic; Vladimir Jakovljevic Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences was awarded to Dr. Ricardo Gelpi; Jan Slezak Award in Cardiovascular Sciences was presented to Dr. Gerd Heusch; Vladimir Jakovljevic Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences was also presented to Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister; Lorrie Kirshenbaum Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular



Dr. Joseph Hill (2nd L) Receiving the IACS Bohuslav Ostadal Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L), Andras Varro (2nd R) and Naranjan Dhalla (L).



Dr. Buddhadeb Dawn (M) Receiving the IACS Karl Werdan Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L) and Andras Varro (R).



Dr. Marketa Hlavackova (2nd L) Receiving the IACS Lorrie Kirshenbaum Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L), Vladimir Jakovljevic (2nd R) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).

Science was also presented to Dr. Dragan Djuric; Bohuslav Ostadal Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences was awarded to Dr. Rhian M. Touyz and the Andras Varro Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences was bestowed upon Dr. Roberto Bolli. In addition, the Academy presented the Exemplary Service Awards to Dr. Ramesh Goyal and Dr. Bohuslav Ostadal, Distinguished Leadership Award to Dr. Ales Linhart, the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Zuzana Motovska and the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Petr Ostadal. After the formal part of the Awards Ceremony everyone was invited for a splendid Gala Dinner.



Dr. Milos Stojiljkovic (C) Receiving the IACS Andras Varro Award from Drs. Vladimir Jakovljevic (L) and Andras Varro (R).

The 3rd and final day of the Meeting (November 4th) also comprised 3 parallel sessions. The day started with Sessions 8 entitled “Exercise Effects and Novel



Dr. Ricardo Gelpi (C) Receiving the IACS Vladimir Jakovljevic Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L) and Andras Varro (R).

Pharmacological Intervention” and was chaired by Drs. Belma Turan (Turkey) and Ramesh Goyal (India). The session opened with a talk by Dr. Olga Pechanova (Slovakia) on “Complimentary cardiometabolic effects of Evolocumab and Simvastatin-CoQ10 nanoparticles in obese rats”; next speaker was Dr. Belma Turan who spoke on “Off-target effects of a dual GLP-1/GIP receptor agonist via modulation of the β -adrenoceptors and glucose metabolism in cardiac cells”. This presentation was followed by talks by Dr. Ferenc Gallyas Jr. (Hungary) on “Cardioprotective effects of natural polyphenols”; Dr. Ramesh Goyal on “Modulation of NF- κ B mediated MMP-9, ICAM and VCAM by bioflavonoids for diabetes-induced cardiomyopathy and retinopathy” and Dr. Martina Podolec (Czech Republic) ended this session with a talk on “Exercise-induced desaturation in patent foramen ovale: Insights from the MEASURE PFO study”. The morning sessions continued with the session entitled “*Young Investigator Awards Session 3: Heart Failure, Cardiomyopathy and Protection*” and was chaired by Drs. Filip Malek and Petr Kala. The first of 6 presentations in this competition was by Dr. Szilard Nagy

(Hungary) on “Exploring the potential etiological role of cardiac autoimmunity in post-COVID syndrome”, this was followed by talks by Dr. Reyhaneh Nejati Bervanlou (Slovakia) on “Integrative in vivo and in silico analysis of exercise-induced cardioprotection in hypertensive and normotensive rats”; Dr. Thu Thao Nguyen (Czech Republic) spoke on “Study of the effect of beta-hydroxybutyrate on the contractility of isolated myocardium in rat models”; Dr. Jan Mikula (Czech Republic) presented on “A soluble guanylate cyclase stimulator improves survival in a rat model of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and chronic kidney disease induced by aorta-caval fistula and 5/6 nephrectomy”, which was followed by a talk by Dr. Eva Tyleckova (Czech Republic) on “Correlation of heart failure biomarkers and markers of vascular remodeling with prognostic scores in outpatients with chronic heart failure” and final talk in this session was by Dr. Dmitry Matveyev (Czech Republic) who presented on “Role of biomarkers of cardiac and vascular remodeling in the assessment of volemia status in patients with chronic heart failure”. The 3rd parallel session was entitled “*IACS Symposium 2: Roberto Bolli Symposium for Cardiovascular Investigators*”, chaired by Drs. Vladimir Jakovljevic, Lorrie Kirshenbaum and Roberto Bolli. The first presentation was by Dr. Vladimir Jakovljevic who spoke about “The effects of imiquimod induced psoriasis like pathology on cardiovascular function and redox balance”, this was followed by a talk by Dr. Devendra Agrawal (USA) on “Immunobiology of unstable plaques in carotid artery and novel treatment strategies”. The next speaker of this session was Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum who presented on “Impaired autophagy mediates Doxorubicin cardiomyopathy through the cGAS-

STING inflammasome pathway”. The session ended with a talk by Dr. Grant Pierce on “Infection and cardiovascular disease”. This was followed with coffee break and poster session entitled “*Coronary Artery Disease, Vasculopathy*

Rationale, design and preliminary insights”; Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra who spoke on “Allogenic stem cell therapy for cardiac regenerative medicine”; Dr. Zongqian Xue (Germany) who talked about “Effects of classic anti-



Dr. Gerd Heusch (C) Receiving the IACS Jan Slezak Award from Drs. Vladimir Jakovljevic (L) and Andras Varro (R).



Dr. Dragan Djuric (C) Receiving the IACS Lorrie Kirshenbaum Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L) and Vladimir Jakovljevic (R).



Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister (C) Receiving the IACS Vladimir Jakovljevic Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L) and Vladimir Jakovljevic (R).



Dr. Rhian Touyz (C) Receiving the IACS Bohuslav Ostadal Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L) and Andras Varro (R).

and Hypertension and “Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy I”.

