



The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

President's Page

SCAI: The Educational Home for Interventional Cardiovascular Medicine Professionals

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In this President's Page, Dr Ehtisham Mahmud, Chair of the SCAI Education Committee, discusses SCAI's educational programs for interventional cardiovascular medicine professionals. Take a few minutes to read this – you may find some unexpected opportunities.

The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), has provided stimulating CME accredited sessions at its annual meeting for years. The SCAI Education Committee directs and oversees SCAI's educational activities, but almost two-thirds of SCAI's more than 30 committees and workgroups contribute to the educational strategy and help implement national and international programs on behalf of the Society (Table 1). Recently, under the direction of leading interventional cardiologists, SCAI's Education Committee has made new strategic initiatives. This has resulted in dramatically increasing programs that provide quality education and training for practicing interventional cardiologists and fellows-in-training (FITs). SCAI has expanded its online programs, created new topic-oriented meetings throughout the year, and established a website for patient education, SecondsCount.org.



James C. Blankenship



Ehtisham Mahmud

PROGRAMS FOR PRACTICING INTERVENTIONALISTS

SCAI educational programs provide in-person and online didactics, with opportunities to enhance procedural skills by simulation training (Table 2). The flagship SCAI Annual Scientific Sessions are held over the course of four days each spring and have grown to more than 2,000 attendees with four dedicated tracks: coronary, peripheral, structural/congenital heart disease and quality. Each parallel track runs over three days with new initiatives introduced annually to each track. In addition, only offered by SCAI,

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TABLE 1. SCAI Committees Engaged in Interventional Cardiovascular Education

SCAI Committee	Education-Related Mission
Advocacy	To educate our members, ourselves, and key stakeholders (legislators and their staffs, government agencies, patients and the general public) about policies and positions that directly and indirectly affect all aspects of interventional cardiology
Cardiovascular Professionals	To provide resources and a forum for all team members of the cath lab team. . . .and to help achieve successful patient outcomes through participation in advocacy, guidelines, and education .
Congenital Heart Disease Council	To further the education , advocacy, and information exchange within the pediatric interventionalist community.
Education	To advise the SCAI Board of Trustees on SCAI's strategic educational direction commensurate with SCAI's overall strategic goals, and to review and develop educational products related to the clinical practice of interventional cardiologists and interventional cardiology fellows in training.
Emerging Leader Mentorship (ELM) Committee	To identify physicians who are 3-8 years out of training and foster development of enduring national leaders in all aspects of interventional cardiology through mentorship, training sessions , committee service and other leadership opportunities.
International Programs and Membership	To develop and foster SCAI's close, productive and respectful partnerships with interventional organizations and working groups worldwide on issues in interventional cardiology of global interest including, but not limited to, professional education ,
Interventional Program Directors and Training Standards	To develop and update relevant training standards and to provide a forum for training directors to share information and communication regarding training programs issues, policies and practices.
MOC Working Group	To advocate for the interests of SCAI members with regard to certification, recertification and maintenance of certification. (<i>Includes role of CME programs in qualifying for MOC</i>)
Peripheral Vascular Disease Program	To ensure proper communication among all Society activities related to peripheral vascular disease, in collaboration with other professional organizations.
Public Relations	To plan the scientific program for the SCAI Annual Scientific Sessions and present these plans to the Board of Trustees, and to maintain documentation for continuing medical education.
Public Relations: SecondsCount.org Editorial Advisory Board	To inform and educate media, the public, and non-interventional healthcare providers about the important role of invasive/interventional cardiology in optimal cardiovascular care and outcomes. To develop SCAI's patient/public education website into the preeminent online resource for cardiovascular patients, their families, and the public.
SCAI.org Editorial Advisory Board	To develop SCAI.org into the preeminent online resource for the Interventional/Invasive Cardiology community
Simulationdeveloping standards for applying medical simulation technology to professional education programs of the highest quality and relevance.
Structural/Congenital Heart Disease Committeeestablish regional training courses sponsored by SCAI focusing on advanced structural heart disease procedures.
Vascular Access Working Group	To develop and promote educational programs that promote best practice for arterial and venous access to improve patient safety and outcomes across the spectrum of endovascular procedures. . .
Women in Intervention	To foster professional development, education , collaboration, and research by and on behalf of women in interventional cardiology and their patients.

the Cath Lab Leadership Bootcamp provides comprehensive training in Cath Lab personnel and financial management, leadership skills and quality metrics in interventional practice.

