



The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

SCAI President's Page

Service Is the Watchword

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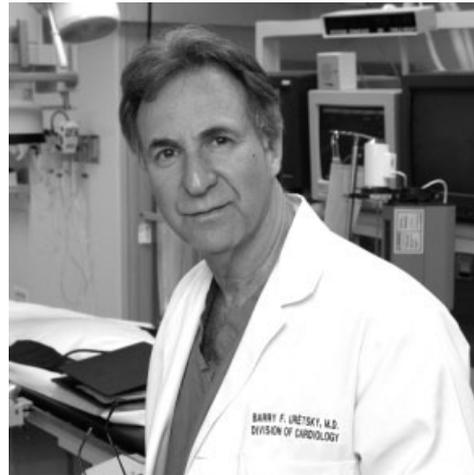
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One of the great aspects of being President is interacting with a large group of our members who voluntarily contribute their time and energies to further the cause of the interventional cardiology community's physicians and its patients. I would like to single out one numerically small but highly important subgroup of those committed individuals. This subgroup is one of the "secret weapons" of the Society. In a sense, they have provided a personal challenge for me—for I am both inspired by their efforts and challenged to live up to their legacy. I am speaking about SCAI's Past Presidents, who (unlike past presidents in many organizations) have remained extremely engaged and committed to our Society.

In this column, I will mention a group of past presidents whom I have personally had the privilege of working with this year (and in years past) and describe a few of their many continuing activities on behalf of the Society. I apologize for those I have not included for lack of space, but all those who have advanced and worked for the Society are collectively thanked.

Bill Sheldon (President during 1982–83). Bill was one of our Society's founding Fellows and continues to be quite active. One of our two Trustees-for-Life and a close friend of SCAI co-founders Mason Sones and Melvin Judkins, Bill frequently acts as our con-

science-in-residence. Although Drs. Sones and Judkins are no longer with us, when we are listening to Bill, we are listening to the core values and principles that those two pioneers stood for. Bill, thank you for your continued wisdom and counsel!

Harry Page (1985–86). Another founding Fellow, Harry continues as the Society's official historian, constantly reminding us of the past while moving us toward the future. Harry is the only individual to have attended ALL of SCAI's Annual Scientific Sessions. He is also active on our Cordis/SCAI Fellows Research Awards panel. In recent years, Harry prepared a detailed chronology of the Society's history since its inception, a "one-of-a-kind" document that we plan to make available to you on www.scai.org. Harry is literally the embodiment of dedication, selflessness, and service to our patients.

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Fig. 1. SCAI Past Presidents Drs. Harry Page, Frank Hildner, Mort Kern, Carl Tommaso, Joe Babb, Ted Feldman, John McB. Hodgson, and Michael Cowley.

Pat Scanlon (1988–89). Sadly, our friend and colleague Pat Scanlon passed away earlier this year. His wise counsel and dedicated service will be deeply missed, but his memory will be with us always. In recent years, Pat worked with us on our Fellows Research Awards programs and contributed to many of the Society's clinical guidelines and other official documents. Pat was a man of integrity. He possessed the highest principles, superb clinical judgment, and rigorous scientific standards, setting the standard for our own work as we move forward.

Frank Hildner (1989–90). Another of our two Trustees-for-Life (and *CCI's* first Editor-in-Chief), Frank continues to be dedicated to the Society's growth, often serving as our "go-to" person whenever a critical job needs to get done. Just a few examples: Frank's serving as SCAI point person for our response to Hurricane Katrina, chairing our Cordis/SCAI Fellows Research Program, providing mentorship of early-career interventionalists (and urging them to join the Society), and constantly being available to provide wise advice to the current leadership and the staff.

Spencer King (1991–92). A little-known fact: Spencer was the President who added the word "Interventions" to the then-"Society for Cardiac Angiography!" One of our profession's true pioneers, Spencer was one of the interventional cardiologists who transformed our field in the 1980s and early 1990s, setting the stage for the interventional armamentarium we frequently take for granted today. In 2001 Spencer helped transform our own Society as well, chairing our Membership Growth and Enhancement (MGE) Task Force to chart the course for future Society growth (Spencer: it worked!).

Airlie Cameron (1992–93). Integrity—a term that can be applied to all of my predecessors—was a particular theme of Airlie's Presidency and post-Presidency. Three years ago, Airlie chaired a blue-ribbon committee of SCAI Past Presidents to develop our position statement on ethics in the profession (http://www.scai.org/drlt1.aspx?PAGE_ID=3803), navigating us through difficult waters to develop a truly groundbreaking document. During a time of increased public scrutiny of professional ethics in general, this document has served our Society very well indeed.

George Vetovec (1993–94). In recent years, George has represented SCAI in multi-society efforts to confront the challenging manpower issues facing our profession. Are there too many cardiologists? Too few? Are they being properly trained? Are they working where they are most needed? Each of these issues is fraught with controversy and uncertainty. George has addressed these issues with objectivity and devotion to rigorous scientific analysis, making it possible for the facts to speak for themselves.