The conference continued with Session 9 entitled “Coronary Artery Disease, Atherosclerosis, Protection and Regeneration” and was chaired by Drs. Tatiana Ravingerova (Slovakia) and Sanjiv Dhingra (Canada). The session opened with the presentation by Dr. Tatiana Ravingerova who spoke on “Recent advances in non-pharmacological strategies aimed to trigger innate cardioprotection in healthy and diseased myocardium”. This was followed by Dr. Karolina Bartoskova (Czech Republic) on “Establishment of a registry for patients with spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD):

arrhythmic drugs in short QT syndrome type 5: preclinical insights from human-induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes” and the session ended with the presentation by Dr. Dominik Gardas (Czech Republic) on “Genetic causes of aortic syndrome in a representative Czech population sample”. The morning continued with “*Innovation Symposium 2*” that was chaired by Drs. Milos Taborsky and Zuzana Motovska. The first speaker was Dr. Matej Misar (Czech Republic) talking about “Artificial intelligence in healthcare”. The next speaker was Dr. Erik Buts (The Netherlands) who spoke about “Image guided therapy today and in the future. Innovations in for procedures like PCI and SHD, but also looking on innovation for doctors, working towards an X-ray free

cathlab”. This presentation was followed by the talk of Dr. Jan Holy (Czech Republic) on “Conduction system pacing- The new standard in the treatment of bradycardia. The session closed with the presentation by Dr. Lenka Sykorova (Czech Republic) on “Next chapter in TAVI evidence”. The final morning session was *IACS Symposium 3: Advances in Cardiovascular Medicine*, chaired by Drs. Buddhadeb Dawn and Devendra K. Agrawal with 4 speakers. The session opened with the talk by Dr. Buddhadeb Dawn on “Advances in MSC therapy: Bench to bedside”. The next speaker was Dr. Joseph Hill who talked on “Cardiology on high beam: Obstacles and opportunities”. This presentation was followed by a talk by Dr. Dragan Djuric (Serbia) who spoke on “Cardioprotective effects of pyridoxine in experimental diabetic cardiomyopathy and hyperhomocysteinemia: evaluation on cardiometabolic status, oxidative stress and histomorphological changes”. The session ended with the presentation of Dr. Rodolphe Fischmeister (France) on “Distinct functions of cardiac β -adrenergic receptors in the



Dr. Roberto Bolli (C) Receiving the IACS Andras Varro Award from Drs. Vladimir Jakovljevic (L) and Andras Varro (R).

T-tubule vs. outer surface membrane”. Everyone was invited to partake in lunch.

After lunch there were 3 parallel sessions. Session 10: “Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy 2” was chaired by Drs. Zoltan Papp (Hungary) and Filip Malek (Czech Republic). The session began with the talk by Dr. Jan Habasko (Czech Republic) on “The comparison of ECG findings in patients with light-chain and wild-type transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis at the time of diagnosis”. Then, Dr. Nikol Kubinova (Czech Republic) spoke on “The comparison of echocardiographic profiles in patients with aI and wild-type ATTR cardiac amyloidosis at the time of diagnosis”. This was followed by presentations by Dr. Zoltan Papp on “To what extent does myosin inhibition limit cardiac performance?” and Dr. Gabriel Piskalla

(Czech Republic) on “CIEDs in patients with cardiac sarcoidosis- data from clinical practice”. The session closed with a presentation entitled “HiPSC-CM as a model to study exercise-induced arrhythmias in HCM” by Dr. Torsten Christ (Germany). Session 11 on “*Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology 2*” was chaired by Drs. Jose Jalife (Spain) and Jakub Honek (Czech Republic) and began with the presentation by Dr. Antonio Zaza (Italy) on “Involvement of CaV1.2 channels in a LQT2 (HERG) mutation: ion channel crosstalk?”. The next speaker in this session was Dr. Sabri Hassouna (Czech Republic) who



Dr. Ramesh Goyal (C) Receiving the IACS Exemplary Service Award from Drs. Henrique Furtado (L) and Ricardo Gelpi (R).

spoke on “Comparison of procedural workflow, safety, and one-year efficacy of catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation using radiofrequency and pulsed-field energy”.

Dr. Igor Efimov (USA) then spoke on “Bioresorbable electronic devices for cardiac pacing and defibrillation”. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Jose Jalife who

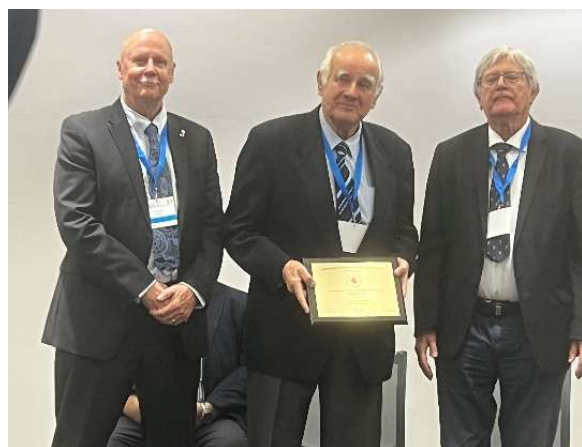


Dr. Ales Linhart (C) Receiving the IACS Distinguished Leadership Award from Drs. Andras Varro (L) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).

presented on “A lysosomal ion channel variant that disrupts lysosomal-to-mitochondrial interaction is a novel genetic cause of short QT syndrome”; Dr Chen Yan (USA) who spoke on “Roles and mechanisms of NLRP3 inflammasome related signalling in pathogenesis of Brugada Syndrome”, and session ended with a talk by Dr. Martin Morad (USA) on “Connexin 43 as a novel calcium transport pathway in the nuclear envelope of human



Dr. Zuzana Motovska (C) Receiving the IACS Distinguished Service Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).



Dr. Bohuslav Ostadal (C) Receiving the IACS Exemplary Service Award from Drs. Grant Pierce (L) and Andras Varro (R).

induced pluripotent stem cell derived cardiomyocytes”. The afternoon continued with parallel session 12 on “Hypertension and Preventive Cardiology” that was chaired by Drs. Renata Cifkova (Czech Republic) and Goran Krstacic (Croatia). The first of 4 speakers in this session was Dr. Radek Adamek (Czech Republic) who spoke on “Dynamic performance assessment of athletes and its relation to cardiovascular risk: this was followed by presentations by Dr. Renata Cifkova on “30-year trends in blood pressure, prevalence, awareness, treatment and



Dr. Petr Ostadal (C) Receiving the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award from Drs. Vladimir Jakovljevic (L) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).

control of hypertension in women of reproductive age. The Czech Monica and Czech Post-Monica studies”; Dr. Jan Bruthans (Czech Republic) who spoke on “Diabetes and prediabetes in coronary heart disease patients in EUROASPIRE studies”, with the session ending with a talk by Dr. Goran Krstacic on “Preventive cardiology: A new role of high sensitive troponin I” And with this there was a coffee break and poster session entitled “Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathy 2”.

