



## The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

### SCAI President's Page

## There's Room at the Table for YOU

**Barry F. Uretsky MD, FSCAI**  
Director  
Division of Cardiology  
John Sealy Distinguished Centennial Chair  
The University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas  
President  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions



Probably the most frequently asked question of me by SCAI members is “How can I serve the Society?” The frequency of the question itself demonstrates the tremendous reservoir of expertise and desire in the Society to serve the common good. My usual response is that one way that will serve the Society well is to become involved in a Society committee. The committee you choose should be the one that best suits your particular interest.

One of the most unique characteristics of SCAI is its open committee structure. The Society welcomes all members in good standing into virtually all of its many Committees. Why? Because the Committees are the heart of the Society's productivity, making it important to have as many participants at the table as possible. As has been said, “many hands make light work” or, in SCAI's case, many members make for a fast-growing, relevant, and productive professional medical society.

The Committees are also the “germination centers” for Society leadership. Virtually all current and past officers were involved and ultimately chaired one or more committees. Through this involvement, members

become truly vested in the welfare of the Society and, more importantly, in the Society as a legitimate vehicle to advance the field of interventional cardiology with all its ramifications.

Most SCAI Committees meet in person approximately three times each year at major medical meetings such as the Society's own Annual Scientific Session as well as at the TCT and ACC conferences. The schedule for these meetings is posted on [www.scai.org](http://www.scai.org) and the doors are always open to new members. In between gatherings, the Committees conduct business via conference calls, list-serves, email, and occasional small-group meetings.

Correspondence to: Barry F. Uretsky, MD, FSCAI, Director, Division of Cardiology, John Sealy Distinguished Centennial Chair, University of Texas Medical Branch, 301 University Blvd., Galveston, TX 77555-0553. E-mail: [president@scai.org](mailto:president@scai.org)

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The Society's inclusive, highly participatory governance structure is one aspect of SCAI of which I am most proud. I believe the Society's "open door" policy on welcoming new members into committees—rather than by appointment only, as in so many medical societies—is in part responsible for the phenomenal growth SCAI has experienced in recent years. Because SCAI welcomes members to almost all the committee tables, members can be truly active in matters that matter to them. Each member decides individually how involved he or she wants to be, and in which capacities.

This is part of a broader goal, one at the core of your Society's philosophy: SCAI is a PHYSICIAN-DRIVEN organization, and always will be. We are a society of doctors, working together to provide the best possible care for our patients. As members, we determine the overall policies and direction of our Society, and are assisted by very capable staff to carry out those policies.

### Benefits of Committee Participation

I think it's clear why it behooves SCAI to always keep extra seats at the committee tables, but maybe you are asking how it helps you, a busy interventionalist with plenty on your plate, to get involved in an SCAI Committee (or Committees!). It's a fair question. We do, after all, ask that, once you've found the committee that you like, you attend at least one of the in-person meetings per year. Here's why, from my perspective, as the Society's President and a member who initially began participating in SCAI through committee activity.

First, participating in SCAI committees provides enormous professional satisfaction. At committee meetings, you interact with a group of truly outstanding individuals who you might otherwise never have met. They ultimately become your friends, colleagues you can call to discuss a tough case, or confidants to discuss the next steps you'll take in your career. There is a wonderful camaraderie among SCAI committee members, and it extends far beyond the halls of the convention center or hotel where Committees often meet.

Second, getting involved in SCAI can be a good career move. You'll meet, and get to know, the thought leaders in invasive and interventional cardiology. And, wearing my International Committee co-chair hat, I should point out that those leaders are global in scope. Some of our views on the best medical care or medical approach on a particular subject are clearly broadened by this type of interaction. What better way to meet a new collaborator for a study

you're conducting or to connect with a more established cardiologist who could become a mentor or just someone to bounce ideas off of?

Third, by participating in SCAI Committees, you may find yourself becoming, increasingly interested in helping to govern your Society in a leadership role. I can say with certainty that every SCAI President in the past decade (if not longer) started out as an active, interested Committee member.

