



# American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin

November 2026 • Debasish Roychoudhury, M.D., Editor

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Navin C. Nanda, MD, DSc(Hon)

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Rakesh K. Sharma, MD

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Jagadeesh Kalavakunta, MD

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Rakesh Gupta, MD

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Vinod M. Vijan, MD

## Contact Information

Rakesh K. Sharma, MD, President

E-mail: [rk1965@gmail.com](mailto:rk1965@gmail.com)

## AACIO Information

E-mail: [aacio123@gmail.com](mailto:aacio123@gmail.com)

Website: [aacio.org](http://aacio.org)

## American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin (AACIO) International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound (ISCU)

In association with

Indian American Medical Association of Illinois (IAMA-IL)

TO PRESENT

## INDIAN PHYSICIANS/CARDIOLOGISTS SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Sunday, November 8, 2026

5:00 p.m. – 10:00 pm

Venue West

221 N. Paulina St.

(located at Paulina and Walnut St.)

Chicago, IL 60612

Phone: 312-284-8106

**Venue West** is about 8 miles from the McCormick Center, 20 minute drive.

**Parking is Free**; large lot for about 160 cars.

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

5:00 – 6:00 pm Registration, Snacks/Refreshments

Symposium Directors: Drs. Rakesh K. Sharma, Harvinder Dod, Vishal Gupta, Jagadeesh Kalavakunta, Santosh K.G. Koshy, Gopal Lalimalani, Meher Medavaram, Kalgi Modi, Navin C. Nanda, Hanumanth Reddy, Debasish Roychoudhury, Samir Shah

6:00 – 6:45 pm **AstraZeneca** AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP,  
Presentation: New Data on ATTR-CM for Health Care  
Providers From CARDIO-TTTransform. John Venditto, MD,  
MBA, FACC

6:45 – 7:00 pm Questions from the audience

7:00 – 7:15 pm Latest on Lipids in Asian Indians. Raman Puri, MD, DM

## GENERAL MEETING

7:15 – 7:45 pm Young Investigator Awards, Honorees, Announcements

7:45 -10:00 pm Dinner Indian Cuisine and Diwali Celebration. Boxed sweets  
will be given to participants

**Reservations (no cost):** E-mail: [aacio123@gmail.com](mailto:aacio123@gmail.com)

## SYMPOSIUM DIRECTORS AND FACULTY

**Harvinder Dod, MD**, Adjunct Professor, University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas and Director of South Arkansas Cardiology, El Dorado, Arkansas

**Vishal Gupta, MD, MPH, FACC, FSCAI**, Clinical Professor of Medicine, WMU Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, Chief of Medicine, Ascension Borgess Medical Center, Co-Chair, Borgess Heart Institute, Medical Director, Beacon Kalamazoo Hospital Cardiovascular Lab and Medical Director, Structural Heart Disease, Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Jagadeesh Kalavakunta, MD, FACC, FSCAI**, Clinical Associate Professor, Michigan State University and Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and Interventional Cardiologist, Beacon Kalamazoo Hospital, Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Santosh K.G. Koshy, MD, DM, MA, MBA, FRCP(London), FACC, FSCAI, FSSCI**, Chairman and Professor, Department of Medicine, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine, Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Gopal Lalimalani, MD, MBA, FACC**, Director of Cardiology, Loretto Hospital, Chicago, Illinois; Attending Cardiologist, Holy Cross Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. Three-term Mayor of Oak Brook, Illinois

**Meher Medavaram, MD**, President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and also President of the Indian American Medical Association of Illinois (IAMA)

**Kalgi Modi, MD**, Professor of Medicine, Program Director, Acting Chief, Louisiana State University Health, Shreveport, Louisiana

**Navin C. Nanda, MD, DSc (Hon), FACC**, Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama. President, International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound

**Raman Puri MD, DM (Cardiology)**, Interventional Cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, India. Founder Chairman, Lipid Association of India

**Hanumanth Reddy, MD**, Clinical Professor of Medicine, St. Louis University Medical School, St. Louis, Missouri, and Medical Director, Poplar Bluff Regional Hospital, Poplar Bluff, Missouri

**Debasish Roychoudhury, MD**, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine and Attending Cardiologist. NYP Queens, New York

**Samir K. Shah, MD, FACC**, Cardiologist, BJC Medical Group, Washington University Medical School, Belleville, Illinois. Board of Directors, IAMA-Charity Foundation