After the coffee and posters, the conference continued with Session 13 entitled “Coronary, Valvular and Structural Heart Disease” chaired by Drs. Petr Kala (Czech Republic) and Petr Hajek (Czech Republic). The session opened with a talk by Dr. Ewelina Blazejowska (Poland) on “One-year outcomes of high-risk percutaneous coronary interventions with versus without mechanical circulatory supports: propensity score-matched analysis”. This talk was followed by the presentation by Dr. Henrique Furtado (Brazil) who talked about “Valvular heart disease-Surgical treatment-Update” and by Dr. Binyi Zhao (Germany) who spoke on “Roles and mechanisms of lactate in pathogenesis of Takotsubo Syndrome studying in human induced pluripotent stem cell derived cardiomyocytes”.

Next speaker in this session was Dr. Martin Podolec (Czech Republic) who presented on “New onset of arrhythmia after Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) closure study- preliminary results”. The session ended with the talk by Dr. Mohammad Abumayyaleh (Germany) on “Age variation in patients with troponin level elevation without obstructive culprit lesion or suspected myocardial infarction with non-obstructive coronary arteries- long term data covering decade”. Session 14 entitled “Heart Failure and Hemodynamics” was chaired by Drs. Petr

Kuchynka (Czech Republic) and Jan Naar (Czech Republic). It opened with the talk by Dr. Jan Naar on “Change in pulse pressure and stroke volume variation induced by passive leg raise as a predictor of fluid response in acute cardiac care patients”. Following this presentation, Dr. Tobias Schupp (Germany) spoke about “Cardio-oncologic considerations in heart failure with mildly reduced ejection fraction: Prevalence and prognostic impact of malignancies” and continued with another talk on “Prevalence and prognosis of multimorbidity in heart failure with mildly reduced ejection fraction”. Dr. Lale Dinc Asarcikli (The Netherlands) then spoke on “Prognostic significance of adaptive vs. maladaptive right ventricular hypertrophy in heart failure: A prospective cohort study”, the session ended with a talk by Dr. Jaroslav Hrdlicka (Czech Republic) on “Sex differences in cardiac remodelling induced by early abdominal aortic constriction in Wistar rats”.

The scientific sessions ended with a coffee break before the *Young Investigator Awards Ceremony and Closing Ceremony*, chaired by Drs. Petr Ostadal, Zuzana Motovska, Ales Linhart, Vladimir Jakovljevic and Istvan Baczko.

Young Investigators Awards of the Czech Society of Cardiology were presented by Drs. Petr Ostadal, Zuzana Motovska and Ales Linhart. Third place was awarded to Drs. Thu Thao Nguyen and Jan Kropáček (Czech Republic), second place to Dr. Csaba Horváth et al. (Slovakia), and first place to Dr. Huihong Tang (The Netherlands). The IACS Poster Awards were presented by Drs. Vladimir Jakovljevic and Istvan Baczko. The winners of the Keld Kjeldsen Poster Award were Alaa Amin E. Abdelmagid et al. (Hungary) and Dorde Dukanovic et al. (Bosna and Herzegovina). The winners of the Atilla Ziegelhöffer Poster Award were Katarina Djordjevic et al. (Serbia) and Izabela Jarabicova et al. (Slovakia). The winners of the Milosav Kostic Poster Award were Christoph A. Baumgartner et al. (Austria) and Ruzzell Flores et al. (Canada). Finally, the closing remarks were delivered by Dr. Petr Ostadal, who also expressed gratitude for the valuable contributions and sponsorship provided by several individuals, companies, and organizations. Below is a special letter from the Chair, Dr. Peter Ostadal to all delegates in attendance of this meeting.

Dr. Suresh Tyagi Recipient of the 2025 IACS Naranjan Dhalla Lectureship Award

During the 11th IACS- European Section Meeting in Prague on November 2-4, 2025, Dr. Suresh C. Tyagi was bestowed with the Honorary Naranjan Dhalla Lecture Award. His Significant scientific accomplishments are detailed below.



Dr. Suresh C. Tyagi (2nd L) Receiving Naranjan Dhalla Lecture Award from Drs Dhalla (L), Vladimir Jakovljevic (2nd R) and István Baczkó (R).

“I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the IACS Awards Committee for selecting me as the recipient of the prestigious Naranjan Dhalla Lectureship Award at the 2025 European Section meeting in Prague, Czech Republic. It is truly an honor to receive this distinction, and I am deeply humbled and honored to receive an award in the name of

Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, who is a doyen of cardiovascular science, the patriarch of the Academy, an exceptional innovator, institution builder, and academic trailblazer.”

The strength of my lab includes cardiovascular remodeling. Remodeling by its very nature implies synthesis and degradation of extracellular matrix (ECM). Our lab is one of the original in Cardiac Remodeling (i.e., we discovered MMP/ADAMTS in the heart early in 1992). For example, we demonstrated the cardiac fibrosis and MMP activation coexist because during reconstitute remodeling ECM, collagen and elastin all are degraded by MMPs but because turnover of elastin is 1000x slower than collagen therefore degraded elastin is also replaced by rapidly synthesized collagen by myofibroblasts. The cardiac ECM remodeling, and reactive and reparative fibrosis terms led to the ideas of resident cardiac precursor/regenerative stem cells. It is our belief that endocardial endothelial-myocyte coupling contributes to cardiac synchronous relaxation and contraction cycle. This is primarily based on our research.

Though the role of vascular (including coronary) endothelial in underlying smooth muscle contraction relaxation is studied very well, there is not many studies

revealing the contribution of endocardial endothelium in myocyte regulation during systole and diastole. The epigenetic methylation of any DNA/RNA/Protein, promoter or repressor of genes on chromatin and/or histones generates homocysteine, unequivocally. The strength of our laboratory programs relating to folate 1-carbon metabolism (FOCM) and homocystinuria in cardiovascular system is unique in the sense that it is triggered by epigenetic rhythmic methylation/de-methylation control of gene expression or suppression. The epigenetics by its very nature implies modifications of the genes prior to imprinting and off printing during the development, health, and disease. We are few of the leaders in the field of epigenetic control of cardiovascular development and disease, especially by folate-dependent mechanism. The epigenetic regulation of FOCM in DNA/RNA and histone methylation and acetylation by gene writer and erasers are studied in Dr. Tyagi's laboratory. Based on our findings, the role of nutrition (folate) in "genetics and epigenetics of preventive medicine" are addressed.

