



Speaker Biographies: Updates in Amyloidosis Annual Conference & CME 2024

In collaboration with the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Conference sponsorship provided by AstraZeneca.



8:15am – 8:30am Opening remarks

Dr. Sandesh Dev, MD Arizona State University
Director Research Projects, Cardiovascular Disease, Complex Adaptive Systems Initiative

Sandesh Dev, MD is a physician and health services researcher. I am currently a heart failure cardiologist and associate professor at Southern Arizona VA Health Care System and University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson. I am passionate about using implementation science and real-world data methods to improve quality of care for patients with heart disease. I am funded by VA Health Service Research and Development to study how physician-directed 'nudges' can improve heart failure prescribing behavior. I lead quality improvement and research projects to improve diagnosis of cardiac amyloid which is an increasingly identified cause of heart disease.



8:30am – 8:50am Diagnosis of Amyloid

Dr. Alberta L. Warner, MD VA Greater Los Angeles HCS
Director, Noninvasive Cardiology
Director, Cardiac Amyloid Program
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Site Director, UCLA-VA Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology Fellowship
Professor of Clinical Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Dr. Alberta L Warner has been the Director of Noninvasive Cardiology at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare system and faculty member at UCLA since 1998. An Arizona native, Dr. Warner began her medical career at University of Arizona, where she attended medical school and Internal Medicine Residency program. She returned to University of Arizona in 1989 as a Cardiology Fellow and subsequently joined the faculty in 1992 becoming the first female cardiology faculty member at the University of Arizona. She embarked on research work related to mechanisms of myocardial disease in heart failure

with early work including beta receptor modulation and response of heart muscle function to beta blockers. Dr. Warner was recruited to the Long Beach VA Medical Center in 1993 where she continued her basic science work as well as clinical work in Echocardiography.

In 1998, Dr. Warner was recruited to VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare system, where she continued her clinical work in echocardiography and heart failure. As a clinical researcher, she served as principal investigator or Co-investigator on over 50 clinical research projects, including NIH sponsored studies and industry sponsored studies. Research interests have included mechanisms of myocardial disease in HIV, outcomes research in heart failure utilizing the VA national database, and since 2014, her clinical research focus has been related to the diagnosis and treatment of transthyretin (TTR) cardiac amyloidosis. She served as site principal investigator for DISCOVERY study, identifying prevalence of pathogenic TTR genotypes among at risk heart failure subjects as well as site PI for early studies in gene silencing therapies for hereditary TTR cardiac amyloidosis, and has participated in international TTR amyloid registries. She established a cardiac amyloidosis program at VA Greater Los Angeles in 2015, to facilitate education among health care providers and to further early diagnosis and treatment. Along with collaboration with colleagues on QI initiatives leveraging health information systems to identify at risk subjects for TTR cardiac amyloid, she will be serving as site PI for upcoming clinical trial in gene editing therapies for TTR cardiac amyloid.



8:30am – 8:50am 8:50am – 9:10am Treatment Strategies for Amyloidosis
Dr. Julie Rosenthal, MD Mayo Clinic Arizona

Dr. Rosenthal is a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic with special interest in advanced heart failure, cardiac transplantation, mechanical circulatory support, infiltrative cardiomyopathies, and amyloidosis. She is skilled in heart transplantation, mechanical circulatory support device implantation, and right heart catheterization. Dr. Rosenthal holds professional membership with the American College of Cardiology, International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, and Heart Failure Society of America. She is also part of the Program Committee for Heart Failure Society of America.



9:10am – 9:30am Role of Imaging for Amyloid
Dr. Nishant Shah, MD Providence VA Medical Center

Associate Professor of Medicine at
the Brown University Alpert Medical School
Director of Nuclear Cardiology, Lifespan Health System (Providence, RI)
Twitter: [@nishantshahmd](https://twitter.com/nishantshahmd)
mailto:nishant_shah@brown.edu

Dr. Nishant R. Shah is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Brown University Alpert Medical School and the Director of Nuclear Cardiology for the Lifespan Health System (Providence, RI). He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and as the Chair of the Nuclear Cardiology Workgroup of the Veterans' Health Administration. Dr. Shah is also the Governor-Elect of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed articles, is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Heart Association. Lastly, Dr. Shah has grant funding from the American College of Cardiology, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and industry to establish the Providence VA Medical Center as a center of excellence in the treatment and study of cardiac amyloidosis.



