

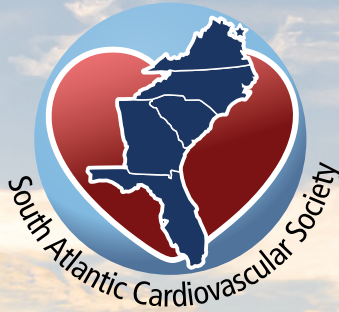
# SACS 2026

PRESENTING  
THE 52<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SACS MEETING

July 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT, FL



SOUTH ATLANTIC CARDIOVASCULAR SOCIETY



## AN INVITATION FROM OUR CHAIR

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society (SACS), I am pleased to invite you to join us at the Omni Amelia Island Resort in Florida, July 16–19, 2026, for our 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.

Each year, SACS brings together cardiovascular specialists from across the Southeast and beyond to discuss and debate challenging clinical cases in a collegial and relaxed setting. Distinguished leaders and innovators in our field will present cases and facilitate interactive discussions — allowing us to learn from one another's successes, and failures alike.

Hot topics for 2026 will include the transcatheter and surgical management of mitral annular calcification, the lifetime surgical management of aortic valve disease, longevity medicine in cardiology, novel coronary uses of drug coated balloon and optimal imaging techniques in patients with polyvalvular heart disease, among many other relevant and practical clinical topics in cardiology and cardiac surgery.

We are honored to welcome ACC President Dr. Christopher Kramer as our keynote speaker this year. We will also continue our highly successful hands-on skills and demonstration area, offering physicians and APPs valuable one-on-one training opportunities in collaboration with our industry partners.

In addition to our educational programming, we have planned a variety of family-friendly social events, including a Welcome Reception, Friday Family Dinner, a Saturday night adults-only dinner with a concurrent Youth Party, and our Sunday Family Brunch.

On a personal note, I have been attending this meeting since childhood, as my father is a cardiologist from Georgia. It has been incredible to watch SACS grow over the years while remaining true to its core belief — learning from one another. It's a meeting my family and I look forward to each year, as we've built lasting relationships through this conference.

I hope you will make plans to join us at Amelia Island.

— Michael Johnson, MD Chairman, SACS 2026

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SACS TITANIUM AND PLATINUM SPONSORS



Edwards

**SACS FOUNDING  
TITANIUM SPONSOR**



**SACS FOUNDING  
PLATINUM SPONSOR**

**Boston  
Scientific**

**SACS  
PLATINUM SPONSOR**



Outside of the educational sessions, the social activities are a very important part of the conference, providing opportunities for families to come together in a relaxed, laid-back setting.



## SACS 2026 CHAIRS



**CHAIRMAN,  
SACS 2026  
MICHAEL JOHNSON, MD**  
Piedmont Heart  
Institute — Augusta  
Augusta, GA

Dr. Johnson is a practicing structural and interventional cardiologist at Piedmont-Augusta Hospital. He is also the medical director of the Piedmont-Augusta Heart Institute. He attended the University of Notre Dame for undergraduate and Georgetown University for medical school. He completed Internal Medicine residency at the University of Virginia. He then completed General Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology and Structural Cardiology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. He lives in Augusta, Georgia with his wife and four children.



**CO-CHAIRMAN,  
SACS 2026  
JOHN FREDERICK, MD**  
Sanger Heart and  
Vascular – Charlotte  
Charlotte, NC

Dr. Frederick is a practicing cardiac surgeon with specialty expertise in complex aortic surgery at the Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina where he serves as the Co-director of the Aortic Center and Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery. He attended the University of Texas for both undergraduate and medical school, and completed his surgical training at the University of Pennsylvania.