Our laboratory is one of the few laboratories in creating the chronic congestive cardiopulmonary heart failure (CHF) by creating aorta-vena cava fistula (AVF) in C57 wild type mice. There are basically four ways to create experimental CHF. 1) acute myocardial infarction (MI) model which is ligating the coronary by instrumenting and injuring the heart; 2) Although trans-aortic constriction (TAC) mimics the systematic hypertension, TAC is constricting the aorta on the top of the heart and pressing the heart. 3) there are some acquired models of CHF such as by dietary factors, diabetes/salt diets etc., but these are "single-hit to multiple-hits" models. 4) AVF is the one where AVF is created below the kidney ~1cm, where aorta and vena cava share common middle wall. By creating fistula red blood enters vena cava without an injury to the heart. This model mimics the CHF

such as during aging where with age preload keeps increasing than the heart can pump out due to the weakened cardiac myocytes. This also involves right ventricle, lung then to left ventricle, creating congestion. The heart by AVF goes transition from compensatory (HFpEF) to de-compensatory (HFrEF) without multiple hits. There are more models of volume overload, such as pacing-induced and mitral valve regurgitation. But these are also injurious models. Our lab is one of the original labs in creating AVF.

Prof. Suresh C. Tyagi currently serves as a Professor of Physiology & Biophysics at the University of Louisville (Louisville, KY, USA), the Stodghill Endowed Chair in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Louisville, and the Vice Chair for Research, Physiology & Biophysics, University of Louisville. Dr. Tyagi's research career began as a biophysical scientist during his graduate and post-graduate training in India and Ireland. He was an assistant professor of medicine and biochemistry at the University of Missouri at Columbia (1992–1996) and an associate professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (1998–2003). He has published in excellent journals such as American J Physiology, Circulation, J Biol Chem, Biochemistry, and various other biomedical science journals. Dr. Tyagi is a member of honored societies such as the APS, ISHR, and AHA where he has served in various capacities. He has served on NIH study section committees. Currently, he is a regular member of the NIH-MIM study section. He is on the editorial board of AJP, JMCC, Clin & Exper Hypertension, and Mol Cell Biochemistry. He has numerous awards and honors from AHA and APS. He has been supported by national funding throughout his research career. His research extends beyond the field of remodeling and has implications in cancer, vascular dementias, and brain microvascular diseases.



Inscription on the Honorary Dr. Naranjan Dhalla Lectureship Award Medal.

Report on the 23rd Annual Meeting of the South American Section - IACS, Palmas, Brazil

Henrique Furtado

Vice Presidente of IACS, South America Section;
Effective Professor of the Medical Course of the Federal University of Tocantins, Brazil
Corresponding Email: cardiologiahfl@gmail.com

The 31st Scientific Forum of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS), held jointly with the 23rd Annual Meeting of the South American Section of the IACS (IACS-SAS) and the XVII Congresso Tocantinense de Cardiologia, took place from October 16 to 18, 2025, in Palmas, Tocantins, Brazil.

The event was organized by the IACS South American Section (IACS-SAS) in partnership with the Society of Cardiology of the State of Tocantins (SOCETO). Leadership included Prof. Dr. Melchior Lima, President of IACS-SAS; Prof. Dr. Henrique Furtado, President of the International Congress; Dr. Tercio Campos Leão Neto, Scientific Director, Dr. Daniel Janczuk, President of SOCETO, Dr. Adalgele Rodrigues Blois, President of the Tocantinense Congress; and Prof. Dr. Alinne Macambira, Scientific Director of the Tocantinense Congress.

This year's meeting brought together more than 80 speakers, including seven renowned international scientists - Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, Dr. Harpal Buttar, Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra, Dr. Suresh C. Tyagi, Dr. Devendra K. Agrawal, Dr. Ricardo Gelpi, and Dr. Antoinette Blackman - who shared valuable insights into the latest advances in cardiovascular research and clinical practice. Over 100 scientific papers were presented during the three-day event, highlighting cutting-edge studies from Brazil and abroad. Four of these papers received special awards sponsored by the IACS, recognizing outstanding scientific merit.

In addition to the scientific sessions, the IACS presented several international awards at the Awards Ceremony to honor distinguished professionals and individuals for their leadership, service, and lifelong contributions and dedication to cardiovascular medicine. The recipient of the Otoni Gomes Award was Dr. Melchior Lima, (Vitória - ES, Brazil), the Ricardo Gelpi Award was presented to Dr. Antoinette Blackman (Brasília - DF, Brazil), Makoto Nagano Award to Dr. Suresh C. Tyagi (Louisville, USA), Norman Alpert Award was given to Dr. Devendra K. Agrawal (Pomona, USA) and the Denis B. McNamara Award was presented to Sanjiv Dhingra, MD (Winnipeg - Canada). Furthermore, Dr. Harpal S. Buttar (Ottawa, Canada) received the IACS Exemplary Service Award, while Dr. Daniel Janczuk (São Paulo - SP, Brazil) received



Dr. Antoinette Blackman (2nd L) Receiving the Dr. Gelpi Award from Drs. Ricardo Gelpi (L), Naranjan Dhalla (2nd R) and Henrique Furtado (R).



Dr. Devendra Agrawal (M) Receiving the Dr. Norman Alpert Award from Drs. Ricardo Gelpi (L), and Henrique Furtado (R).

the IACS Distinguished Leadership Award and the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Henrique B. Furtado (Ituitaba - MG, Brazil). Distinguished Service Awards were also given to Father Bruno Rodrigues (Mercês - MG, Brazil) and Luis Eduardo Bovolato (São Paulo - SP, Brazil).



Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra (M) Receiving the Dennis B. McNamara from Drs. Ricardo Gelpi (L), and Henrique Furtado (R).



Dr. Harpal S. Buttar (M) Receiving the IACS Exemplary Service Award from Drs. Henrique Furtado (L) and Ricardo Gelpi (R).



Dr. Henrique Furtado (L) Receiving the IACS Lifetime Achievement Award from Drs. Ricardo Gelpi (M) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).

Exemplary Service Awards were also given to Osvaldo Murilo da Cunha (Prados - MC, Brazil) and Dr. Arnaldo

Alves Nunes (Babaçulândia - TO, Brazil). A special Dedication and Service Award was presented to Adalgele Rodrigues Blois (Araguaina - TO, Brazil).

The Federal University of Tocantins – UFT, in fulfillment of its mission to promote science, education, and innovation, hereby grants this TITLE OF ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC MERIT to Professor Doctor Naranjan Dhalla. The certificate read as follows “Honorary President of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS), in recognition of the excellence of his scientific production, the relevance of his research, and the impact of his contributions to the strengthening of knowledge and the development of society”.