10:00am – 10:20am Neurologic Manifestations of Amyloidosis

Dr. Brent Goodman, MD

Dr. Goodman is board-certified in neuromuscular medicine and neurology. He previously served as a practice chair, chair of neuromuscular neurology, and director of Autonomic Laboratories and autonomic program at the Mayo Clinic.

As an autonomic and neuromuscular neurology specialist, Dr. Goodman's clinical and research efforts are focused on neurophysiology, autonomic disorders, and neuromuscular disorders. He is one of the country's top experts and has lectured nationally and internationally on various neuromuscular disorders, neurophysiology, autoimmune neurology, Sjögren's disease, and disorders of the autonomic nervous system. He has won multiple awards for research, patient care, and education.



10:45am – 11:00am Evaluation of MGUS in Suspected Amyloidosis

Dr. Jeremy Larsen, MD City of Hope

Jeremy Larsen, MD, joined City of Hope Phoenix in November 2022 where he serves as Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation. Dr. Larsen is involved in patient care and clinical research for multiple myeloma, light chain amyloidosis and related disorders. He has served as primary investigator for numerous investigational studies for multiple myeloma and AL amyloidosis. He graduated from Creighton University School of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency and hematology/oncology fellowship at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in Rochester, MN.



11:00am – 11:15am Role of Biopsy
Dr. Yasmeen Butt, MD Mayo Clinic Arizona

Yasmeen M. Butt, M.D. is an anatomic pathologist with subspecialty expertise in pulmonary and cardiac pathology. Her clinical focus includes:

- Interstitial lung disease
- Lung cancer
- Transplant pathology (heart, lung)
- Cardiovascular pathology

Dr. Butt is interested in education. She is the current chair of the DLMP Education Committee and recently published a textbook: Atlas of Pulmonary Pathology (1st Edition) A Pattern-Based Approach.



11:45am – 12:45pm Lunch Product Theater hosted by Alnylam (Ocotillo Room)
NON-CME Presentation: A Treatment Option for the Polyneuropathy of hATTR Amyloidosis in Adults

Dr Tony Urey, Cardiologist
Medical Director of Transplant; Director Amyloidosis Program
University of California at San Diego, San Diego, CA



3:00pm – 3:15pm Clinical Decision Support and AI
Dr. Simar Jeet Singh, MD, MS, PhD

Dr. Simar Jeet Singh, MD is an Internal Medicine Resident at the University of Arizona Internal Medicine Residency Program - Tucson Campus.



3:15pm – 3:30pm Population Screening in Veterans with HF

Dr. Vikram Singh, MD, MS College of Medicine Tucson
Internal Medicine Resident PGY-2
University of Arizona COM-Tucson

Dr. Vikram Singh is an internal medicine resident with the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Tucson. Originally from Madera, California, he pursued his medical education at The Chicago Medical School, before matching into residency here in Arizona. His career interests lie within the field of cardiology, specifically advanced heart failure and cardiac imaging.



3:30pm – 3:45pm Shared Decision Making for Patients with Amyloidosis

Dr. Monika Do, DNP, AGNP-C, FACC Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
Assistant Professor, Doctor of Nursing Practice Vanderbilt University/
The Dept. of Veterans Affairs monika.do@va.gov

Dr. Monika M. Do is an Assistant Professor and Doctor of Nursing Practice for Vanderbilt University and The Department of Veterans Affairs. She is an educator for prespecialty advanced practice nursing students in the areas of evidence-based practice, leadership, and adult medical-surgical nursing. She serves veterans as a cardiac arrhythmia and advanced heart failure nurse practitioner. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Nurses Association, as Membership Director for Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing, as an appointed member of the American College of Cardiology Federal Section, and as an American Heart Association Spotlight Speaker. Additionally, Dr. Do served as the Tennessee State Liaison for the American College of Cardiology from 2020-2023. Dr. Do is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and was recently recognized by the American Nurses Association and the Tennessee Nurses Association as a Top 40 under 40 nurse leader. Dr. Do has been an invited speaker by the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the Heart Rhythm Society, and the Mayo Clinic on the topics of cardiac arrhythmia, shared decision-making, and cardiomyopathies. She has published extensively on the same and is currently serving as a writing committee member for the joint ACC/AHA/HRS Appropriate Use Criteria for Cardiac Devices, ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway for Practical Approaches for Arrhythmia Monitoring After Stroke, and as an AHA Science 2 Science panelist for cardiac amyloidosis. A central focus of her work has been creating an environment where clinicians and patients can work together as co-collaborators for disease management and includes multi-center research that aims to better understand the role of patient decision aids in clinical practice.

