

# CHICAGO AORTA SYMPOSIUM



ILLINOIS  
CHAPTER

AMERICAN COLLEGE  
*of* CARDIOLOGY®



September 25–26, 2026  
Swissôtel, Chicago, IL

## AN INVITATION TO OUR COLLEAGUES

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Illinois Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, it is our pleasure to invite you to attend the **Inaugural AORTA Chicago Symposium**, a unique educational program dedicated to advancing the diagnosis, treatment, and multidisciplinary management of patients with aortic disease.

The rapid evolution of surgical techniques, transcatheter therapies, advanced imaging, artificial intelligence, and regional systems of care is transforming how we care for patients with aortic disease. This symposium brings together nationally recognized experts in cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, cardiology, cardiovascular imaging, and allied health to share the latest evidence, innovative approaches, and practical strategies that can be immediately applied in clinical practice.

Through a combination of expert presentations, case-based discussions, and interactive panel discussions, participants will **explore contemporary management of aortic root and ascending aortic disease, complex arch and thoracoabdominal pathology, acute aortic syndromes, inherited aortopathies, and emerging technologies** that are reshaping the future of aortic care.

Equally important, this meeting highlights **the value of multidisciplinary collaboration**. The best outcomes for patients with complex aortic disease are achieved when specialists work together across disciplines and institutions. We hope this symposium will strengthen those partnerships while fostering meaningful discussion, networking, and the exchange of ideas among colleagues from across the region.

Whether you are a cardiologist, cardiac surgeon, vascular surgeon, cardiovascular imager, interventionalist, fellow-in-training, advanced practice provider, or member of the cardiovascular care team, **we believe you will find this program both educational and inspiring**.

We encourage you to join us in Chicago for a day of exceptional learning, collaboration, and innovation as we work together to improve outcomes for patients with aortic disease.

**We look forward to welcoming you.**

Sincerely,

S. Christopher Malaisrie, MD, FACC  
Conference Co-Chair

Christopher Mehta, MD, FACC  
Conference Co-Chair

Benjamin Freed, MD, FACC, FASE  
President



## PLANNING COMMITTEE

### GOVERNOR

**BENJAMIN FREED, MD, FACC,  
FASE**

Associate Professor of Medicine; Feinberg School  
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Nothing to Disclose

### CO-CHAIR

**S. CHRISTOPHER MALAISRIE,  
MD, FACC**

Professor of Medicine; Feinberg School of Medicine,  
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Assistant Professor of Medicine; Feinberg School  
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Pediatric Cardiology, Advocate Medical Group  
Pediatric Cardiology

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Division Chief of Vascular Surgery and Clinical  
Professor of Surgery, University of Chicago Pritzker  
School of Medicine, Endeavor Health Northshore  
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Professor of Surgery; Co-Director Center for Aortic  
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Chair of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery;  
Loyola Medicine

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**MICHAEL SOULT, MD**

Assistant Professor; Loyola Medicine

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**HIROO TAKAYAMA, MD, PH.D.**

Vice Chair for Cardiac, Vascular, and Thoracic  
Surgery, Department of Surgery; Co-Director, Aortic  
Center; Columbia University School of Medicine

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**ASHLEY VAVRA, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine; Feinberg School  
of Medicine, Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute of  
Northwestern Medicine

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## ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

### Statement of Need:

The entire Cardiovascular (CV) Team needs this activity in order to be up to date on the most current treatment modalities for their patients.

### Overall Goal:

Overall, the entire CV Team is responding to the ever-changing healthcare environment and new treatment options for their patients. This activity will increase their knowledge of these new treatment options for the entire CV Team.

### Target Audience:

Physicians, Nurses, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists and the entire CV Team.

### Exhibitor Acknowledgment

At the time of printing, a complete listing of industry supporters was not available. Appropriate acknowledgment will be made upon confirmation of support at the time of the course.