Dr. Naranjan Dhalla (M) Receiving the Academic and Scientific Merit Award from the Rector of The Federal University of Tocantins (R) and Dr. Henrique Furtado (L).

The granting of this title represents not only an honor but also the strengthening of UFT’s academic and scientific relations with distinguished institutions and professionals worldwide, reflecting this University’s commitment to excellence, internationalization, and the advancement of knowledge.

The 2025 edition of the IACS-SAS Meeting was a landmark gathering for cardiovascular science in South America. Beyond the remarkable exchange of knowledge, it strengthened collaboration among Brazilian and international researchers and reaffirmed the IACS’s mission to promote education, innovation, and excellence in cardiovascular health worldwide.



Presentation of IACS Awards to University dignitaries by (Top L and R and Bottom L): Drs. Ricardo Gelpi (L), Naranjan Dhalla (2nd R) and Henrique Furtado (R); Bottom R: Drs. Henrique Furtado (L), Ricardo Gelpi (3rd R), Naranjan Dhalla (2nd R) and Harpal Buttar (R).



Mrs. Furtado (2nd L) recognized for her organizational work for the meeting by Drs. Henrique Furtado (L), Ricardo Gelpi (2nd R) and Naranjan Dhalla (R).



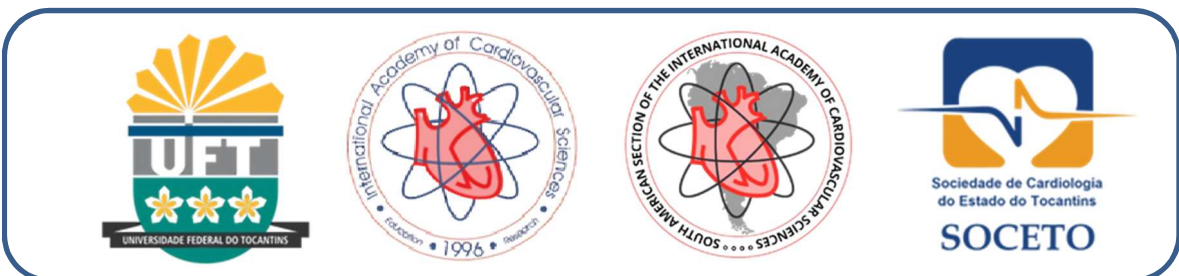
Recipients of the Poster Competition Awards.



Recipients of the Poster Competition Awards.



23rd IACS South American Section Conference Delegates.



27th Annual Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences Naranjan Dhalla Cardiovascular Awards Day

Lorrie Kirshenbaum

Director, Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences
St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre
Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba
Corresponding Email: lkirshenbaum@sbrc.ca

The Annual Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences (ICS) Naranjan Dhalla Awards Day was held at the St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre in Winnipeg, Canada on December 2-3, 2025, which celebrates leadership in cardiovascular research education and training. The awards program day was established by Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, the founder of the ICS 27 years ago to recognize the leadership and contributions of individuals who profoundly influenced the global cardiovascular community. The awards program also honours trainees at different stages of career that include summer students, graduate students, medical students, post-doctoral fellows and recognizes others who have contributed to the advancement of the ICS.

research in cardiovascular sciences; Mr. Jack Litvack Exemplary Service Award for exemplary service to the ICS; Dr. Arnold Naimark Young Investigator Award for excellence in cardiovascular research by a post-doctoral scientist; Dr. Henry Friesen Young Scientist Award for excellence in cardiovascular research by pre-doctoral trainee; Sr. Jacqueline St-Yves Publication Award for best paper published in cardiovascular research; Mr. Kalwant Dhalla Research Technician Award for high quality of dedicated technical services; Dr. T. Edward Cuddy and Dr. James McGoeys Student awards for exemplary performance of summer students. Moreover, ICS established a special award to honour the top MSc students within the ICS program called the ICS Award for Master Student.



Dr. Stefanie Dimmeler (L) Receiving the ICS Dr. Robert E. Beamish Leadership Award from Dr. Michael Czubryt.



Dr. E. Douglas Lewandowski (L) Receiving the ICS Mr. Ken Bowman Outstanding Research Achievement Award from Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum.

It should be mentioned that over the past 27 years, this premier event has honoured many distinguished scientists including several Nobel Prize Laureates. These awards include the ICS Gold Medal Award, for the life-time achievement in advancing cardiovascular medicine, Dr. Robert E. Beamish Leadership Award for outstanding leadership in cardiovascular sciences and education; Mr. Ken Bowman Research Achievement Award for outstanding achievements in cardiovascular research; Dr. John Foerster Distinguished Lecture Award for lifetime contributions to cardiovascular medicine; Dr. Vincenzo Panagia Distinguished Lecture Award for cutting edge

This special two-day event was marked by an early career program (trainee competition) and gala dinner, on the Tuesday, December 2nd 2025. Indeed, it was truly a special dinner with Her Honour Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba in attendance. During the dinner, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, accompanied by Drs. Mario Pinto (VP and International, University of Manitoba) and Lorrie Kirshenbaum presented the ICS Leadership Gold Medal to

Dr. Stanley Nattel (Montreal, Canada). The following day, Wednesday, December 3, 2025, the 27th Annual Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, Naranjan Dhalla Cardiovascular Awards Day Program was held, which included the scientific forum, awards ceremony and reception.



Dr. David Kass (L) Receiving the ICS Dr. John Forester Distinguished Lecture Award from Mrs. Forester.

The program honoured several world-class scientists including; Dr. Stefanie Dimmeler, Frankfurt, Germany (Dr. R.E. Beamish Award); Dr. E. Douglas Lewandowski, Ohio, USA (Mr. Ken Bowman Award); Dr. David Kass, Maryland, USA (Dr. John Forester Award); Dr. Kerri-Anne Mullen, Ottawa, Canada (Dr. Vincenzo Panagia Award). Other recipients included Frank Sarzynski, Winnipeg, Canada of the Jack Litvack Exemplary Service Award, Dr. Lucien Cayer, Winnipeg, Canada of the Dr. Arnold Naimark Young Investigator Award, Jacqueline Hay, Winnipeg, Canada of the Dr. Henry Friesen Young Scientist Award, Matthew Guberman, Winnipeg, Canada of the Sr. Jacqueline St-Yves Publication Award, Ruzzell Flores, Winnipeg, Canada for the ICS Award for Master's Student, Dr. Kimberley O'Hara, Winnipeg, Canada for the Kalwant



Dr. Kerri-Anne Mullen (L) Receiving the Vincenzo Panagia Distinguished Lecture Award from Dr. Inna Rabinovich-Nikitin.