Moderators



Dr. Andrew Boshara, MD

Cardiologist at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

Andrew Boshara, MD, is an Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiologist at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease and Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology. He also carries certification in Adult Echocardiography and Nuclear Cardiology. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Creighton University School of Medicine.

Dr. Boshara earned his medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine, Grenada, West Indies. He completed his training in Internal Medicine and his Cardiovascular Medicine fellowship at Ascension St. John Hospital and Medical Center, Detroit, MI. He then proceeded to complete an additional Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology Fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI.

Dr. Boshara specializes in treating patients with both ischemic and non-ischemic cardiomyopathies, end-stage heart failure, cardiogenic shock, heart transplant and both temporary and durable mechanical circulatory support devices like the left ventricular assist device. His practice also includes the management of patients with a variety of other cardiomyopathies, such as dilated, restrictive, hypertrophic and infiltrative conditions. He also has a special interest in managing patients with pulmonary hypertension and right ventricular dysfunction/failure.

For more information or to request an appointment with Dr. Boshara or a member of his team, please call 602.406.1150.



Dr. Michael Castro

Founder of Arrowhead Internal Medicine

Dr. MICHAEL CASTRO is the founder of Arrowhead Internal Medicine. He holds Board Certification status from the American Board of Internal Medicine since 1997 and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Castro is the Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Abrazo Health Network. He is an assistant professor for Creighton School of Medicine, clinical associate professor for University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix, Midwestern University, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine. He also teaches Nurse Practitioners from the ASU College of Nursing. Dr. Castro served as the Chief of Staff for Abrazo Arrowhead Campus and Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital from September 2016 until August 2020. He previously served as the vice-Chief of Staff from September of 2012 to August of 2016. He was also the Medicine Department Chairman from September 1999 to 2003 and again from August 2008 to September 2011. He currently serves as the Chair of PPEC. Dr. Castro was a Main Investigator with HOPE Research Institute; he served as a Medical Director for PopHealthcare and was the Medical Director for the West area for Hospice Inspiris from January 2008 to February 2009. Dr. Castro graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Science Campus in 1994 and completed his Internal Medicine residency in 1997 at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix AZ. Dr. Castro has been recognized as America's Top Physician for 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013 and again for 2014, 2015 and 2016. He has been recognized as Top Doc by the Phoenix Magazine 6 years in a row.



Dr. Ayushi Chugh, MD.

Fulton ALS Center & Dept of Neurology at Barrow Neurological Institute

Dr. Ayushi Chugh is a board-certified neurologist and an associate professor at Barrow Neurological Institute. She specializes in [amyotrophic lateral sclerosis \(ALS\)](#), muscular dystrophy, neuropathies, and other neuromuscular disorders. Dr. Chugh earned her medical degree in India, completed her neurology residency at Westchester Medical Center, and subsequently a fellowship in neuromuscular medicine at the Hospital for Special Surgery. She is also a member of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrophysiology Medicine.



Sharon Dickinson PAC, FAACC

Sharon Dickinson graduated in 2007 with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. She immediately began her career specializing in Cardiology. After 9 years with the same practice, she moved to Arizona (in 2015). She currently is a part of Heart One Associates, a physician owned practice formed in 2019. She was the first APP, joining the practice at start up. She currently holds the position of Lead Advanced Practice Provider. Currently most of her clinical practice is in the inpatient setting. Compelled by her passion for the field, she has earned the designation of FACC (Fellow of American Cardiology), an extreme honor, especially for a non-physician. She has proudly served (and continues to serve) as a representative for the Cardiovascular team on multiple National Committees within the American College of Cardiology. Sharon has a special interest and has spent much of her career focusing on Advanced Heart Failure, with current focus on Advanced CHF and Critical care Cardiology. When not at work, she spends her time with her husband and family. Her hobbies include SCUBA, Biking, reading, watching movies and studying Spanish.