**Rakesh K. Sharma, MD, FACC, FSCAI**, Interventional Cardiologist, BayCare Medical Group, Clearwater, Florida; Adjunct Clinical Professor of Medicine and Cardiology

**John Venditto, MD, MBA, FACC**, Sr. Medical Director, US Medical – CVRM Amyloidosis Biopharmaceuticals Business Unit, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, Wilmington, Delaware





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International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound (ISCU)  
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SCIENTIFIC MEETING**



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November 8, 2026**  
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**Venue West**  
221 N. Paulina St.  
(located at Paulina and Walnut St.)  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Phone: 312-284-8106



Venue West is about 5 miles from McCormick Place  
(site of AHA Scientific Sessions 2026), about a 20-minute drive.



**Parking is free**  
large lot for about 160 cars.

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM**

• 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. •

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Registration, Snacks/Refreshments



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Santosh K.G. Koshy, Gopal Lalimalani, Meher Medavaram, Kalgi Modi, Navin C. Nanda,  
Hanumanth Reddy, Debasish Roychoudhury, Samir Shah

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New Data on ATTR-CM for Health Care Providers From  
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Questions from the audience

7:00 – 7:15 p.m.



Latest on Lipids in Asian Indians. Raman Puri, MD, DM

**GENERAL MEETING**

7:15 – 7:45 p.m.



Young Investigator Awards, Honorees, Announcements

7:45 – 10:00 p.m.



See Diwali program below. Box sweets will be given to participants

*You are cordially invited to the*



Indian American  
Medical Association  
of Illinois



American Association  
of Cardiologists of  
Indian Origin

*to a grand*

**Diwali  
CELEBRATION**

Celebrate Diwali with your family  
and enjoy special Diwali Puja, Dinner,  
followed by Garba and Entertainment.



Sunday,  
November 8, 2026



Venue West,  
221 N. Paulina St.



Free Parking



Puja



Dinner



Sweets



Garba



Entertainment



Reservations (no cost) E-mail: [aacio123@gmail.com](mailto:aacio123@gmail.com)

**7:45 – 10:00 pm  
Dinner Indian Cuisine  
and Diwali Celebration**

## President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

It is a privilege to serve as your President, and I remain deeply grateful for your trust and continued support. Since 1986, the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin (AACIO) has proudly represented cardiologists of Indian heritage across the United States, fostering academic excellence, mentorship, and collaboration within the global cardiovascular community.

As we gather for the AHA Scientific Sessions this year, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable progress AACIO has made over the past three years. Our membership has grown steadily, our academic programming has expanded, and our visibility within the broader cardiovascular community has never been stronger. Chief among our achievements is the establishment of the Navin C. Nanda International Service Award by the American College of Cardiology — a lasting testament to our collective efforts, now featured prominently across ACC publications, Distinguished Award promotions, the Convocation website, Annual Reports, and the Hall of Recognition screens at Heart House.

Our Young Investigator Award program has recognized 97 exceptional early-career researchers to date, a number that continues to grow each year and reflects the depth of talent within our community. Together, these milestones speak to years of sustained growth, deepening partnerships, and increasing recognition for cardiologists of Indian origin across the country and around the world.

This year's AACIO program at the AHA Scientific Sessions will be held on November 8, 2026, at: Venue West, 221 N. Paulina St. (located at Paulina and Walnut St.), Chicago, IL 60612

We look forward to another outstanding program featuring expert speakers, original research presentations by our talented young investigators, and the opportunity to honor distinguished leaders in cardiovascular medicine. As always, this gathering represents the very best of AACIO — scientific excellence, mentorship, and the warmth of a community that continues to grow stronger every year.

None of this progress would be possible without you, our members. As we look to the future, I am asking each of you to join me in our membership drive. Whether you are a longstanding member or considering AACIO for the first time, your involvement directly strengthens our mission, our advocacy, and our ability to support the next generation of cardiovascular physicians. Our deeply discounted life membership, available for just \$50, remains one of the most meaningful ways to invest in our shared future. I encourage you to personally invite a colleague, a trainee, or a friend to join our vibrant and growing community at [www.aacio.org](http://www.aacio.org).