Dr. Kimberley O'Hara (L) Receiving the Kalwant Dhalla Research Technician Award from Dr. Michael Czubryt.



Dr. Lucien Cayer (L) Receiving the Arnold Naimark Young Scientist Award from Karen Fowler, CEO of the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation.

Dhalla Research Technician Award, Eryn Kirshenbaum, Winnipeg, Canada for the Dr. T. Edward Cuddy Student Award, Lauren Castagna, Winnipeg, Canada for the Dr. James S. McGoey Student Award and Jason Uzonna, Winnipeg, Canada for the ICS Summer Student Award. We



Jacqueline Hay (L) Receiving the Henry Friesen Young Scientist Award from Dr. Paramjit S. Tappia.

are deeply indebted to Dr. Naranjan Dhalla for his leadership in creating the awards day which is a marquee event for the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and the University of Manitoba.



Steve Tiede (L) Receiving the Jack Litvack Exemplary Service Award from Dr. Sanjiv Dhingra on behalf of the Recipient Frank Sarzynski.



Matthew Guberman (L) Receiving the Sr. Jacqueline St-Yves Publication Award from Dr. Ian Dixon.



Ruzzell Flores (L) Receiving the ICS Award for Masters Student from Dr. Amir Ravandi.



Eryn Kirshenbaum (L) Receiving the Dr. T. Edward Cuddy Student Award from Dr. Bram Ramjiawan.



Lauren Castagna (L) Receiving the Dr. James S. McGoey Student Award from Dr. Jeff Wigle.



Leena Regi Saleth (L) Receiving the ICS Summer Student Award from Dr. Todd Duhamel on behalf of the Recipient Jason Uzonna.

Achievements of the Major Award Recipients at the 27th Naranjan Dhalla Cardiovascular Awards are as follows:

Dr. Stefanie Dimmeler received her under-graduate, graduate, and Ph.D. degree from the University of Konstanz in Konstanz (Germany) and then completed a fellowship in Experimental Surgery at the University of Cologne and in Molecular Cardiology at the University of Frankfurt (Germany). She is Professor of Experimental Medicine (since 2001) and Director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Regeneration, Center for Molecular Medicine at the University of Frankfurt since 2008. In the last years, she has been invited as a speaker in more than 300 national and international meetings and seminars and has presented various keynote lectures. She also received several awards, is among the top 2 female Scientists in Germany and received the honorary doctorate of the University of Bern in 2023. She is also spokesperson of the “Cardiopulmonary Institute” (CPI) which is funded by the Excellence Strategy Program of the German Research Foundation and spokesperson of the German Center for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK). She also received three Advanced Investigator Grants by the European Research Community (ERC). Her group elucidates the basic mechanisms underlying cardiovascular disease and vessel growth with the aim to develop new cellular and pharmacological therapies for improving the treatment of cardiovascular disease. Ongoing research focuses on epigenetic mechanisms that control cardiovascular repair, specifically non-coding RNAs.

Dr. E. Douglas Lewandowski is the Director of Translational Research in the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute and a Professor, holding the Jack George Chair in Medicine, in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Ohio State University (OSU) College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, in the Divisions of Endocrinology and Cardiovascular Medicine, with a joint professorship in the Department of Biological Chemistry and Pharmacology. Dr. Lewandowski’s research has generally focused on metabolic flux regulation in the heart and the role of cardiac metabolism in contractile dysfunction in the diseased heart. In doing so, he has pioneered quantification of metabolic flux in the intact function heart via detection of stable isotope kinetics with NMR and mass spectrometry. His primary research activities currently explore mechanisms of adaptive and maladaptive metabolic remodeling in the pathogenesis of heart failure, to elucidate molecular mechanisms of disease as potential therapeutic targets with the design of both gene therapy and pharmacologic treatments to mitigate the pathogenesis of heart failure. After receiving his BA degree from the University of Chicago, and an MS degree from the University of Illinois – Urbana, he obtained a PhD degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas. He has held prior faculty positions at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, and the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, where he was the Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research and served as the interim Chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

Dr. David Kass received his BA from Harvard College in Engineering and Applied Physics and his medical doctorate from Yale University. After Internal Medicine residency at George Washington University, he joined Cardiology at Johns Hopkins in 1983 where he has remained since. He is a world leader in the pathobiology and therapy of heart failure, cardiac physiology, and mechanics, heart failure pathobiology, and cyclic GMP-protein kinase G and phosphodiesterase signaling. David is a polymath, with landmark studies in many different fields spanning basic molecular and cellular biology to human clinical trials. Among his honors are the 2020 Louis and Artur Lucien Award, American Heart Association Basic Science, Distinguished Scientist, and Inaugural Melvin Marcus Awards, the ISHR Peter Harris Distinguished Scholar and Innovator Awards, and two sequential R35 NIH Outstanding Investigator Awards. He has over 540 original papers, garnering >62,000 citations with a Scopus H-index of 130. David has also mentored over 100 students in his own lab, most since pursuing academic careers, many with leadership positions in cardiovascular clinical and/or basic research. David’s research started in applied math and engineering addressing biomechanical and integrative physiology questions, studying ventricular and vascular function and coupling in normal and diseased hearts. He pioneered pressure-volume analysis first in humans and later in mice and played a leading role in the development of cardiac resynchronization therapy. He cofounded Cardioxyl that identified nitroxyl donors as potential heart failure therapeutics. In the late 1990’s he made a major pivot to molecular/cellular mechanisms of heart failure focusing on cGMP/protein kinase G signaling. For the next 20 years, his lab identified many new mechanisms by which PKG ameliorates myocardial disease, identifying novel phosphodiesterase regulators and their use as therapeutics. This has led to discoveries of a new treatment for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and heart failure, with ongoing clinical trials based on his landmark research. His lab now focuses on heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, dissecting novel molecular and functional mechanisms, focusing on metabolic, protein translation, and sarcomere defects, and their interplay with morbid obesity common to the syndrome.