And, finally, the most important practical reason to be involved is that through SCAI Committees, you can play a role in shaping the future of your profession. You personally can help to get the voice of invasive/interventional cardiology heard, loud and clear, where it is most needed for the betterment of our patients.

### How You Can Participate

What is involved in participating in an SCAI Committee? As I mentioned above, everyone decides for himself or herself how to participate. You might be interested in specific advocacy issues, such as fair Medicare reimbursement or availability and reimbursement to all physicians who are trained and competent in imaging modalities such as CT and MRI. If so, SCAI's Advocacy and Government Relations Committee might be the one for you. Once you know the issues well, you might volunteer to talk to elected officials and their staff, or you might review and comment on new policies under consideration by CMS or the FDA.

Perhaps your interest is education. There's plenty to do! SCAI's Education Committee and Training Standards Committee are eager for new members to help plan educational programs, identify speakers for the Society's growing list of excellent programs, update existing training guidelines, or develop new ones such as our recent Clinical Competence Statement on Carotid Stenting [1]. Or you might help craft a guideline or statement for the Society; these documents are crucial to the autonomy of our profession, as they demonstrate that we interventionalists are responsibly monitoring our own practice (before, I should add, external parties step in to do it for us).

If you are interested in patient/consumer education, you might join the Society's Public Relations Committee. You can volunteer as a spokesperson in your community (when SCAI is contacted by journalists with questions about cardiovascular care) or work with our staff to develop communications for our patients or the media. Or you might be interested in serving as a mentor to early-career interventionalists through our new Interventional Career Development Committee.

Committee name	Committee mission	Chair(s)	Staff liaison	Representative activities
Advocacy and Government Relations Committee	Ensure that Society members have a strong, independent voice advocating on their behalf at all levels of government, the managed care industry, and other third-party payers.	Joseph D. Babb, M.D. (Chair) Carl Tommaso, M.D. (Co-chair)	Wayne Powell <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Advocate for correcting the Medicare fee schedule, protecting physician access to new imaging technologies, informing policymakers at all levels.
Board of Governors	Assist Credentials Committee in identifying and sponsoring potential members; evaluate applicants; provide regional coordination of Society activities; assist the Advocacy Committee.	Christopher U. Cates, M.D. (Chair) Ziyad Hijazi, M.D. (Co-chair) J. J. Adolfo Cosentino, M.D. (Governor for Latin America)	Wayne Powell <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Develop state chapters; increase membership in Latin America and elsewhere.
Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee	Monitor the financial affairs of the Society; prepare a yearly budget; to recommend the budget and provide opinions concerning budgetary requests to the Board.	Jeffrey J. Popma, M.D.	Norm Linsky <i>nlinsky@scai.org</i> 301-581-3432	Prepare committee-level budgets, evaluate budget requests, review annual audit, monitor investments.
Bylaws Committee	Maintain, prepare, and administer in an orderly manner the functions of the Society as delineated by its Bylaws; review proposed bylaws amendments.	Warren K. Laskey, M.D.	Rick Henegar <i>rhenegar@scai.org</i> 301-493-2308	Resolve Bylaws-related questions; review Bylaws for potential amendments as warranted.
Cardiovascular Laboratory Technologists Standards Committee	Promote excellence among technologists and nurses who work in cardiovascular laboratories.	Douglass A. Morrison, M.D.	Wayne Powell <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Partner with Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals on standards and guidelines.
Carotid Artery Stenting Initiatives Committee (Ad Hoc)	Facilitate Society-wide coordination and communication in CAS.	Michael J. Cowley, M.D. (Co-chair) Christopher U. Cates, M.D. (Co-chair)	Norm Linsky <i>nlinsky@scai.org</i> 301-581-3432	Participate in planning educational, advocacy, and guidelines efforts.
Catheterization Laboratory Standards Committee	Develop standards and qualifications for cardiovascular catheterization and angiography laboratories.	Charles E. Chambers, M.D. (Chair) Peter Block, M.D. (Co-chair)	Wayne Powell <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Published new infection-control guidelines; testified before the FDA on radiation safety protocols; promote image quality measurement.
Congenital Heart Disease Committee	To further interest/ education in congenital interventional cardiology.	Julie A. Vincent, M.D.	Rick Henegar <i>rhenegar@scai.org</i> 301-493-2308	Develop professional education programs, advocate for streamlined device approval process.
Cordis Fellowship Research Awards Committee (Ad Hoc)*	Provide fellowship research awards in interventional cardiology.	Frank Hildner, M.D.	Bea Reyes <i>breyes@scai.org</i> 301-493-2378	Review research applications, determine awardees, monitor research progress.