Topic-based meetings are also designed and planned by SCAI based on the needs assessment of the Society membership. For example, it became clear that radial access training was required for practicing interventionalists, and so the Transradial Interventional Program (TRIP) regional meetings were organized to provide radial training to U.S. operators. The TRIP program has evolved to Vascular Access Safety Courses (VASC) to provide training in safe large bore access for transcatheter aortic valve replacement and percutaneous ventricular assist devices. SCAI is also presenting chronic total occlusion and peripheral vascular intervention training

courses to update practitioners on advances in these fields. A new SCAI Grand Rounds series on novel approaches towards coronary revascularization is also being initiated.

The SCAI.org website contains "Clinical Interest" sections produced by SCAI members and editors focusing on Congenital, Coronary, Peripheral, Structural, and Imaging topics. These include Image Reviews, brief case presentations of interesting images in interventional cardiology, Journal Club, a brief review of an interesting journal publication, and Cath Conference, a more detailed presentation of an interesting case. The SCAI.org Editorial Advisory Board continues to provide high quality content: clinical protocol repositories, skill demonstration video clips, and short Teaching Cases showing images of key teaching points in interventional cardiology.

Finally, SCAI co-providership is available for organizers of independent interventional cardiology meetings held in the U.S. Though SCAI does not develop these programs, objective criteria are applied by the Education Committee to ensure that the meetings meet SCAI's highest quality standards for curriculum depth and faculty strength and diversity.

PROGRAMS FOR FELLOWS

Most importantly, SCAI is dedicated to training the next generation of interventional cardiovascular practitioners and leaders. SCAI has a dedicated in-person Fall Fellows meeting, and an online FIT portal, designed to meet the educational needs of FITs and interventionalists in the first five years of practice (Table 2). The Fall Fellows meeting is held annually halfway through the academic year and attended by the vast majority of interventional fellows in the country. Fellows attend this meeting through support obtained by the Society on their behalf. The meeting provides didactic education, simulation training and critical mentorship opportunities with leaders in the field.

Additionally of great value for fellows is the FIT Portal, a dynamic website offering extensive learning and career preparation resources. The 55 lectures found in the online core curriculum meet the accreditation council for graduate medical education (ACGME) core competency requirements for interventional cardiology board certification. Additional benefits include a secure portable HIPAA-compliant procedure log, online resources for job opportunities, and complimentary access to SCAI co-provided meetings.

EDUCATION FOR CARDIOVASCULAR PROFESSIONALS AND PATIENTS

The newly formed SCAI Cardiovascular Professionals Committee is currently developing modules for the SCAI Quality Improvement Toolkit (designed to educate cardiovascular professionals about cath lab quality). The committee is also developing tools for patient and family education regarding transcatheter aortic valve replacement. SCAI recognizes a responsibility to educate our patients. The SCAI website, SecondsCount.org, has over 750 pages of content and receives over 1 million views annually.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCAI works very closely with interventional societies around the globe, developing interventional cardiology training and educational courses. SCAI has a presence at meetings on five continents. The SCAI

TABLE 2. SCAI Educational Programs

For Practicing Interventionalists
Annual Scientific Sessions
eSCAI.org (online)
Topic Oriented Meetings
Trans-Radial Intervention Program-Vascular Access Safety Course (TRIP-VASC)
Chronic Total Occlusion Programs (CTO)
Peripheral Vascular Intervention Programs (PVI)
Grand Rounds
Regional Meetings (Co-providership)
For Fellows-in-Training
Fall Fellows Course
Fellows-in-Training (FIT) Portal
International Fellows Courses
For Patients
SecondsCount.org

International and Education Committees have introduced SCAI fellow training courses in China, India, Egypt, Vietnam, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Mexico, and Argentina.

SCAI's NEW 2016 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR EDUCATION

Education is a major part of SCAI's new 2016 Strategic Plan. Specifically, the plan calls for SCAI to "*be the leading source of interventional cardiology education and training*" with the following objectives:

- Expand SCAI's national and international education portfolio.
- Establish and enhance opportunities for training in procedural skills.
- Expand and promote patient education.
- Expand SCAI's academic mission by enhancing the research and publications portfolio.
- Educate non-clinician stakeholders in the interventional cardiology space.

SUMMARY

Education is an important part of the mission of two-thirds of SCAI's committees and workgroups, and it is one of the services most valued by SCAI members. SCAI's strategy is constantly evolving to reflect the changing needs of SCAI members. We hope that you take advantage of our programs, and better yet, get involved with developing educational resources for SCAI. Contact SCAI Vice President of Education Anne Marie Smith (amsmith@scai.org) to learn about opportunities and volunteer.