Dear Friends of the GW Heart & Vascular Institute,

I am pleased to bring you the 2013-2014 Year in Review report on the achievements of the GW Heart & Vascular Institute. For the past seven years, the Institute has promoted its academic mission of advancing cardiovascular research, education, and community service in Washington, DC and beyond. In addition to providing excellent clinical care, our physicians, staff, and trainees serve our community and forge new paths to improve the health of heart and vascular patients.

This annual report is our way to share with you — our supporters — whose contributions are making an impact regionally, nationally and internationally — the accomplishments and exciting developments from our productive FY2014.

I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements of our dedicated team at the GW Heart & Vascular Institute. Thank you for trusting in our work and supporting our mission. We encourage you to visit the Institute to learn more about our plans for a bright 2015!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Katz, MD
Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Medicine
Director, Division of Cardiology
Director, GW Heart & Vascular Institute
FACULTY AND LEADERSHIP

RICHARD J. KATZ, MD
Director and Board Chairman, GW Heart & Vascular Institute
Director, Division of Cardiology
Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Medicine

RICHARD NEVILLE, MD
Co-Director, GW Heart & Vascular Institute
Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery
Professor of Surgery

JESSICA JOHNSON
Executive Director, GW Heart & Vascular Institute

CARDIOLOGY

RICHARD J. KATZ, MD
Director and Board Chairman, GW Heart & Vascular Institute
Director, Division of Cardiology
Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Medicine

WILLIAM BORDEN, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director of Healthcare Delivery Transformation

BRIAN G. CHOI, MD, MBA
Associate Professor of Medicine and Radiology
Co-Director, Advanced Cardiac Imaging
Chief Medical Information Officer, GW MFA

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Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health
Associate Director, Office of Clinical Practice Innovation

JANNET LEWIS, MD
Professor of Medicine
Director of Non-Invasive Cardiology
Director, Women’s Heart Center

LISA W. MARTIN, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, Lipid Research Clinic

RAMESH MAZHARI, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, Interventional Cardiology

MARCO MERCADER, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, Electrophysiology Research

CHRISTIAN NAGY, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Director, Structural Heart Disease Program

GURUSHER PANJRATH, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Director of Heart Failure and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program

JONATHAN REINER, MD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories

SCOTT SHAPIRO, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Electrophysiology

ALLEN SOLOMON, MD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Cardiology Fellowship
Director, CCU

CYNTHIA TRACY, MD
Professor of Medicine
Associate Director of Cardiology
Director of Electrophysiology

ALAN WASSERMAN, MD
Chairman of the Department of Medicine
Eugene Meyer Professor of Medicine
President and Chairman of the Board, GW MFA

WILLIAM WEGLICKI, MD
Professor of Medicine
Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Medicine
VASCULAR SURGERY

RICHARD NEVILLE, MD
Co-Director, GW Heart & Vascular Institute
Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery
Professor of Surgery

ANTON SIDAWY, MD, MPH
Lewis B. Saltz Chair of Surgery
Professor of Surgery

SUBODH ARORA, MD, FACS, FRCS
Director, The Vein Center
Associate Professor of Surgery

JOSEPH BABROWICZ, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

JAMES LAREDO, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Director of Reston Vein Center

BYUNG-BOONG LEE, MD, PhD
Clinical Professor of Surgery

BAO-NGOC NGUYEN, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery

BASIC SCIENCES

TIMOTHY MCCAFFREY, PhD
Professor Medicine
Director of Division of Genomic Medicine

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GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences

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CYNTHIA M. TRACY, MD

ROBERT UNDERSTEIN
President, GTI-Government Transformation Initiative

ALAN G. WASSERMAN, MD
Chairman of the Department of Medicine
Eugene Meyer Professor of Medicine
President and Chairman of the Board, GW MFA
The GW Heart & Vascular Institute supports regional, national and international community service programs.

**Honduras Medical Mission in FY14**

Dr. Cynthia Tracy and Dr. Marco Mercader led their fourth annual medical mission to Honduras in FY2014. The Mission provides a free, two-week heart clinic based at the Centro Medico Comayagua Colonial Hospital in Comayagua, Honduras, identifying and treating patients in need of heart pacemakers and implantable cardiac defibrillators. Our annual trip to Honduras is the only medical mission in Honduras to address these acute cardiac needs. Indeed, our GW medical team implants more heart devices during this two-week period than are implanted the entire rest of the year throughout Honduras.
In FY14 the Institute raised more than $500,000 in donated pacemakers and implantable defibrillators from the medical device industry, as well as $14,000 from individual donors to support the mission team’s travel and additional medical supplies. During the first two weeks of September 2013, the GW Mission team screened more than 100 patients, identifying and implanting medical devices (pacemakers and defibrillators) in 42 individuals. In addition, many of the patients who had received devices in prior years were evaluated for follow up care as they returned for their device checkup. The Mission has gained popularity nationally and it is now advertised on local TV and radio stations within the region. Patients traveled as much as seven hours to be evaluated by our team.

Since the first mission in 2010, the GW Heart & Vascular Institute Medical Mission team has evaluated more than 400 patients and implanted more than 130 donated heart pacemakers and defibrillators. The Medical Mission is made possible each year by charitable donations and voluntary staff and physician participation.

In addition to supporting a cardiac clinic in Honduras, Drs. Tracy and Mercader arranged for Demetrio Gomez, a patient they met in Honduras who had an atrial septal defect (ASD), a hole in the wall that separates the top two chambers of the heart, to receive treatment at GW Hospital. Dr. Jonathan

Reiner donated his time to perform an ASD closure using a new catheterization technique that does not require surgery. The ASD closure device was donated by St. Jude Medical and services for the procedure were donated by GW Hospital. Travel for Mr. Gomez was sponsored by the GW Heart & Vascular Institute.