Dr Kerri-Anne Mullen Kerri-Anne is a Scientist and Director of the Canadian Women’s Heart Health Centre at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. She is Assistant Professor in the School of Epidemiology and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa, and current Chair of the Canadian Women’s Heart Health Alliance – a pan-Canadian network of nearly 250 health providers, researchers, trainees, and persons with lived/living experience working together on research,

knowledge mobilization, education, advocacy, and health policy projects aimed at improving cardiovascular health of women across the lifespan. Kerri-Anne's research in women's cardiovascular health, smoking cessation, and cardiovascular disease prevention has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. She recently received a Knowledge Mobilization Excellence Award and an Equity Diversity and Inclusion Award in research, in recognition of her partnership and approaches to research with people with lived experience and underserved populations.

Achievements of Dr. Stanley Nattel, the 2025 Recipient of the ICS Leadership Gold Medal at the 27th Naranjan Dhalla Cardiovascular Awards:

Dr. Stanley Nattel received the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences Gold Medal, which recognizes outstanding achievements and leadership in cardiovascular sciences. Dr. Nattel received his MD from McGill University in 1974, undertook Internal Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology training at McGill from 1974-1978, then obtained clinical and basic research training at Indiana University and University of Pennsylvania (1978-1981) before returning to McGill in 1981. In 1987, he transferred to the University of Montreal and Montreal Heart Institute, where he directed the Research Center between 1990 and 2004.



Dr. Stanley Nattel (2nd R)) Receiving the ICS Gold Medal from Her Honour Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba (2nd L), accompanied by Dr. Mario Pinto (R) and Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum (L).

He is presently Paul-David Chair in Cardiovascular Electrophysiology at the University of Montreal and Director of the Electrophysiology Research Program at the Montreal Heart Institute.

He is Editor in Chief of the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, Associate Editor of Cardiovascular Research, Rhythm Disorders Section Editor in JACC, and is on the editorial board of many other journals including Cardiovascular Research, Circulation Research, Circulation Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology, Drugs, JACC Clinical Electrophysiology, Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology, Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology, and Nature Reviews in Cardiology. His research focuses on clinically-relevant mechanisms of cardiac bioelectricity, particularly atrial fibrillation, proarrhythmia, cardiac remodeling, ion channel molecular physiology and mechanisms of drug action. His lab uses a wide range of molecular, cellular, whole-animal and mathematical modeling methods to study clinically-relevant basic mechanisms and identify novel therapeutic targets. He has supervised over 170 research trainees, published approximately 800 papers in peer-

review journals, has an h index of 163 (among 20 top scientists in Canada), is an Officer of the Order of Canada, recipient of the Prix de Québec (Wilder Penfield Award in Biomedical Research) and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (Academy of Science), the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, the American College of Cardiology and the Heart Rhythm Society.





JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE- 2026

OF
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES (India Section)
&
SOCIETY FOR NITRIC OXIDE AND ALLIED RADICALS

Theme :
**Application and Integration of Advancements
in Basic and Clinical Sciences (AI-ABCs)**

5th – 7th FEBRUARY, 2026

Organized By

Department Of Physiology
Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences & Research

Venue :

Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (HIMSR), New Delhi – 110062

Organising Secretary

Dr. Md. Iqbal Alam

Professor & Head, Department of Physiology,
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JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-2026
of
International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (India Section)
&
Society For Nitric Oxide And Allied Radicals

Theme

**Applications and Integration of Advancements in Basic
and Clinical Sciences (AI-ABCs)**

Organized By

**HAMDARD INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH,
HAMDARD NAGAR, NEW DELHI – 110062**

Orations and Symposia of IACS

Riya and Paul Ganguly Symposium

Suresh K. Gupta Oration

Rakesh Kukreja Oration

C. R. Soman Symposium

Ramesh K. Goyal Oration

Suresh Tyagi Oration

N. Radhakrishnan Symposium

Harpal Buttar Oration

Devendra Agrawal Oration

K K Nair Oration

K.K. Talwar Oration

Awards to Young Investigators

**N. S. Dhalla Awards
in Basic Sciences
&
Genomics Research**

**C.C. Kartha Awards
in
Cardiovascular
Research**

**N. K. Ganguly Awards
in
Clinical Research**

For more information visit our website : <https://bit.ly/A1-ABCS-HIMSR-26>

1st Announcement of the European Section Meeting of the IACS 2026 in Zagreb, Croatia



**12th European Section Meeting
of the International Academy
of Cardiovascular Sciences**

October 25 – 27, 2026

Zagreb, Croatia



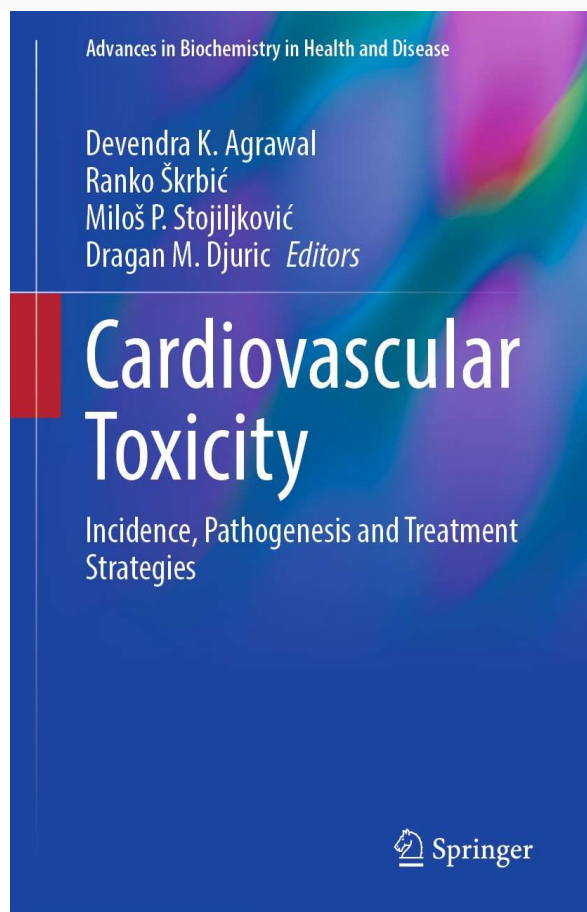
For more information please contact:

Conference Chair:

Dr. Goran Krstacic, MD, PhD, FESC, FEHRA
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Senior Research Advisor, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb
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Tel: +385 1 4612 290
Email: gkrstacic@gmail.com

Book on Cardiovascular Toxicity Published by Springer Nature

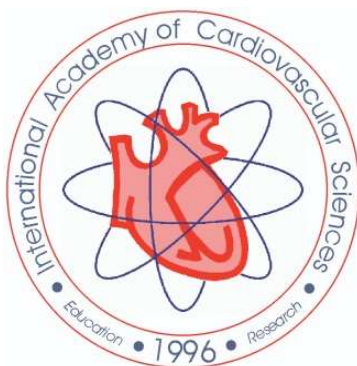
Advances in Biochemistry in Health and Disease focus on the latest developments in biochemical research with implications for health and disease. This book series consists of original edited volumes and monographs, presented by leading experts in the field and provides an up to date and unique source of information for all those interested in the fundamental, biochemical processes of the latest and emerging topics and techniques. Covering a wide variety of topics, this book series is a valuable source of information from those at the lab bench through to the Health Care workers.



