

## President's Message

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### SCA Needs You!

Stanton K. Shernan, MD, SCA President



Dear Friends,

SCA is an international organization of healthcare professionals committed to excellence and leadership in providing outstanding cardiovascular and thoracic patient care through education and research. As members of this Society, we should be proud that the SCA is recognized as the preeminent international body of our subspecialty.

The major source of operational revenue for SCA is derived from membership dues and registration fees from its four academic meetings (Annual Meeting, ECHO Week, Thoracic Anesthesia Symposium, and Perioperative Ultrasound Hands-On Workshop—POCUS), which not only finance these extraordinary educational events but also provide the resources to support the management of the entire Society. Historically, research funding has been primarily raised from private philanthropic sources and



investment income. In 1983, SCA began giving an annual Residents Research Award (\$500 each) to encourage young members to actively participate in investigations. Beginning in 1993, during a time when it was evident that even successful investigators needed extramural funding, 2-year Young Investigator Awards were established. In 2007, SCA realized that funds for grants could be enhanced by creating an SCA Foundation (SCAF), which was primarily established to support SCA members and corporate leaders in achieving SCA's goals of leading the way in treatment innovations through care, investigation, and knowledge. Under the leadership of Joyce Wahr and Nancy Nussmeier, SCAF's primary mission and purpose was to (i) promote and support SCA's mission of excellence in the care of patients undergoing cardiothoracic and vascular procedures through education and research and (ii) develop excellence in the next generation of clinicians and physician-scholars by funding research and education in the field of cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia.

In 2018, SCAF's Board of Directors determined that it was in the foundation's best interest to voluntarily dissolve the corporation and donate its assets to SCA for the purpose of ensuring the continuance of its goals and objectives. SCA subsequently announced the formation of the SCA Endowment to carry out this mission, which is currently under the guidance of David Reich and includes members from both the original SCA Foundation as well as current SCA leadership. Within the SCA committee structure, Danny Muehlschlegel is the current Chair of the Research Committee, which is responsible for scientific oversight and vetting grant applications, selecting the best candidates for ongoing grants, and both establishing and promoting new funding opportunities.

Today, the SCA Endowment is still supported entirely by numerous private donors who have generously supported funds to permit the distribution of SCA grants over the years with the understanding that these funds would be used primarily to launch academic careers. Ideally, SCA grants are subsidized both by intramural department and institutional funding, supplemented perhaps with additional funding from other nationally recognized anesthesiology organizations, such as the International Anesthesia Research Society and the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research, and eventually supported by more well-endowed institutions including the American Heart Association and National Institute(s) of Health. Indeed, many successful, independently funded investigators in cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesiology worldwide have certainly benefited from at least some of the initial research support through SCA.

SCA is proud to support the following research funding opportunities through its reserves and the SCA Endowment:



### **Kaplan Leadership Development Award Opportunity**

Up to two \$10,000 awards: \$5,000 in funding from the SCA Endowment and a matching \$5,000 award from the applicant's institution.

### **Research Grant Opportunities**

SCA Starter Grant: \$50,000 (up to \$25,000 per year for 2 years)

SCA Mid-Career Grant: \$100,000 (up to \$50,000 per year for 2 years)

### **Early Career Investigator Award**

This award is designed to motivate physicians early in their training to pursue their interest in research that investigates topics in cardiac, thoracic, and vascular anesthesia and disease. There are up to five \$1,000 travel grant awards.

### **MiCoR Grant**

The SCA Board of Directors has also recently agreed to fund over \$600,000 (\$200,000 per year for up to 3 years) to fund a Multi-Institutional Collaborative Clinical/Translational Research Grant (MiCoR).

SCA's commitment to support its membership remains one of the most important benefits of joining our society. Nonetheless, we would like to do more. The SCA Endowment has already raised an additional \$20,000 just since the beginning of 2020 to support research initiatives; however, the continued success of this endeavor is exceptionally dependent on the generosity of its members and private philanthropists. By donating to the SCA Endowment, you help SCA professionals achieve their goals and further their education, research, and professional development. The SCA Endowment Fund online donation page is now available. Making an online donation is quick, easy, and secure.

## SCA Endowment Donation

Consider making a donation to help fund SCA projects and scholarships. We truly appreciate your generosity.

### SCA Endowment Fund Donation

By donating to the SCA Endowment, your gift can help sustain the Society's initiatives to support SCA cardiovascular anesthesiology professionals to further their research and education – projects that further the Society's mission, vision and strategic priorities.



[Donate Now](#)



Making an online contribution is quick, easy and secure. Just complete the online donation form below and a confirmation will be sent to your email.



Call us at [855-658-2828](tel:855-658-2828) to make a credit card payment over the phone.

The Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

To complete the online donation form, visit <https://www.scahq.org/about/SCA-Endowment>. For more details on the endowment, please email [donation@scahq.org](mailto:donation@scahq.org).

Thank you,  
Stanton K. Shernan, MD

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