### Learning Objectives:

- Apply current evidence and guideline-based strategies to select appropriate medical, surgical, transcatheter, and hybrid interventions for patients with aortic root, ascending aortic, arch, thoracoabdominal, and genetic aortic diseases.
- Compare the indications, benefits, limitations, and patient selection criteria for contemporary treatment approaches, including valve-sparing root replacement, SAVR, TAVR, Ross procedures, endovascular repair, and open surgical techniques across the spectrum of aortic disease.
- Integrate emerging innovations—including advanced imaging, 4D flow MRI, artificial intelligence, and novel endovascular technologies—into clinical decision-making to improve diagnosis, procedural planning, and longitudinal management of patients with aortic disease.
- Implement multidisciplinary, regional systems-of-care and quality improvement strategies that enhance timely diagnosis, coordinated referral, and evidence-based management of acute and chronic aortic syndromes.
- Evaluate complex clinical cases involving aortic pathology by incorporating patient-specific anatomical, genetic, procedural, and risk factors to develop individualized treatment plans through collaborative, team-based decision-making.
- Develop evidence-based management strategies for patients with inherited and complex aortic conditions, including Marfan syndrome and thoracoabdominal aneurysms, by incorporating current best practices, expert consensus, and multidisciplinary care principles.

### Accreditation



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™  
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF) is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

### Joint Providership Statement:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of Joint Accreditation (JA) through the joint providership of the American College of Cardiology Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. The American College of Cardiology Foundation is accredited by Joint Accreditation to provide continuing medical education for the healthcare team.

### Physicians:

The ACCF designates this internet enduring material for a maximum of **10.5** AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to **10.5** Medical Knowledge MOC points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. Participants will earn MOC points equivalent to the amount of CME credits claimed for the activity. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

### Physician Associates:

**AAPA Credit Designation Statement – Live**  
The American College of Cardiology Foundation has been authorized by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for **10.5** AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

### Pharmacists:

ACCF designates this continuing education activity for **10.5** contact hours of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. ACPE Universal Activity Number (UAN): **JA4008225-9999-26-011-L01-P**.

## ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

### Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) Credit:



IPCE CREDIT™

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 10.5 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

### Disclaimer Statement:

This information is provided for general medical education purposes only and is not meant to substitute for the independent medical judgment of a clinician relative to diagnostic and treatment options for a specific patient's medical condition.

The American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF) does not warrant the completeness, accuracy or usefulness of any opinions, advice, services or other information provided through this activity. In no event will ACCF be liable for any decision made, or action taken, in reliance upon the information provided through this activity.

Accredited status does not imply endorsement by ACC of any commercial products displayed in conjunction with this activity.

ACCF reserves the right to modify faculty and program without notice.

### Credit and Course Evaluation:

Your feedback from this American College of Cardiology (ACC) educational course will help us to better target ACC educational initiatives and efforts to support you and your future learning needs. In order to receive your CME, CNE, CPE, PA, and/or MOC certificate or certificate of attendance, and to claim your MOC points you must complete a brief evaluation survey online. This survey will be sent via email and will include a direct link to the survey. We strongly recommend that evaluations and credit claims be submitted within one month of the course, but you must complete them within three months of the course.

ACC certifies each course only for the credit types for which the activity meets accreditor requirements. If your profession's credit type is not listed for a given course, you may still claim a Certificate of Participation. This certificate includes the AMA Credit Designation Statement that many boards and professional organizations use to award equivalent credit upon learner submission.

Once you complete the course evaluation, you will be able to generate either your profession's designated certificate (if available) or a Certificate of Participation (COP). In both cases, you must use that certificate to self-report credit to your licensing or certifying body.

Before enrolling in a course, you should confirm with your own licensing or certification board that they accept AMA credit as an equivalent credit towards your professional requirements.

### Disclosure Information

As a provider jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF) must ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all of their directly provided or jointly provided/co-provided educational activities. Planners, presenters, and other contributors, in a position to control the content are required to disclose to the audience all relevant financial relationships he/she and/or his/her spouse or domestic partner may have, occurring within the past 24 months, with any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing healthcare goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. When an unlabeled use of a commercial product or an investigational use not yet approved for any purpose is discussed during an educational activity, the contributors should disclose that the product is not labeled for the use under discussion or that the product is still investigational.

ACCF is committed to providing its learners with high-quality activities and materials that promote improvements and quality in health care and not a specific proprietary business or commercial interest. The intent of this disclosure is not to prevent participation in educational activities by persons with a financial or other relationship, but rather to provide learners with information on which they can make their own determination whether financial interests or relationships may influence the education activity.