Three years ago, we set out to build a stronger, more visible, and more connected AACIO. Today, thanks to your participation and support, that vision is becoming a reality. I look forward to celebrating this progress together and to welcoming you — and the newest members of our AACIO family — to our meeting in Chicago this November.

Warm regards,  
Rakesh K. Sharma, MD, FACC, FSCAI, FSCCT  
President, AACIO

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# AACIO Newsletter Editor's Column

## Celebrating Leadership, Mentorship, and the Spirit of Service



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we prepare to welcome you all to our semiannual Fall Meeting in the vibrant city of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to every member of our AACIO family.

Each and every one of you is a cornerstone of our organization's continued growth and success. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and participation form the very backbone of AACIO. Under the dynamic leadership of our President, Dr. Sharma, and the enduring vision and mentorship of our founding President, Professor Navin C. Nanda, our organization continues to advance its mission of fostering cardiovascular education, professional collaboration, networking, and service to the community.

As we reflect upon these shared aspirations, it is fitting to recognize the remarkable example set by our greatest mentor, Professor Nanda, whose life and career embody the very principles upon which AACIO was founded.

Dr. Nanda's pioneering contributions to echocardiography and cardiovascular medicine have earned him worldwide recognition and numerous prestigious honors. His recent accolades, including the AAPI President's Award, recognition in Abu Dhabi as the "Father of Modern Echocardiography," and a recent tribute celebrating him as a legend in cardiology, are further testaments to his extraordinary accomplishments.

Yet, beyond these distinguished honors lies an even more enduring legacy—that of an exceptional teacher, a compassionate mentor, and a tireless humanitarian.

For generations of physicians across the globe, Dr. Nanda has been much more than a pioneer in his field. He has been a guiding light, generously sharing his knowledge, nurturing young talent, encouraging academic pursuits, and always extending a helping hand to those seeking his guidance. His unwavering commitment to humanitarian activities and cardiovascular education reminds us that the true purpose of medicine extends beyond scientific achievements to compassion and service to humanity.

Indeed, while awards and accolades recognize a lifetime of accomplishments, the true measure of greatness lies in the lives we touch, the minds we inspire, and the helping hands we extend to others.

These are the values we have been privileged to learn from Dr. Nanda and the principles we must continue to embrace as members of AACIO. Our organization's greatest strength lies not merely in its distinguished membership or academic achievements, but in our collective commitment to uplifting one another and serving the larger community.

As we gather in Chicago, let us celebrate our shared accomplishments and reaffirm the enduring spirit of fellowship, mentorship, and humanitarian service that binds us together.

I look forward to seeing you all for another memorable and enriching AACIO gathering.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Debasish Roychoudhury, MD  
Editor, AACIO Newsletter  
Past President, AACIO



## VISIT THE AACIO Website ([aacio.org](http://aacio.org))

We are thrilled to share some exciting news – **the new and improved AACIO website** is now live!

A special thank you to these two for all their efforts. They have worked diligently for many weeks into the late hours/early morning hours to make this happen.



Dr. Jagadeesh Kalavankunta



Akash Shah (Website [akash@skyinfosolutions.com](mailto:akash@skyinfosolutions.com))

Our goal was to make your online experience smoother, faster, and more secure. With this update, you'll notice:



**Enhanced security** to keep your data protected at every step.



**Simpler payment options** for membership renewals, donations and event registrations.



**A clean, modern design** that makes finding what you need easier than ever.

We encourage you to visit the new site ([www.aacio.org](http://www.aacio.org)), explore its features, and enjoy a safer, more seamless experience built just for our community.





## AACIO Young Investigator Awards – November 2026

### DR. KRISHNA RAMASWAMY AWARD



**Cardiometabolic and Endocrine Correlates of Left Atrial Scar in Patients Undergoing Atrial Fibrillation Ablation**

**Kaushal Patel, MD<sup>1</sup>**, Nimit Patel, MD<sup>1</sup>, Ajitha Virinchipuram Ganesan, MD<sup>2</sup>, Gaurav Patel, MD<sup>3</sup>, Darshan Gandhi, MD<sup>3</sup>, Atul Prakash, MD, FACC, FHRS<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, New York Medical College/St Mary St Clare, NJ, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Cardiology, HCA Kingswood, TX, USA

<sup>3</sup>Department of Cardiology and Electrophysiology, New York Medical College/St Mary St Clare, NJ, USA