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Committee name	Committee mission	Chair(s)	Staff liaison	Representative activities
Credentials Committee*	Review membership applications; and recommend candidates to the Board of Trustees for election to membership.	William K. LaFoe, M.D.	Sarah Jones <i>sjones@scai.org</i> 301-581-3474	Prepare credentials manual; review applications; developed online application to streamline process.
CT Initiative Committee (Ad Hoc)	Facilitate Society-wide coordination and communication in CT.	John McB. Hodgson, M.D.	Wayne Powell <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Participate in planning educational, advocacy, and guidelines efforts.
Development Committee	Coordinate Society efforts to generate unrestricted sponsorship for Society educational programs.	Bonnie Weiner, M.D., MBA, MSEC	Norm Linsky <i>nlinsky@scai.org</i> 301-581-3432	Ensure compliance with all applicable guidelines.
Education Committee	Seek and maintain CME accreditation; review proposed educational programs; advise the Board on all matters concerning CME; oversight of the Society's educational efforts.	Larry S. Dean, M.D. (Chair) Joseph D. Babb, M.D. (Co-chair) David A. Cox, M.D. (Co-chair)	Norm Linsky <i>nlinsky@scai.org</i> 301-581-3432	Survey members' educational needs; oversee CME in areas such as carotid stenting and CT; partner with other organizations offering high-quality education.
e-SCAI Committee	Apply Internet and other electronic technologies to streamline SCAI programs, facilitate administration, and develop online educational programs.	Bonnie Weiner, M.D., MBA, MSEC (Chair) Larry S. Dean, M.D. (Co-chair) Robert Bersin, M.D. (Co-chair)	Andrea Frazier <i>afrazier@scai.org</i> 301-493-2334	Redesigned SCAI website; designing online carotid education programs; maintain online slide library and resources for fellows.
GE Healthcare Fellowship Awards Committee (Ad Hoc)*	Provide fellowship research awards in invasive and interventional cardiology, focused on cardiovascular imaging.	Neal S. Kleiman, M.D. (Co-chair) Steven R. Bailey, M.D. (Co-chair)	Bea Reyes <i>breyes@scai.org</i> 301-493-2378	Review research applications, determine awardees, monitor research progress.
International Programs and Membership (Ad Hoc)	Facilitate partnerships with counterpart societies, involving education, communication, guidelines and other areas.	Joseph D. Babb, M.D. (Chair) Barry F. Uretsky, M.D. (Co-chair)	Norm Linsky <i>nlinsky@scai.org</i> 301-581-3432	Co-sponsor symposia outside the U.S.; facilitate international publication of scientific publications.
Interventional Career Development Committee (Ad Hoc)	Provide the tools, mechanisms, and infrastructure to identify, promote, and develop future leaders in interventional cardiology.	Michael J. Lim, M.D. (Co-chair) John J. Young, M.D. (Co-chair)	Andrea Frazier <i>afrazier@scai.org</i> 301-493-2334	Developing a mentoring program; representation on numerous other SCAI committees and writing groups; participate in educational program planning.
Interventional Committee	Critically review trends in interventional cardiology and prepare guidelines of importance to the interventional community.	Lloyd W. Klein, M.D.	Andrea Frazier/Wayne Powell <i>afrazier@scai.org</i> 301-493-2334 <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Produced guidelines and other documents on DES, no-reflow, numerous other topics; produce PDA-based guidelines; working group on occupational health issues.

