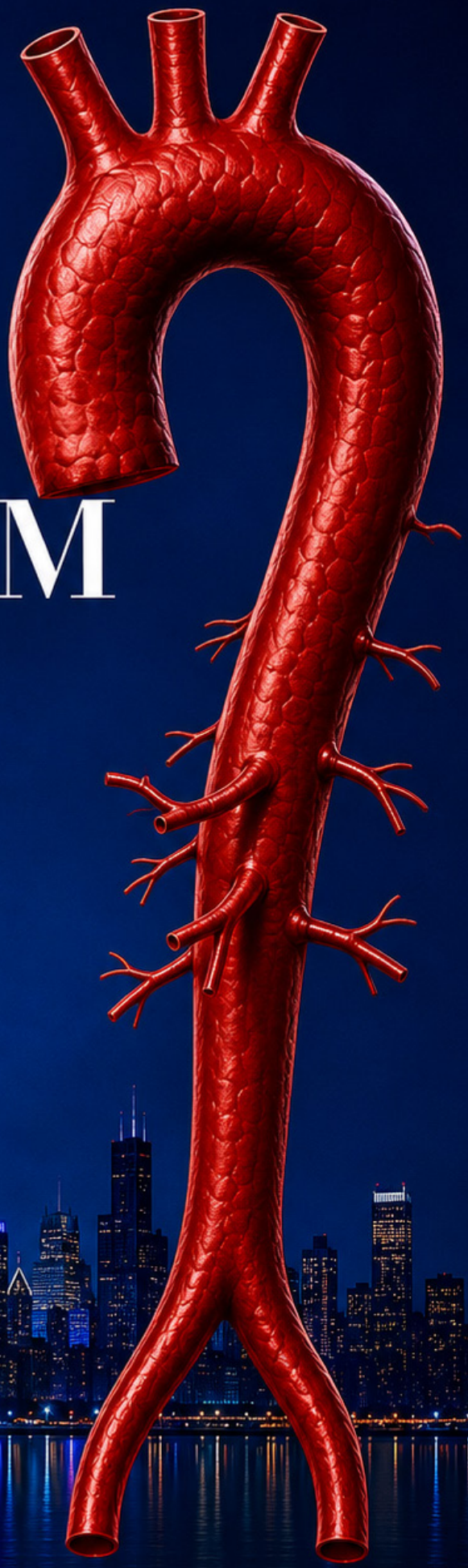
CHICAGO AORTA SYMPOSIUM



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.

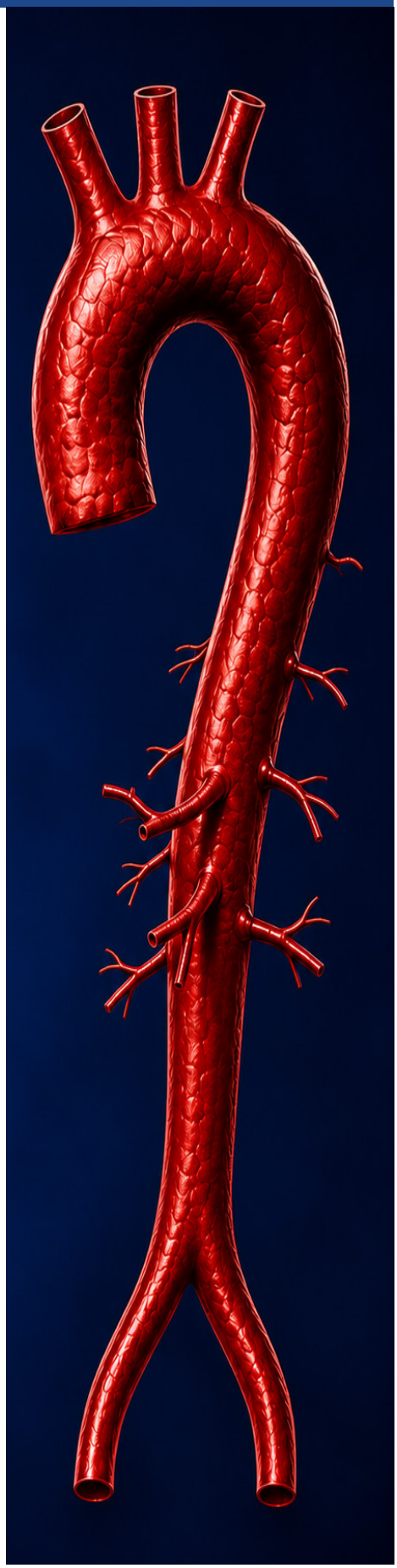
We look forward to welcoming you.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher Mehta, MD, FACC
Conference Co-Chair

Benjamin Freed, MD, FACC, FASE
President



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Illinois Chapter-American College of Cardiology
Nothing to Disclose

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

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.