### PROF. KUL AGGARWAL AWARD



**Pulmonary Artery Denervation Reduces Clinical Worsening In Pulmonary Hypertension, Including Heart Failure-Related Disease: A Meta-Analysis**

**Arundhati Sharma, MD<sup>1</sup>**; Anubhuti Sharma, MD<sup>1</sup>; Saurabh Sharma, MD

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, PA

### DR. MADHUKAR DESHMUKH AWARD



**Clinical Guidelines and Preventative Strategies for Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease in Asian Indians: Implications for India versus the Western World**

**Vraj Patel MD<sup>1</sup>**, Vinay Mehta MD<sup>1</sup>, Navin C. Nanda MD, DSc(Hon)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tinsley Harrison Internal Medicine Residency Program, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

<sup>2</sup>Division of Cardiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL



## Special AACIO Awards – November 2026



### **Cardiovascular Monitoring Protocols during CAR-T Cell Therapy: A Systematic Review of Cardiac Toxicity, Screening Strategies, and Management Frameworks**

**Hari Vorappan Manickavelan, MD<sup>1</sup>**, Gadugoyyala Guna Sri Phani Ajay, MBBS<sup>2</sup>, Dileep Raja Kuraku, MBBS<sup>3</sup>, Nagarjuna Keshapogu, MBBS<sup>3</sup>, Fawaz Mohammed, MD<sup>1</sup>, Abdul Halabi, MD<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Trinity Health Oakland/Wayne State University, Michigan, USA

<sup>2</sup>GSL Medical College and General Hospital, Rajahmundry, India

<sup>3</sup>National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Ukraine



### **Is Percutaneous Femoral Cannulation for Veno-Arterial ECMO Associated With More Limb Ischemia? A Meta-Analysis**

**Viraj Panchal, MD<sup>1</sup>**, Dhruvil Patel, MD<sup>2</sup>, Rushi Patel, MD<sup>3</sup>, Meenakshi Reddy Yathindra, MD<sup>1</sup>, Anusha Reddy, MD<sup>1</sup>, Harshitha Polu, MD<sup>1</sup>, Mathew Mathew, MD<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NYMC's Roxborough Memorial Hospital, Philadelphia, PA, USA

<sup>2</sup>Trinity Health Oakland/Wayne State University, Pontiac, MI, USA

<sup>3</sup>Baptist Hospital of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX, USA



### **Increased Incidence of Peripheral Artery Disease in South-Asian Individuals: A Prospective Study of the UK Biobank**

**Jay Patel BS<sup>1,2</sup>**, Si-Die Demeester BS<sup>1,2</sup>, Xueting Wang MS<sup>1,2</sup>, Isra Sabrina BS<sup>1,2</sup>, Aniruddh Patel MD<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Heart and Vascular Institute, Mass General Brigham Boston, MA

<sup>2</sup>Cardiovascular Disease Initiative, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Boston, MA



### **A Standardized Digital Device for Performing Goal-Directed Valsalva Maneuver in Clinical Practice**

**Sahaj Patel, PhD<sup>1</sup>**, Hevi Patel, MBBS<sup>1</sup>, Priyank V. Baria BSN<sup>2</sup>, Harshvir S. Bal, MD<sup>1</sup>, Nehal Vekariya, MS<sup>1</sup>, Akhil Pampana, MS<sup>1</sup>, Pankaj Arora, MD<sup>1,2</sup>, Garima Arora, MD<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Cardiovascular Disease, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL, USA.

<sup>2</sup>Section of Cardiology, Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Birmingham, AL, USA.

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## MEMBER NEWS

### DR. NAVIN C. NANDA IN THE NEWS



- **Dr. Navin C. Nanda is Honored by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI).**

Dr. Navin Nanda, Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, was recently celebrated by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), a national organization based in Washington DC as “one of the true legends in Cardiology.” Dr. Nanda’s group developed and pioneered, among many other contributions, the clinical

technique of real time three-dimensional transesophageal echocardiography which is widely used during structural heart interventions in the Catheterization Laboratory. The President of SCAI also declared that Dr. Nanda had “transformed the field of echocardiography and cardiovascular imaging,” adding that his “pioneering contributions, unwavering commitment to teaching, and lifelong dedication to advancing patient care continue to inspire generations of physicians worldwide **(see attached)**.”