Dave Clark (1994–95). Following his Presidential year, Dave has remained active in physician education, moderating case review sessions at our educational meetings, mentoring newer physicians as they present difficult, complex cases, and serving as the Program Chair at the 1999 Annual Scientific Sessions in his home area of Monterrey, California.

David Holmes (1995–96). Yet another colleague who is committed to education, David has been involved in many Society efforts to ensure that current and future interventionalists are properly trained. In the past few years, he has been particularly committed to applying new technologies (e.g., medical simulation) to our very procedures-driven craft. David has been an invaluable bridge between SCAI and ACC, working to ensure that our organizations work together toward the best interests of our mutual memberships and patients.

Warren Laskey (1996–97). Warren has continued to organize an outstanding Judkins Symposium during the Annual Scientific Sessions. A superb educator and clinician—and someone who is passionately dedicated to the Society—Warren's continued involvement has been invaluable to every President who has succeeded him. As Bylaws Committee Chair, Warren has shown the willingness to take on one of the Society's most difficult assignments, navigating us through challenging waters time and again.

David Faxon (1997–98). David was President when the last "vision" statement was developed by the Society leadership, an important document that presented our strategic goals for the next several years. David subsequently became President of the AHA in 2001 and has remained our colleague in issues central to the interventional community. His efforts to maintain open

lines of communication between SCAI and AHA continue to be very valuable.

Mort Kern (1998–99) personally drew me into the Society and encouraged my service. Mort has worked tirelessly in the area of publications and is currently Editor of our Newsletter. Mort also devotes great effort to mentoring early-career interventionalists in the Society, urging them to join, teaching them about how to get published, and setting the bar high by virtue of his personal example.

Jeff Popma (1999–2000). “No cash, no mission.” Jeff continues to take on what may be our Society’s most thankless task, that of Budget Committee Chair. While all of us are excited about the Society’s growth and future opportunities, Jeff makes sure that we are fiscally solvent. While the person in that hot seat regrettably has to say “no” as often as “yes,” Jeff has done so with fairness and constructive feedback. Thanks to Jeff’s critically important efforts, the Society has remained financially strong and fiscally prudent, enabling the Society to move forward in many key areas. I would also be remiss if I did not compliment Jeff on his tireless efforts in our educational offerings. He has been, and continues to be, one of the “go-to” people for superb presentations at our annual meetings.

Carl Tommaso (2000–01) had one of the most personally challenging Presidential years: during his term, the Society recruited a new *CCI* Journal editor, ended our relationship with our management firm, and hired a new executive director, found new headquarters, and helped move our new organization there. He did all this while moving his own practice from academia to a busy, high-volume private practice. Nevertheless, Carl was instrumental during his Presidency in developing an advocacy arm (a move that has been incredibly fruitful) and currently serves as co-chair of the Advocacy Committee. Carl has also stressed the importance of fiscal development and continues to serve the Society as our Treasurer.

Joe Babb (2001–02) expanded the scope of the Society during his Presidency and continues to work on a multitude of important functions. He has stressed the global nature of our mission and serves as Chair of the International Committee. He also has been an extremely active Chair of the Advocacy Committee and was Chair of the Training Standards Committee during the development of the separate subspecialty of interventional cardiology. Another little-known fact: back in the early 1990s, Joe led the Society’s exhaustive efforts to become an ACCME-certified body, thus

enabling us to provide CME credit. Joe is also one of those truly rare individuals who understands the astonishingly complex arcana of CME regulations (and the Medicare fee schedules!).

Ted Feldman (2002–03) also served as President during a period of growth and expansion of the Society’s mission, fulfilling two of his particular passions: excellence in clinical care and education. Ted has represented the Society on several guidelines committees, most recently the SCAI/AHA/ACC PCI Guidelines update, a document that will influence virtually everything we do as interventional cardiologists. During his tenure as Continuing Medical Education Chair, he expanded the Society’s involvement in and development of specific educational offerings from the Society. Ted’s latest service is as Chair of the 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held on May 10–14 in Chicago. Whenever an important function needs to be dealt with, Ted is one of our leaders whom we know will be there!

John Hodgson (2003–04) moved the Society forward on many fronts during his busy Presidential year. DES became a reality during that year, and he led a task force on the subject that continues to influence both the practice and the business of this area to the present. He also recognized early on the growing importance of CT imaging in diagnostic coronary angiography and has developed an outstanding course to educate all of us in this important modality. He also designed our new Society seal, which pays homage to the past while presenting a contemporary image for the future.

Our most recent Past President, **Mike Cowley** (2004–05), ratcheted up the bar still another notch. On his watch, our educational, advocacy, and clinical guidelines efforts expanded even more. In recent months, Mike has focused on charting the Society’s course in the emerging area of carotid artery stenting, and is course director with Chris Cates of a didactic CAS course, part of a highly successful three-part educational process to introduce this technique to the medical community.

All of these Past Presidents have demonstrated that service doesn’t end with the presidency. In fact, most of our past presidents continue to contribute in ways both substantive and advisory as much or more as during their year in office. They have a set a high bar for me personally, but have also given me a source of admiration from their selflessness. I thank them collectively for their service, and look forward to working with them for many years to come!