



The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

President's page

SCAI Welcomes the Rest of the Cath Lab Team

Janice L. Baker, MSN, FHRS

Chair, SCAI Cardiovascular Professionals Committee, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

James C. Blankenship, MD, MHCM, FSCAI

2015–2016 President of SCAI, Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA

In January of 2015, The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) launched the Cardiovascular Professional (CVP) membership category. Welcoming cath lab nurses, technologists, advanced practitioners, and cath lab administrators to Interventional Cardiology's society recognizes the increasingly important roles that these professionals play in our field. Their expertise and experience will help the Society, cath lab teams, and our patients. We credit SCAI Past Presidents Drs. Ted Bass and Charlie Chambers for their vision in leading this change.

Today's complex healthcare environment requires high-quality, efficient, fiscally responsible cath lab operations and management. By leveraging the diversity and expertise of all members of our specialty, we can meet and exceed the expectations of our patients, our colleagues and our administrative partners. Teamwork is required. The importance of teams in improving quality has recently gained attention [1,2]. The 2012 ACCF/SCAI Expert Consensus Document on Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Standards Update stated, "A cardiac catheterization procedure requires a critical mass of interdisciplinary personnel to allow safe and optimal performance of the procedure" [3]. Including CVPs in SCAI will facilitate this teamwork and support SCAI's mission to support optimal cardiovascular care.

Engaging CVPs will enhance SCAI in several ways. The first was evident at the SCAI 2015 Scientific Sessions,



Janice L. Baker



James C. Blankenship

where the new Cardiovascular Professionals Committee convened for the first time. Attendees representing the diversity of the CVP membership held a robust discussion focused on how CVPs can further the goals of SCAI, and how SCAI can serve CVPs. The CVP Committee plans to appoint subcommittees to address issues of most importance to CVPs, beginning with CVPs' unique continuing education requirements.

A second area of importance to CVPs is advocacy. For example, issues regarding scope of practice for CVPs have recurred over the past 2 decades. SCAI leaders have generally followed a "not our issue" approach, but that is

*Correspondence to: James C Blankenship Md, Department of Cardiology 27-75, 100 N Academy Avenue, Geisinger Medical Center, Danville PA 17821, Phone 570-214-1991, Fax 570-271-8056, jblankenship@geisinger.edu

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likely to change now that CVPs have a voice in SCAI. At press time, SCAI was advocating for CVPs by submitting official comments suggesting changes favorable to CVPs in The Joint Commission's Proposed Requirements for Comprehensive Cardiac Center Certification Program.

CVPs will play several roles in SCAI. A CVP (JLB) serves on the Strategic Planning Work Group, which is expected to produce SCAI's first new strategic plan since 2005. It is likely a CVP will be elected to the SCAI Board of Trustees next year, and CVPs have already joined key SCAI committees to provide their perspectives on other important issues such as quality improvement, publications, and credentialing.

We are encouraged by the enthusiasm demonstrated by charter members of SCAI's CVP Committee and by the large number of CVPs who have already joined the Society. We are further encouraged by the warm reception given to CVPs by physician members of SCAI. In fact, several members of SCAI's Board of Trustees convinced their hospitals to pay membership fees for their entire cath lab teams, and in some cases even paid for membership fees out of their own pockets. We hope that as the benefits of SCAI membership become increasingly apparent, all CVPs will join SCAI.

"Collaboration is the best way to work. It's the only way to work, really. Everyone's there because they have a set of skills to offer across the board," said actor Anthony Starr. His words apply to our specialty and our Society. As the founding chair for the SCAI Cardiovascular Professional Committee, I (JLB) am honored to be working towards a better future for our patients with such a talented group of people. As president of SCAI, I (JCB) am very happy to welcome our friends and colleagues, with whom we share so much in the cath labs, into our Society.

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