- Dr. Navin C. Nanda served as the International President of the highly successful XXXI World Congress of Echocardiography and Allied Techniques held September 25-27, 2026, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. One hundred faculty from many different countries took part in the Congress which was cosponsored by the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound.
  - Dr. Navin C. Nanda was recognized as “Father of Modern Echocardiography and a True Legend in Cardiology” by the Emirates Cardiac Society **(see attached)**.
  - Dr. Navin Nanda received the President’s Award from the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) “in recognition of exemplary leadership and dedicated service to AAPI” during their Convention held in Tampa, Florida in July of this year which celebrated 250 years of independence of the USA. Dr. Nanda is an original incorporator of AAPI.
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## AACIO HONOREES



**Dr. Shibba Takkar Chhabra** is a leader in interventional cardiology and women's cardiovascular health, bringing over two decades of clinical experience to her role as Faculty and Professor of Cardiology at Hero DMC Heart Institute, DMC&H, Ludhiana, Punjab. She completed her MBBS with distinction and earned her DM in Cardiology from DMC&H, distinguishing herself as the founding DM Cardiology graduate of DMC&H and Baba Farid University of Health Sciences. She also holds an MD from CMC, Ludhiana.

As Punjab's first female practicing interventional cardiologist, Dr. Chhabra serves as Convener of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) Research and Registry Council and is the Founding Convener of the CSI Pink Council for Women's Cardiology (2023–2025).

Her prominent editorial roles include Associate Editor for JACC Asia, member of the ACC Scientific Publications Committee, Editor-in-Chief of the Indian Journal of Cardiovascular Disease in Women (2024–2026), Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Approach and Management Strategies of Medical Ailments in Women: Oorja—The Power of Her, and National Editor for the last decade—contributing numerous chapters—for the Focused Textbook of Cardiology (Chief Editors: Dr. H. K. Chopra, Dr. Navin C. Nanda & Dr. Jagat Narula). Authoring nearly 100 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, her work spans cardio-obstetrics, premature ACS, and sex-specific heart disease.

Dr. Chhabra received the CSI Dr. D.P. Basu Award for research on ACS in the young and the Dr. Avraham Shotan Award (Vienna) for her work in cardio-obstetrics. Honored as an "Icon of Cardiology in the World" (2024), she is a Fellow of the ACC and CSI, an ACC Wael Al Mahmeed Global Leadership Institute nominee, and completed the BCS-CSI Cardiac Imaging Observership (UK). She regularly collaborates on national and international consensus statements. AACIO is most proud to honor Dr. Shibba Takkar Chhabra for her outstanding contributions to Cardiology in India.



**Dinesh Kalra, MD**, is Chief of Cardiology and Tenured Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, KY. He graduated MBBS from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India with distinction and completed internal medicine residency and Cardiology Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He serves as Governor of the KY chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), as well as Chair-elect of the Board of Governors and a Trustee on the ACC Board.

Dr. Kalra is an international expert in multimodality cardiac imaging, preventive cardiology, and lipidology. His clinical and research interests include coronary plaque regression; cardiac CT and MR; population-based health and AI; complex dyslipidemias; infiltrative cardiomyopathies and pulmonary hypertension. He is President of the National Lipid Association and has served as a member of the Research Committee for the ACC and American Heart Association. Dr. Kalra has published over 300 scholarly articles and has lectured internationally. He is Editor-in-Chief of JACC: Advances and has served previously as Associate Editor for the Journal of Clinical Lipidology, the American Journal of Preventive Cardiology, and on the editorial boards of several other journals. Dr. Kalra has consistently ranked on the Top 100 Doctors list and is recognized for his excellence in Cardiology by Crain's Business Review and Castle Connolly. The ACC awarded the 2025 Gifted Educator Award to Dr. Kalra for his exemplary teaching and mentoring skills. He also received the Best Faculty Award from University of Louisville Fellows for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025, and the Kentucky Medical Association Educational Achievement Award in 2025. AACIO is most proud to honor Dr. Dinesh Kalra for his outstanding contributions in Cardiology.



**Dr. Meher Medavaram, MD, FAAFP** is a distinguished physician, educator, community leader, and nationally recognized physician leader who currently holds the unique distinction of simultaneously serving as President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and also President of the Indian American Medical Association of Illinois (IAMA). She also holds the distinction of being the only woman to have chaired the AAPI National Convention, marking an important milestone in her leadership journey.