Jenice Guzman, PhD, RN, GNP-BC, FAMIA

Jenice Guzman is an independent researcher with the Arizona State University and works on projects related to early diagnosis of amyloidosis. She received her PhD from the UCLA School of Nursing and is a trained Gerontological Nurse Practitioner. Her research experience includes implementation science, adherence to remote patient monitoring, and chronic disease management, specifically heart failure. She is also a Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Scientist at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System.



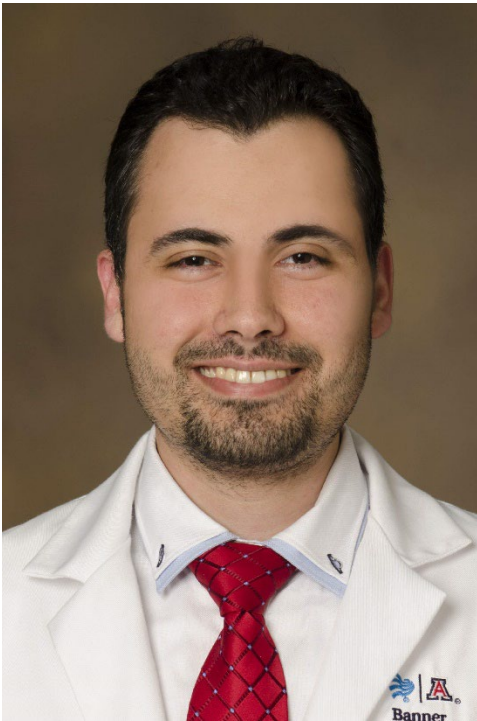
Dr. Geoffrey Jao, MD
Cardiology HonorHealth

Dr. Geoffrey Jao is a cardiovascular disease specialist with sub-specialty in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology. His areas of focus include the management of end-stage heart failure, heart transplantation, infiltrative and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, mechanical circulatory support, cardiogenic shock, cardiac transplantation, and cardiac amyloidosis. He believes that the secret to providing excellent patient care is by truly caring for his patients. Dr. Jao is also fluent in Mandarin and Tagalog.



Dr. Alexis Koskan Assistant Professor, Public Health, College of Health Solutions
alexis.koskan@asu.edu 480-884-2533

Using a community-engaged research approach with training in public health and health communication, Dr. Koskan uses qualitative research and mixed methods to explore community needs, perceptions, and preferences for intervention research. Her research has predominantly focused on the prevention and control of HPV-related cancers. However, after seeing the parallels between HPV and COVID-19 vaccine-related hesitancy, and also due to the dire need to increase vaccination against the pandemic, she expanded her research to also focus on COVID-19 prevention (via vaccination). She enjoys working in team science to conduct community-based research to identify intervention strategies to increase the uptake of disease prevention resources, namely vaccines and cancer screening.



Dr. Saad Kubba, MD

Assistant Professor, Medicine
Alumni Fellow, Cardiovascular Disease

Dr. Kubba is part of the Advanced Heart Disease and Transplant Cardiology team, Pulmonary Vascular and Pulmonary Hypertension Program, and provides general cardiology care as well as treating patients with complex heart conditions.

He utilizes both invasive and non-invasive study modalities in evaluating patients with complex heart disease and hemodynamics. His expertise includes valvular heart disease, exercise physiology, advanced heart failure (both preserved and reduced ejection fraction), ventricular assist devices, transplant cardiology, right heart failure and pulmonary hypertension. Dr. Kubba utilizes a multidisciplinary approach in managing cardiomyopathies including cardiac sarcoidosis, cardiac amyloidosis, hypertrophic, non-compaction, restrictive and dilated cardiomyopathy. His board certifications include National Board of Echocardiography, Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology, Certification Board of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, Registered Physician Vascular Interpreter, American Board of Internal Medicine in Cardiovascular Disease, American Board of Internal Medicine. He is board eligible in American Board of Internal Medicine Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology. Dr. Kubba has extensive volunteer experience as a teacher of EKG interpretation and basics of ultrasonography to COM-Tucson medical students, trainer of Tucson youth in Chest-Compression-Only CPR, mentor of medical students during their Internal Medicine rotation at Temple University Hospital, and tutor for pre-med undergraduate students at Weill Cornell. RESEARCH INTERESTS: Dr. Kubba has gained a wide variety of research experience in heart failure, exercise physiology, hemodynamics, pulmonary hypertension and right heart failure.