ACCF assesses conflicts of interest (COI) with its faculty, planners, managers, staff, and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of certified activities. All relevant potential conflicts of interest that are identified are thoroughly vetted by course directors, ACCF education staff, and members of the Accreditation Compliance Workgroup (ACWG) through a process that includes appropriate peer review for fair balance, scientific objectivity and validity, and patient care and safety recommendations.

ACCF has taken the necessary steps to ensure that all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.

Please note ACCF staff and the ACWG members involved with this activity have nothing to disclose, unless otherwise noted.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

6:30– 9:00 pm Faculty Welcome Dinner (By Invitation Only)

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 2026

7:00 - 8:00 AM BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING

8:00 - 8:30 AM KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Regional Strategies to Improve Aortic Care  
Hiroo Takayama, MD, Ph.D.

8:30 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Christopher Mehta, MD

8:30 - 10:00 AM MANAGEMENT OF THE AORTIC ROOT & ASCENDING AORTA (CASE BASED)  
Moderators: Jeffrey Schwartz, MD, Hiroo Takayama, MD, Ph.D., Christopher Mehta, MD

8:30 - 8:45 AM Bicuspid Aortic Valve-Sparing Aortic Root Replacement Christopher Mehta, MD

8:45 - 9:00 AM SAVR vs. TAVR vs. Ross for Aortic Regurgitation S. Christopher Malaisrie, MD

9:00 - 9:15 AM Alternative Conduits for Aortic Root Replacement Pat Pappas, MD

9:15 - 9:30 AM Advanced Techniques in Aortic Valve-in-Valve Replacement TBD

9:10 - 10:00 AM Resident Case Presentations and Rapid Fire Q&A Panel Discussion  
All Faculty in this Session

10:00 - 10:10 AM Networking Break & Exhibits

10:10 - 12:00 PM MANAGEMENT OF THE AORTIC ARCH & THORACOABDOMINAL AORTA  
Moderator: S. Christopher Malaisrie, MD, TBD

10:10 - 10:25 AM TEVAR for Type A Aortic Dissections Neel Mansukhani, MD

10:25 - 10:40 AM Variations in Open Aortic Arch Replacement Takeyoshi Ota, MD

10:40 - 11:00 AM Novel Techniques in Endovascular Arch Repair Cheong Jun Lee, MD

11:00 - 11:15 AM Updates in Fenestrated Endovascular Aortic Repair Michael Soult, MD

11:15 - 11:30 AM How I Do It: Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair Jeffrey Schwartz, MD

11:30 - 12:00 PM Q&A Panel Discussion All Faculty in this Session

12:00 - 1:00 PM LUNCH PRESENTATION: JOHN RITTER FOUNDATION Meredith O'Neal  
Moderator: Christopher Mehta, MD

1:15 - 2:30 PM INNOVATION IN AORTIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT  
Moderators: Lisa Wilsbacher, MD, Neel Mansukhani, MD

1:15 - 1:30 PM Standardizing Care and Quality Improvement in Acute Aortic Syndromes  
Ashley Vavra, MD

1:30 - 2:00 PM 4D Flow Imaging for Type B Aortic Dissection TB

2:00 - 2:15 PM Multi-Disciplinary Aortic Management for Patients with Marfan Syndrome  
Joseph Camarda, MD

2:15 - 2:30 PM Can AI Be Used to Predict Aortic Aneurysm Growth? TBD

Closing Panel Discussion All Faculty

Closing Remarks S. Christopher Malaisrie, MD

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE: Register securely online through:  
[www.ilacc.org](http://www.ilacc.org)

### REGISTRATION FEES

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| ACC Physician Member                 | \$100  |
| Non-Member                           | \$150  |
| ACC CV Team Member                   | \$50   |
| ACC Admin Member                     | \$50   |
| Medical Science Liaisons             | \$199* |
| Fellow- In- Training (Must Register) | \$0    |
| Resident/Student (Must Register)     | \$0    |

\*Please note that Commerical Industry Representatives must be exhibitors in order to participate in the meeting.

### Hotel Information

SWISSOTEL

323 E. WACKER, CHICAGO, IL 60601

ROOM RATE: \$269.00

RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY VISITING: [WWW.SWISSOTEL.COM/HOTELS/CHICAGO](http://WWW.SWISSOTEL.COM/HOTELS/CHICAGO) OR CALLING 1-888-737-9477

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