A graduate of Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad, Dr. Medavaram has dedicated nearly 35 years to medicine, medical education, physician advocacy, and community service. She built her medical career in the Chicago area, practicing Family Medicine in both outpatient and hospital settings. She serves as President of Naper Brook Medical Center, is Board Certified in Family Medicine, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Her commitment to medical education has been an integral part of her career. She has served as faculty and Assistant Program Director for the Family Practice Residency Program at Saint Elizabeth Hospital, affiliated with the University of Illinois Chicago, and as a Clinical Preceptor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Throughout her career, Dr. Medavaram has championed physician advocacy, preventive health, medical education, community outreach, global health initiatives, and leadership development. As President of both AAPI and IAMA, she remains committed to uniting physicians, strengthening collaboration, and empowering the next generation of leaders. Her philosophy is simple: leadership is not defined by the titles we hold, but by the people we empower, the communities we serve, and the legacy we leave behind. AACIO is most proud to honor Dr. Meher Medavaram for her outstanding contributions to the Indian community in this country.



**Dr. Atul Prakash MD, FRCP (UK), FACC, FHRS** is Professor of Medicine, Rutgers Medical School, Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist, Chief of Cardiology and Director of Electrophysiology, St Mary's General Hospital, Director of Electrophysiology, New Jersey Prime Health Care System and Director of Research, St Claire's and St Mary's Internal Medicine Residency Program and St Michaels and St Mary's Cardiology Fellowship Program.

He graduated from Agra Medical College in 1983 with MBBS securing a Gold Medal in Pharmacology. After MD Medicine from the same institution, he learnt echocardiography and general cardiology in Delhi and then left for the United Kingdom where he obtained MRCP and trained further in cardiology and electrophysiology.

He then joined Dr. Sanjeev Saxena's group in New Jersey doing extensive research in electrophysiology. In 2002, he formed his own group as Cardiac Arrhythmia specialists. His research has involved multisite atrial pacing, and mechanisms for prevention and activation patterns and times in regards to atrial fibrillation. He has also worked on the mechanism and role of pacing in syncope, tilt table testing, role of inflammation and left atrial scar, atrial resynchronization, conduction system pacing from the right side of septum and impact on hemodynamics of pacing from different sites of the atrium. He has over 250 publications in peer reviewed journals.

He is actively involved in the teaching of Cardiology Fellows who adore him. He and his Fellows have actively participated in the AACIO dinner meetings significantly contributing to their success. AACIO is proud to honor Dr. Atul Prakash for his outstanding contributions and accomplishments in the field of cardiac pacing and electrophysiology.



**Dr. Sarita Rao, MD, DM (Cardiology)**, is a Senior Interventional Cardiologist and Director of Cath Lab at Apollo Hospitals, Indore, India, with more than 23 years of experience in interventional cardiology. She completed her MD in Medicine from Patna Medical College and Hospital and DM in Cardiology from L.P.S. Institute of Cardiology, Kanpur. Dr. Rao has contributed significantly to advancing complex cardiovascular care, innovation, and clinical education in India and internationally. She serves as Co-Chair of EAPCI International Affairs, President of Women in Cardiology and Related Sciences, and a Member of the SCAI International Board, Board Member of WIN APSIC and the CSI Pink Council. A strong advocate for gender equity, she is actively involved in mentoring and empowering women through the Women in Interventional Cardiology Fellowship, leadership initiatives, and PSS research programs.

Dr. Rao has performed more than 35,000 cardiac procedures, with expertise in complex coronary and structural heart interventions, intravascular imaging, calcium modification, mechanical circulatory support, device therapy, and renal denervation. Her career is distinguished by several pioneering achievements, including being the first woman in India to perform intravascular lithotripsy, implant a bioresorbable vascular scaffold, perform a live TAVI procedure in the SAARC region, and India's first female solo TAVI implanter. She has also pioneered the introduction of advanced cardiac technologies and procedures in Central India, including ELCA, MitraClip, RDN, and Calcium-modification therapies.

She has delivered live case demonstrations and scientific presentations at leading cardiovascular conferences worldwide. She has published more than 50 manuscripts and contributed to more than 12 books and serves as Executive Editor of the Indian Journal of Cardiovascular Disease in Women. Her contributions have been recognized with several national and international honors and awards. AACIO is most proud to honor Dr. Sarita Rao for her outstanding contributions in Cardiology in India.