Sona Sabrowsky

Genetic Counselor & Instructor in Medical Genetics
Mayo Clinic Arizona

As a Certified Genetic Counselor and Instructor in Medical Genetics at Mayo Clinic Arizona, my clinical focus is in adult medical genetics, with particular interest in cardio and neurogenetics. I am actively involved in research related to proactive genetic testing in the kidney transplant community, as well as clinical supervision of genetic counseling graduate students from Arizona State University and the University of Arizona.

In 2018, I co-founded Home Base Initiative to combat rising suicidality in adolescent Arizonans. I approach my volunteer and clinic experiences as opportunities to innovate, exercise empathy, and apply my love for science. With my growing experience, I strive to support my community as a compassionate genetic counselor and dedicated mental health advocate.



Dr. Paul Underwood, MD

President, Cardio MedSci, LLC
Interventional Cardiovascular Clinical Sciences
Paul.underwood@cardiomedsci.com

Dr. Paul Underwood founded Cardio MedSci to provide clinical insight and practical feedback for biotech firms seeking to optimize their clinical data utilization. His unique perspective on clinical data combines expertise in minimally invasive management of cardiovascular disease with experience as a sponsor using clinical data as regulatory currency. Cardio MedSci supports clinical risk management and product development teams involved in a variety of functions ranging from medical monitoring to regulatory submission.

Dr. Underwood graduated from Morehouse College, completed medical education at Mayo Clinic, Henry Ford Hospital, Cleveland Clinic, interventional cardiology training at Iowa Heart Center, and a public health service commitment at St. Croix Hospital in the US Virgin Islands. During twenty-plus years of clinical practice and hospital leadership in Arizona he advocated to advance biotechnology and clinical research focused on diverse recruitment for cardiovascular clinical studies. In 2009, his passion for cutting edge technology led him to transition from medical practice into clinical science and regulatory medicine at Boston Scientific Corporation where he served as their Interventional Cardiology Medical Director until 2023. Dr. Underwood's work with the Close the Gap health equity initiative focused on clinical research and data-driven collaboration as tools to narrow gaps in cardiovascular health outcomes helped lead BSC to become a leader in clinical trial diversity and data-driven community intervention. Within industry Dr. Underwood is known for value improvement, DE&I engagement, and product development excellence. Recognized with awards for outreach, outstanding service, and impact including:

1997 Phoenix Magazine – Top Docs

1999 Association of Black Cardiologists – Walter M. Booker Award

1999 Fondation Nationale de Action Sociale du Sénégal – Certificat De Mérite

2005 American Heart Association, Desert Mountain Affiliate (3 awards)

2015 National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention – Chairperson's Award

2015 Boston Scientific Interventional Cardiology – Diversity Award

Dr. Underwood is a past-president and life member of the Association of Black Cardiologists, and current Board Member of the Arizona Latin-American Medical Association. He is certified by the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society and the Association of Pharmaceutical Physician Investigators. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Intervention, with over 100 peer-reviewed publications.



Dr. Kris Vijay, MD

Kris Vijay (Krishnaswami Vijayaraghavan, MD, MS, FACC, FACP, FNLA, FHSA) is a noninvasive Heart Failure cardiologist and the current Medical Director, of Arizona Heart Foundation, President of Innovative Cardiometabolic Center, and a medical and healthcare consultant, advising many pharmaceutical, biotech, and device industries. He was recently the Medical Director of the Institute of Congestive Heart Failure at Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital and Abrazo Health Network. He is a trained endocrinologist, Lipidologist, an ardent researcher and a Heart Failure specialist. Dr. Vijay graduated from Kasturba Medical College, University of Mysore, completed postgraduate training in medicine and Nephrology at KEM Hospital in Bombay, India, Oxford Region, UK, and Rochester, NY, Endocrinology and Diabetes fellowship from U of Southampton, UK, and a fellowship in cardiology at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix. He holds a master's degree in clinical research design and statistical analysis from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. He has been in clinical practice for more than 40 years. Dr. Vijay is the past Governor of the American College of Cardiology, Arizona Chapter, Board member, National Lipid Association, a founding member and past President of the Cardio Renal Society of America, associate editor, Journal of Clinical Lipidology, member cardiometabolic committee at ACC, and current President of the TWINEPIDEMIC, Inc., a nonprofit organization addressing Diabetes and Heart disease among Ethnic Communities worldwide.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Physicians, National Lipid association and Heart Failure Society of America.