



The Society for Cardiac Angiography & Interventions

President's Page



President's Farewell Message

As my last President's Page, I would like to chronicle the year's achievements of the Society and say thank you for those who have helped make this year a success.

The major undertaking of the year was the restructuring of the Society's administration functions. The Society headquarters were moved from Raleigh to Bethesda, and we entered into an arrangement with the American College of Cardiology for space in Heart House. This arrangement has allowed us to hire our own devoted full-time staff, utilize the resources of the ACC, and partner with them on many issues and projects while remaining autonomous.

Last spring, we picked Norm Linsky to be our Executive Director. Norm has been a tireless champion for the Society and has brought the necessary stability for us to grow. He has brought on-board Bea Reyes and Rick Heneger to round out the full-time staff. Through their efforts, the Society administration has become first class.

SCA&I and Wiley-Liss accepted the retirement of Dr. Frank Hildner as the editor of *Catheterization and Cardiac Intervention*. In conjunction with the publisher, we named Chris White as the new editor of our journal. Chris is a forward-looking, creative interventionalist and has had the same approach to being the editor of the journal. As you may or may not have noticed, the transition has been seamless.

Last year, I proposed the Society become more active in lobbying. To date, our lobbying effort has not become complete fulfilled, though we are on track to do so. The Board of Trustees made a commitment to developing a government relationship effort. This is necessary because too frequently the Society is being asked to take a stand

on national or state issues that affect the practice of invasive and interventional cardiology. To be more responsive to our members and to respond to issues proactively and professionally, we are in the process of retaining a part-time Washington-based lobbyist who can sense legislative trends and have the SCA&I develop the ability to shape policy, rather than react after the fact.

From the educational point of view, the SCA&I remains a leader in the field of educational contribution to invasive and interventional cardiology. In conjunction with the American College of Cardiology, we have been included in the endorsement of several papers including training of cardiologists, intravascular ultrasound, unstable angina, percutaneous coronary intervention, and co-authored a paper on cath lab standards with the American College of Cardiology. We have continued to be a co-sponsor with the ACC of the ACCIS meeting, a co-sponsor for the South American SOLACI meeting, and a co-sponsor of the American Heart Association Bench to Bedside session. The American College of Cardiologists/Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions Board Review course continues to be very successful. We have also endorsed many local meetings and will continue to do so. We have made substantial contributions to the soon to be released CathSAP II and continue to work with the TCT meeting as well. The Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention Annual Session continues to broaden into one of the nation's premier educational opportunities for invasive and interventional cardiologists.

The SCA&I laboratory performance standards committee, in conjunction with Clarté, have developed a

standardized image testing phantom that will soon be available as a testing source for the monitoring of the performance of cath lab equipment. This was one of the original goals of the founders of the Society and it is fantastic that we are able to resurrect this service.

This spring, prompted the emergence of Brachytherapy, the Society was invited by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) to officially send a representative to the ACMUI meeting so that the interventional community could have an input. This was a large first step in gaining recognition by the NRC. We have also met with the American Society of Radiation Oncologists and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine in order to begin dialogue on our mutual interests in the performance of intravascular radiation procedures.

Similarly, we have begun a dialogue with the Food and Drug Administration and JCAHO on the topic of radiation trauma, which is a larger problem than has been realized. We hope to be able to have an on-line review of radiation physics and safety on our website. We are also exploring the feasibility of placing a slide set on the website to be used as core lectures by the membership.

The SCA&I, the ACC and Society for Vascular Surgeons are participating in a unique training grant (FAME) to instruct interventional cardiologists and vascular surgeons in renal and iliac intervention. This is an exciting project, which may become the prototype for development of new forms of interventional training.

In conclusion, I want to say thank you to several people who have helped to make this year smooth. I want

to thank the members of the Board of Trustees, the committee chairs and committee members who took an active part in the Society. Many of you travel coast to coast just to attend the committee meetings. I want to thank the membership for electing me president and entrusting the SCA&I to me and to the membership who responded whenever called upon. I do need to thank some people specifically. I want to thank Jeff Popma, who deserves a lot of recognition for his insight into our management struggles in developing the concept of our move to Bethesda and our continued budgetary process. I would also like to thank Chris McEntee and Kris Bieg the American College of Cardiology, who have welcomed us into Heart House and made our transition easy. The greatest thanks of all goes to Norm, Bea, and Rick, who have learned the Society quickly, ask the appropriate questions (not all of which do we have the answers to) and developed a very proactive and effective leadership. I want to finish by saying that in the corporate world, leaders are characterized as being either builders or sustainers. In the ever-changing world of medicine, there are only builders. I hope my year has been a stepping-stone for Joe Babb and Ted Feldman, and those who follow, to continue building the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Carl L. Tommaso,
North Shore Cardiologists,
Skokie, IL