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Committee name	Committee mission	Chair(s)	Staff liaison	Representative activities
Laboratory Survey Committee*	Serve as a resource providing comprehensive independent review services for cardiovascular catheterization laboratories regarding laboratory function, facilities, equipment, personnel, policies, procedures, and quality assurance.	Al Raizner, M.D., (Chair) Bonnie Weiner, M.D., MBA, MSEC, (Co-chair)	Bea Reyes <i>breyes@scai.org</i> 301-493-2378	Regularly conduct independent reviews of labs committed to maintaining the highest possible quality of care.
Nominating Committee*	Propose nominees for consideration to become Trustees and Officers of the Society.	John McB. Hodgson, M.D. (Chair) Michael J. Cowley, M.D. (Co-chair)	Norm Linsky <i>nlinsky@scai.org</i> 301-581-3432	All SCAI members are welcome to submit nominations to the Committee.
Peripheral Vascular Disease Committee (Ad Hoc)	Facilitate Society-wide coordination and communication in PVD.	Kenneth Rosenfield, M.D.	Wayne Powell <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Develop and review clinical guidelines relevant to PVD; work with Advocacy and Education Committees on areas of mutual interest.
Program Committee for 2006 Annual Scientific Sessions	Plan the scientific program for the Annual Scientific Sessions and maintain documentation for CME compliance.	Ted Feldman, M.D. (Chair) David Kandzari, M.D. (Co-chair)	Rick Henegar <i>rhengar@scai.org</i> 301-493-2308	Currently planning another "Best of the Best" meeting for May 10–13, 2006.
Publications Committee	Oversee current communication vehicles and explore new ones.	Morton J. Kern, M.D.	Andrea Frazier <i>afrazier@scai.org</i> 301-493-2334	Prepare newsletter and "Society News" columns; help design web/email communications.
Public Relations Committee	Advance the activities, missions, and goals of the Society by maximizing media interaction and exposure.	J. Jeffrey Marshall, M.D. (Co-chair) Steven R. Bailey, M.D. (Co-chair)	Andrea Frazier <i>afrazier@scai.org</i> 301-493-2334	Garnering extensive media coverage of SCAI activities, position statements, and efforts related to patient safety and the advancement of the science of cardiovascular medicine.
Training Directors Committee (Ad Hoc)	To provide the means for training directors to share information and communicate with one voice regarding critical training issues.	Joseph D. Babb, M.D.	Bea Reyes <i>breyes@scai.org</i> 301-493-2378	Regular communication with ACGME and other policymaking organizations.
Training Program Standards Committee (including Ad Hoc Interventional Cardiology Training Program Directors Committee)	Review and preparation of training standards and guidelines relevant to fellowship programs.	Mark Reisman, M.D. (Chair) Joseph D. Babb, M.D. (Co-chair)	Wayne Powell <i>wpowell@scai.org</i> 301-493-2341	Participate in preparing multispecialty society guidelines; review existing guidelines for updates as needed.

\*By invitation

I could go on and on with examples, but the important point is that there are many ways to get involved. I urge you to review the following table which provides information about SCAI's Committees. I'm sure you will find something of interest to you and, if you have an idea not listed here, please let me know (email me at [president@scai.org](mailto:president@scai.org)). You might be the source for SCAI's next big undertaking.

As you can see, the breadth and scope of options for active participation in SCAI are enormous. Which Committee sparked your interest? Please pick one right now and get involved. Pick up the phone or send an email. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at a committee meeting soon.

I want to close by stating that there is one other reason to volunteer on behalf of the Society. It is a more

personal reason. I am glad that Bill Parmley, a man of great substance and accomplishment, stated it so well in a recent article [2]: "There is a principle of power related to service that transforms us forever. We will never be the same again after we have experienced the joy of serving others..."

I welcome your thoughts on service to the Society: please contact me at [president@scai.org](mailto:president@scai.org).

## REFERENCES

1. SCAI/SVMB/SVS Writing Committee. Clinical competence statement on carotid stenting. *Cath Cardiovasc Intervent* 2005;64:1-11.
2. Parmley WW. The power of volunteerism. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2004;43:1101-1102.