## SACS 2026 STEERING COMMITTEE

### CHAIRMAN

**Michael Johnson, MD**  
Piedmont Heart Institute – Augusta

### CO-CHAIRMAN

**John Frederick, MD**  
Sanger Heart and Vascular  
Institute – Charlotte

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Farooq Sheikh, M.D., FACC**  
Director, Infiltrative Cardiomyopathy  
Program  
Medical Director, LVAD Program  
MedStar Heart and Vascular Institute  
MedStar Washington Hospital Center  
**Christian Shults, MD**  
MedStar Health

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Jorge Alegria, MD**  
Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute  
Carolinas Medical Center  
**John Frederick, MD**  
Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute  
Carolinas Medical Center  
**Cliff Kitchens, MD**  
FirstHealth of the Carolinas  
Moore Regional Hospital  
**Jonathan Schwartz, MD**  
Atrium Health  
**John Skinner, PA-C**  
Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute  
Carolinas Medical Center

### FLORIDA

**Kevin Accoia, MD**  
Cardiovascular Surgeons  
**Curtis Bryan, MD**  
Cardiac Surgical Associates  
**Mike Butkus, PA-C**  
Cardiovascular Surgeons  
**Thomas Caranasos, MD**  
NCH  
**Patrick Murrah, MD**  
Southern Medical Group, P.A.  
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital  
**Arwa Saidi, MB**  
University of Florida, Gainesville  
**Kerry Schwartz, MD**  
Florida Heart Group  
**John R. Spratt, MD**  
University of Florida, Gainesville  
**Mark Steiner, MD**  
The Cardiovascular Center of Florida

### SOUTH CAROLINA

**Brian Blaker, MD**  
McLeod Health  
**Parajet Didolkar, MD**  
HCA  
**David Ike, MD**  
Cardiology Consultants, PA  
**Arman Kilic, MD**  
MUSC  
**Robert Leonardi, MD**  
Lexington Cardiology  
**John Sutton, III, MD**  
MUSC  
**Jeffrey Allen Travis, MD**  
Lexington Medical Center  
**Kim Valenti, PA**  
Spartanburg Medical Center

### GEORGIA

**Madhuree Earnshaw, PA-C**  
Piedmont Heart Institute  
**Sloane Guy, MD**  
Northeast Georgia Health System  
**Michael Johnson, MD**  
Piedmont Heart Institute – Augusta  
**Ezequiel Molina, MD**  
Piedmont Heart Institute  
**Cullen D. Morris, MD**  
Piedmont Athens Regional Medical  
Center  
**Jimmy Stewart, MD**  
Piedmont Heart Institute  
**Vinod H. Thourani, MD**  
Dept. of Cardiovascular Surgery  
Marcus Heart & Vascular Center  
Piedmont Heart Institute

### VIRGINIA

**Eileen Dearth, PA-C**  
UVa Health System  
**John Kern, MD**  
UVa Health System  
TCV Surgery  
**John Saxon, MD**  
UVa Health System  
**Angela Taylor, MD**  
UVa Health System  
**Behnam Tehrani, MD**  
Inova Heart and Vascular Institute  
**Leora Yarboro, MD**  
UVa Health System



## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION CE ACCREDITATION



In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Amedco LLC and South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society (SACS). Amedco LLC 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.

Amedco Joint Accreditation #4008163.



## APP 2026 CHAIRS



**CHAIRWOMAN,  
APP 2026  
EILEEN DEARTH, PA-C  
UVA Health  
Charlottesville, VA**

Eileen Dearth is a practicing cardiovascular Physician Assistant at UVA Health. Her primary clinical role is surgical, in the operating room. She also serves as the APP manager for the ambulatory, inpatient step-down unit and operating room teams. She attended Syracuse University for undergraduate and James Madison University for PA school.



**CO-CHAIRWOMAN,  
APP 2026  
MADHUREE EARNSHAW, PA-C  
Piedmont Heart Institute  
Atlanta, GA**

Madhuree Earnshaw is an accomplished cardiac surgery Physician Assistant currently practicing at the Piedmont Heart Institute, part of Piedmont Healthcare. In her clinical role, she provides comprehensive care across the full spectrum of cardiac surgery, including inpatient management, outpatient services, clinic responsibilities, and operative support in the OR.

She serves as the lead Physician Assistant for one of the busiest cardiac surgeons at Piedmont, Dr. Vinod Thourani, demonstrating leadership, advanced clinical expertise, and a strong commitment to delivering exceptional patient outcomes.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Emory University and went on to complete her Master's degree in Physician Assistant studies at Quinnipiac University. Her career began in nursing within cardiac surgery, and she has remained dedicated to the field throughout her professional journey.

Outside of her career, she is a proud parent of twins, who are her greatest source of inspiration.

# ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS



**Our interactive format is unique to SACS and sets our conference apart from others.**

The SACS Annual Meeting is an educational conference that features new and practical strategies related to the treatment of common and complex cardiovascular disease. Each year scientific information and timely topics are presented and debated in an interactive format.

Over the course of the three-day conference, participants and colleagues share knowledge, debate techniques and procedures, present case studies, and learn from one another in a relaxed, open dialogue atmosphere.

This interactive format of the South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society's educational sessions, combined with the conference's relaxed atmosphere, is what makes SACS unique from other conferences. Our program features distinguished speakers who are prominent leaders in current issues, technology, and treatment of the cardiac patient. Most presentations include case studies and are designed to encourage audience participation and lively debate between attendees. This format is unique to SACS and sets our conference apart from all the others. In addition, Exhibitors and Sponsors are invited and encouraged to attend all educational sessions and social events.

## 2025 CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

### TITANIUM:

Edwards

### PLATINUM:

Abbott

Boston Scientific

### GOLD:

AtriCure

Gore

Inari Medical

Kiniksa

Terumo Aortic

## 2025 CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

Abiomed  
ACIST Medical Systems  
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals  
AngioDynamics  
Arthrex, Inc/Peerless Surgical  
Artivion, Inc  
AstraZeneca  
Baxter  
BridgeBio  
Bristol Myers Squibb  
CMS Imaging/Shimadzu  
CVRx, Inc  
GE HealthCare  
Getinge  
Johnson & Johnson MedTech

Johnson & Johnson MedTech,  
Heart Recovery  
KLS Martin  
Medtronic Cardiac Surgery  
Medtronic Coronary & RDN  
Medtronic Structural Heart  
Merck & Co.  
Novartis  
Penumbra, Inc.  
Pfizer, Rare Disease - Cardiac  
Phillips  
Shockwave  
SynCardia Systems, LLC  
Zimmer Biomet

# SACS CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Tentative; subject to change

## THURSDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>

4:30pm – 5:30pm  
Meet and Greet with Exhibitors

5:00pm – 6:30pm  
APP Cases  
Eileen Dearth, PA-C & Madhuree C. Earnshaw, PA-C

## FRIDAY, JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>

6:00am – 7:00am  
Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:00am – 7:05am  
WELCOME  
Michael Johnson, MD

7:05am – 7:45am  
Surgical and Transcatheter Strategies for MAC  
**Moderator:** Kenan Yount, MD  
**Speakers:** Leora Yarboro, MD; Vinod Thourani, MD & John Saxon, MD

7:45am – 8:15am  
Cath Lab Disasters  
**Moderators:** Nyal Borges, MD & Terence Hill, MD  
**Speakers:** Ryan Crisel, MD & Ben Holland, MD

8:15am – 8:45am  
Order of Operations: Transcatheter Management of Polyvalvular Disease  
**Moderators:** Jonathan Schwartz, MD & John R. Spratt, MD  
**Speakers:** Matt Summers, MD & John Lisko, MD

8:45am – 9:15am  
Contemporary Management of Surgical Maze Procedure & LA Closure  
**Moderators:** Newton Wiggins, MD & Michael Hoosien, MD  
**Speaker:** Trent Magruder, MD

9:15am – 9:45am  
Break with Exhibitors

9:45am – 10:15am  
Peri-operative use of MCS in Cardiac Surgery  
**Moderators:** Leora Yarboro, MD & Ezekiel Molina, MD  
**Speaker:** Jack Haney, MD

10:15am – 10:45am  
Ross versus Mechanical AVR in Patients < 55-year-old  
**Moderators:** John Frederick, MD & TBD  
**Speaker:** Jared Beller, MD

10:45am – 11:15am  
Evaluation of Pathologic Left Ventricular Hypertrophy  
**Moderator:** Chris Kramer, MD  
**Speaker:** Deepa Upadhyaya, MD

11:15am – 11:45am  
The Science Behind Endurance Athletics  
**Moderators:** Pascha Schafer, MD & TBD  
**Speaker:** Dave Anderson, MD

11:45am – 12:15pm  
Beyond ISR: Novel Uses of Drug Coated Balloon  
**Moderators:** Nyal Borges, MD & John Lisko, MD  
**Speaker:** Bill Nicholson, MD