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 - 8:10 AM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Christopher Mehta, MD
8:10 - 8:45 AM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Regional Strategies to Improve Aortic Care Hiroo Takayama, MD, Ph.D.
8:45 - 10:30 AM	MANAGEMENT OF THE AORTIC VALVE, ROOT & ASCENDING AORTA Moderators: Jeffrey Schwartz, MD, Hiroo Takayama, MD, Ph.D., Christopher Malaisrie, MD
8:45 - 9:00 AM	Bicuspid Aortic Valve-Sparing Aortic Root Replacement Christopher Mehta, MD
9:00 - 9:15 AM	SAVR vs. Ross for Aortic Regurgitation S. Christopher Malaisrie, MD
9:15 - 9:30 AM	Emerging Transcatheter Therapy for Aortic Regurgitation Marysa Leya, MD
9:30 - 9:45 AM	Alternative Conduits for Aortic Root Replacement Pat Pappas, MD
9:45 - 10:30 AM	Case Presentations and Rapid Fire Q&A Panel Disucssion All Faculty in this Session
10:30- 10:45 AM	Break & Exhibits
10:45 - 12:00 PM	MANAGEMENT OF THE AORTIC ARCH & THORACOABDOMINAL AORTA Moderator: Michael Soult, MD, Christopher Mehta, MD, Hiroo Takayama, MD, Ph.D.
10:45 - 11:00 AM	TEVAR for Type A Aortic Dissections Neel Mansukhani, MD
11:00 - 11:15 AM	Surgical management of Kommerrel's diverticulum Takeyoshi Ota, MD
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Novel Techniques in Endovascular Arch Repair Cheong Jun Lee, MD
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Updates in Fenestrated Endovascular Aortic Repair Michael Soult, MD
11:45 - 12:00 PM	How I Do It: Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair Jeffrey Schwartz, MD
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, Hiroo Takayama, MD, Ph.D.
1:15 - 1:30 PM	Standardizing Care and Quality Improvement in Acute Aortic Syndromes Ashley Vavra, MD
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Using Rare and Common Genetic Variation to Guide Aortic Disease Management Lisa Wilsbacher, MD
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? Matthew Bramlet, MD
2:30 - 2:45 PM	Closing Panel Discussion All Faculty
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Closing Remarks S. Christopher Malaisrie, MD

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Statement of Need:

This CME activity is needed to provide cardiovascular clinicians with evidence-based updates, case-based learning, expert perspectives, and multidisciplinary discussion of contemporary and emerging approaches to aortic disease. By addressing identified knowledge and practice gaps, the program is intended to improve clinical decision-making, strengthen multidisciplinary and regional systems of care, promote appropriate application of advanced therapies and technologies, and ultimately improve the quality and outcomes of care for patients with complex aortic disease.

Overall Goal:

The overall goal of this activity is to enhance the knowledge, clinical decision-making, and multidisciplinary collaboration of cardiovascular healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients with aortic disease. Through evidence-based updates, case-based learning, and expert discussion, participants will be better prepared to evaluate complex aortic conditions, select appropriate surgical, endovascular, transcatheter, and medical management strategies, incorporate emerging technologies and innovations into practice, and strengthen regional and multidisciplinary approaches to care. Ultimately, the activity aims to translate current evidence and best practices into improved quality, coordination, and outcomes for patients with aortic disease.

Target Audience:

Physicians, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, 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.

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 6 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

ABIM CME MOC ACCREDITED

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to 6 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.

Interprofessional Continuing Education (ICPE) Credit:

IPCE CREDIT™

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 6 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

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.

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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 health care 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 contributor should disclose that the product is not labeled for the use under discussion or that the product is still investigational.

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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.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE: Register securely online through:
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
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