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## **38th International Conference on Case Studies/Recent Advances in Echocardiography and Allied Techniques (MRI, CT Scan, Nuclear, IVUS)**

Conference Director: Navin C. Nanda, MD

Conference Co-Directors: Rakesh Sharma, MD and Rajesh Venkatraman, MD

Conference Coordinator: Ravindra Bhardwaj, MD

Sponsored by the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound (ISCU) in cooperation with the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin (AACIO)

**Date: Friday, April 9, 2027 (Pre ACC), 8am - 5 pm.**

**City and Venue: Houston, Texas. Venue will be announced shortly.**

The emphasis will be on interesting case study presentations. Approx. 40-50 cases are expected to be presented. Registration is free for all attendees/faculty and includes complimentary continental breakfast, luncheon and morning and afternoon coffee breaks. The Conference does not provide CME credits.

Contact [ravindrabhardwaj2002@yahoo.com](mailto:ravindrabhardwaj2002@yahoo.com) and [nnanda@uabmc.edu](mailto:nnanda@uabmc.edu) to register as attendee or faculty.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT – HOLD THE DATE**

**NEXT AACIO DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD IN HOUSTON, TEXAS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2027. VENUE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.**

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### **WORLD CONGRESSES OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY under the auspices of INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR ULTRASOUND**



**XXXII World Congress of Echocardiography and Related Techniques (Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Cardiac Computed Tomography, Intravascular Ultrasound – IVUS) and International Congress of Clinical Cardiology**, will be held October 7–10, 2027, in Manta, Ecuador, at the Wyndham Sail Plaza Hotel. This prestigious scientific meeting is organized by the Ecuadorian Society of Cardiology, and the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound (ISCU). National President: Vicente Villacreses Palomeque MD; International President: Navin C. Nanda MD, DSc(Hon); National Secretary and General Congress Coordinator: Jorge Endara Vera, MD; ISCU Advisor: Nilda Espinola Zavaleta, MD; ISCU Coordinator: Ravindra Bhardwaj, MD

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# Certificate

*Of Appreciation*



*Our Gratitude for Professor*

**Dr. Navin C Nanda, MD, DSc (Hon)**

Father of Modern Echocardiography & a True Legend in Cardiology

**By Emirates Cardiac Society UAE  
&  
Department of Health Abu Dhabi  
CME**

25 - 27 September 2026

**Dr. Firas Albadarin**

Congress Chairman  
Consultant Cardiologist  
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi UAE  
Head, Imaging Working Group of ECS

**Dr. Galal Eldin Elkilany**

Chair, Organizing Committee of XXXI WCE  
President of ISCU-USA Middle East Association  
Ass. Prof. of Cardiology, Sentara Northern Virginia MC, VA, USA  
Consultant Cardiovascular Medicine, Medcare Hospitals Dubai UAE

Digitally Signed by:  
*Galal Eldin Moustafa Elkilany*  
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

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July 10, 2026

Dr. Navin C. Nanda, MD, FACC, DSc (Hon), FASE, FAHA  
Professor of Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease  
University of Alabama  
Birmingham, AL, USA

Dear Dr. Nanda,

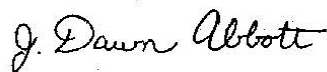
On behalf of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), we extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your participation in the special session, **"In Conversation with the Legends,"** held on **21 June 2026** as part of the **SCAI Complex Cases in Coronary Interventions (CCI) 2026** program.

It was a tremendous honor for the global cardiovascular community to hear your reflections on a remarkable journey that has transformed the field of echocardiography and cardiovascular imaging. Your pioneering contributions, unwavering commitment to teaching, and lifelong dedication to advancing patient care continue to inspire generations of physicians worldwide.

Your participation in this unique session enriched the scientific program immensely and provided invaluable insights to cardiologists, fellows, and young clinicians across India and beyond. The conversation beautifully highlighted not only your extraordinary scientific achievements but also the humility, mentorship, and human values that define true leadership in medicine.

SCAI is deeply grateful for your continued support of cardiovascular education and for sharing your wisdom and experiences with our audience. We remain privileged to celebrate your enduring legacy as one of the true legends of cardiology.

With profound respect and warm regards,



**President**  
**Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI)**