1:00pm – 6:00pm  
Advocate Health SACS ACHD Symposium

## SATURDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>

6:00am – 7:00am  
Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:00am – 7:05am  
WELCOME

7:05am – 7:35am  
Lead Management in the Era of Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Therapies  
**Moderators:** Newton Wiggins, MD; Michael Hoosien, MD & Matt Summers, MD  
**Speaker:** Jimmy Stewart, MD

7:35am – 8:05am  
Surgical Disasters  
**Moderators:** Parijat Didolkar, MD & Curtis Bryan, MD  
**Speakers:** Eric Pruitt, MD & David Hobson, MD

# SACS CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Tentative; subject to change



8:05am – 8:35am

**Bioprosthetic vs Mechanical AVR in 55–65-year-old Population**

**Moderators:** John Frederick, MD & Jared Beller, MD

**Speaker:** John R. Spratt, MD

8:35am – 9:05am

**Managing Acute Right Heart Failure: Axial Flow vs ECMO vs Medical Management**

**Moderators:** Ezequiel Molina, MD & Madhuree Earnshaw, PA-C

**Speaker:** Ahmad Zeeshan, MD

9:05am – 9:35am

**Break with Exhibitors**

9:35am – 10:05am

**Preventive Cardiology for the Cardiologist**

**Moderators:** Pascha Shafer, MD & David Ike, MD

**Speaker:** Nishant Shah, MD

10:05am – 10:35am

**Current State of TAVR Explant**

**Moderators:** Vinod Thourani, MD & Eileen Dearth, PA-C

**Speaker:** Kenan Yount, MD

10:35am – 11:05am

**Aortic Valve Repair in the Young Adult: An Alternative to Replacement**

**Moderator:** Jorge Alegria, MD

**Speaker:** Pedro del Nido, MD

11:05am – 11:30am

**Reflections and Lessons Learned from the OR, the Boardroom, and Beyond**

**Moderators:** David Ike, MD & Ray Johnson, MD

**Speaker:** Kevin Accola, MD

11:30am – 12:15pm

**Keynote Address from ACC President Chris Kramer, MD**

**Moderators:** Michael Johnson, MD & John Frederick, MD

**Speaker:** Chris Kramer, MD

1:00pm – 5:20pm

**Advocate Health SACS ACHD Symposium**

## SUNDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>

7:30am – 10:00am

**Break with Exhibitors**

8:00am – 8:30am

**Management of Early Valve Failure in Low Risk TAVR Patients**

**Moderators:** Hannah Woodard, NP & Jimmy Stewart, MD

**Speaker:** Jonathan Schwartz, MD

8:30am – 9:00am

**Optimal Imaging Strategies for Patients with Multivalvular Heart Disease**

**Moderator:** Deepa Upadhyaya, MD

**Speaker:** James McNamara, MD

9:00am – 10:00am

**Case of the Year**

9:30am – 11:00am

**Farewell Brunch**



# 2026 VENUE: OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT

To receive the discounted rate for SACS, you can use the booking links below OR you may call the Reservations Desk at 1-800-843-6664 and state you are with the South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society Meeting.

**Hotel - [SACS Annual Meeting 2026 | Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa | Omni Hotels & Resorts](#)**

**Villas - [SACS Annual Meeting 2026 | The Villas of Amelia Island | Amelia Island Vacation Rentals](#)**

## HOTEL

Oceanfront Hotel Guestroom  
Oceanfront Hotel Executive Suite

## VILLAS

Oceanfront Villa Guestroom  
Oceanfront One-Bedroom Villa  
Oceanfront Two-Bedroom Villa  
Oceanfront Three-Bedroom Villa  
Resort View Guest Room  
Resort View One-Bedroom Villa  
Resort View Two-Bedroom Villa  
Resort View Three-Bedroom Villa

*Please make your housing reservations as soon as possible. The deadline is June 23, 2026, but we expect our block to sell out before then.*

OCEANFRONT EXECUTIVE SUITE BEDROOM





OCEANFRONT BEDROOM



## REGISTRATION

Click [HERE](#) to Register to Attend or visit [www.sacsconference.com](http://www.sacsconference.com).  
If you have questions please contact [heather@sacsconference.com](mailto:heather@sacsconference.com).



END SUITE SITTING AREA