The cardiovascular system is vital for human well-being, playing key roles in thermoregulation, nutrient transport, fluid balance, and protection from infection. Cardiovascular diseases are leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Pharmaceuticals, illicit drugs, toxins, and environmental factors can induce cardiovascular toxicity, causing structural changes and impairing blood flow. Co-morbidities like diabetes and obesity, along with epigenetic factors and infections, further enhance cardiovascular toxicity. Understanding these factors and developing better therapeutic approaches is crucial.

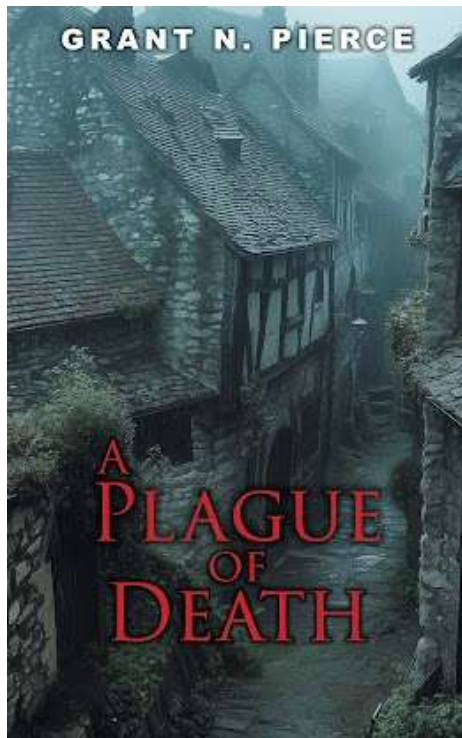
New drugs and vaccines have improved disease treatment, but they can also induce adverse effects by affecting the endothelium, coagulation factors, platelet activation, oxidative stress, inflammation, baroreceptors, autonomic cardiovascular control, and electrophysiology. This issue has been overlooked for a long time but is now gaining attention. Expanding knowledge to the general population and health practitioners, increasing research activities, and developing better preventive and treatment strategies are essential.

Cardiovascular adverse effects can be induced by various drug classes used in cancer treatment, infections, and other disorders. Understanding the mechanisms of cardiovascular toxicity and prevention methods is critical. This book, with 40 chapters contributed by distinguished scientists, explores these issues, highlighting knowledge gaps, future directions, and key points. Understanding the biological complexity and interactions between genetic and environmental factors is crucial for developing better therapeutic approaches. Further information can be obtained from: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-90598-8>



Dr. Grant Pierce Writes His First Fictional Novel Entitled: “A Plague of Death”

Grant N. Pierce is a research scientist who co-discovered a compound that can kill resistant bacteria, including the one responsible for bubonic plague. Grant is a Distinguished Emeritus Professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed scientific papers and edited or written eight books on topics of science, medicine, and health. During his career in science, he has received a number of distinctions including induction as a Member of the Order of Manitoba, a Member of the Order of Canada, and as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Grant lives in Winnipeg with his wife Gail. The Plague of Death is his first work of creative fiction.



Front cover of the book.

The launch of the book was celebrated at an event held at St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre on November 26, 2025 moderated by Greg Mackling, a local radio (CJOB) host with about 80 people in attendance including family members. Dr. Pierce described the conceptualization of his book, the writing style and the time and research undertaken to write his first novel. He later took some questions from the audience. He ended the formal part of the evening with a strong suggestion of a follow up novel. The event continued with book signing and a reception. It should be mentioned that partial proceeds from the sales of the book will be donated to the Burn Fund for Winnipeg Firefighters. (<http://www.burnfundmb.ca/>)

The whispers of the spectators on the street were rapidly evolving into cries of concern. The sky was alight with fire ... Great globs of black ash rained down and clamped onto each tunic, each dress, covering them with black soot. Swiftly, the floating ash began to transform into more threatening chips of burning wood hurtling through the air as the core of the fire expanded. The miniature fire balls struck without reason, igniting canopies overhead. Only then did the whispers turn to screams.

It's 1665, the bubonic plague has descended upon London and will go on to kill one in four Londoners in the most devastating pandemic ever recorded. Amidst the daily horrors, street urchins Caroline and Will make a ghastly discovery that's beyond the pale; a young woman has been murdered and gruesomely mutilated and it soon becomes obvious she won't be the last. The two youngsters are befriended by a kindly constable to uncover the killer but the murders continue. As time goes on and the plague deaths mount, the murders finally seem to cease and it's reasonable to assume the killer has also succumbed to the Black Death. But as the constable and his two young friends are about to learn, the murderer hasn't stopped. And what none of the denizens of London can possibly anticipate...is that yet another unimaginable disaster is awaiting them all. Set amidst two of the most dramatic and terrifying cataclysms in human history, A Plague of Death vividly recreates the desperate circumstances of seventeenth-century London, while following a diverse and engaging cast of characters through an unfolding mystery that leaves the reader guessing to the very end. Further information can be obtained from: <https://books.friesenpress.com/store/title/119734000510798544>



Dr. Grant Pierce (L) and Moderator, Greg Mackling.

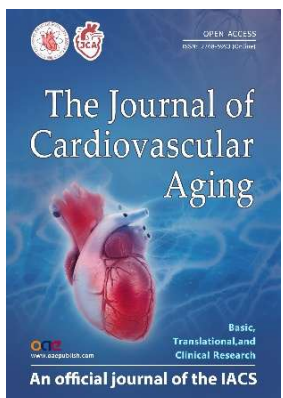
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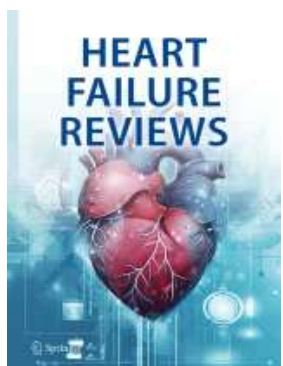
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