Our goal for the Mission is to create a sustainable cardiac clinic for the underserved people of Honduras. To that end, the Institute has provided medical education to two Honduran physicians, transporting them to George Washington University for intensive training on monitoring patients who have pacemakers and defibrillators. During the Fourth Annual Mission trip, Drs. Tracy and Mercader visited these physicians at their new pacemaker/defibrillator follow up clinic in Comayagua. On this trip, the medical mission team also provided education to physicians, nurses, and patients.
Women’s Heart Center — Dedicated to Our Community

Heart disease is the number one killer of women, and causes one in three women’s deaths each year. The Women’s Heart Center at the GW Heart & Vascular Institute was launched in 2012 by Dr. Jannet Lewis to provide a comprehensive approach to improving heart disease outcomes in women through community-based cardiovascular research, education and care. In addition to providing care at the GW Medical Faculty Associates, the Center extends its expertise to community clinics throughout Washington, DC.

The Center is joined by cardiologist Dr. Brian Choi; registered dietitian Kelli Metzger, MS, RD, LDN, CDE; and nurse practitioner Helma Parikh, CRNP. Our team focuses on prevention methods such as diet and exercise counseling that can reduce the risk of heart disease. Our dietitian, Kelli Metzger, leads individual and group nutrition counseling at the GW Medical Faculty Associates to encourage positive lifestyle and behavior changes. Each month, Metzger provides free heart-healthy nutrition education sessions at five DC community health clinics. In particular, Metzger’s counseling emphasizes the health benefits of the Mediterranean Diet, which has been shown to reduce risk of heart attack and stroke. She regularly counsels 50 to 75 patients per month at these sites, with a goal to reach more than 500 DC residents per year.

As part of our community nutrition outreach, Dr. Lewis, Parikh, and Metzger have launched a study assessing the nutritional habits of underserved women in Washington, DC. This research will examine the socioeconomic challenges faced by residents who live in “food deserts” with little access to healthy foods. The Center also offers nutrition education to study participants.

With financial support from the Bloedorn Foundation, the Women’s Heart Center also organizes heart nutrition education programs for GW’s medical community, including medical students, residents, fellows and faculty to prepare future physicians in patient counseling, care, and chronic disease management.
Community Health Fairs and Education

In FY14, Institute faculty and staff volunteered their time to provide heart disease prevention education programs to the greater Washington, DC community. A few programs included:

- Dr. Lisa Martin presented a series of talks at government agencies on heart health and disease prevention.
- Kelli M. Metzger, MS, RD, LDN, CDE, the GW Heart & Vascular Institute’s registered dietician, participated in the GW Medical Faculty Associates health fair providing resources on heart healthy nutrition.
- Dr. Allen Solomon and two cardiology fellows provided free heart screenings to 100 high school and middle school athletes at Albert Einstein High School in Silver Spring, MD.
- The Institute provides free nutrition programs for more than 500 DC residents per year.
Institute faculty, fellows, and staff volunteer at community health events in DC and Maryland.

- Cardiology faculty, fellows and staff volunteered at Food & Friends to prepare and package meals for people living with life-challenging illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and cancer. Food & Friends proves more than 1 million meals per year to people in the DC community. Under the leadership of Dr. Gurusher Panjrath, Director of GW Heart Failure Services, the Institute raised more than $35,000 to collaborate with Food & Friends in 2015 to expand their mission by providing nutritious meals to patients with diabetes and heart failure.

Promoting Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness in DC

The Institute was recognized at the Downtown DC Business Improvement District’s 2013 Momentum Awards Ceremony for its work in promoting public access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Jessica Johnson, Executive Director of the Institute, accepted the Program-Partnership Award, which is given to an organization that has made a unique, positive contribution to Downtown DC.

The GW Heart & Vascular Institute has donated more than 140 AEDs in the Washington, DC region including seven AEDs to the Downtown DC Business Improvement District (BID). The Institute helped BID promote the safety of Downtown workers, visitors and residents who might experience sudden cardiac arrest by training BID’s Safety/Hospitality and Maintenance employees in CPR and use of AEDs. Training was provided by GW’s Department of Emergency Medicine.
Cardiovascular research at the GW Heart & Vascular Institute is led by our team of cardiologists and vascular surgeons in partnership with cross-disciplinary teams at the George Washington University, including biomedical engineering, biochemistry and molecular biology, pharmacology and genomic medicine, endocrinology and the GW School of Public Health. Our physicians, scientists, medical students, residents and cardiology fellows investigate methods to prevent and improve treatment of heart and vascular disease as well as comorbidities contributing to these diseases.

The Institute provides seed money to cardiology faculty and cross-disciplinary partners though an annual research grant award program. In addition, our faculty pursue funding from federal, foundation, and industry grant requests. The following are research endeavors pursued by the Institute in FY14.

GW Heart & Vascular
Institute Faculty Research FY 2014

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Research Funded by Federal/Foundation/Industry Grants:</th>
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<td>Federal Grants</td>
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| Total Research Grant Support:                         | $ 5,070,244.83 |


Research Highlights in FY14

GW Cardiac Researchers Advance Arrhythmia Research

**DR. MERCADER WINS 3RD ANNUAL OTT INNOVATION COMPETITION**

The GW Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) awarded Dr. Marco Mercader, Director of Electrophysiology Research, the $10,000 Life Sciences Prize in the 3rd Annual GW Office of Technology Transfer Innovation Competition for his invention of a device to control atrial arrhythmias after open heart surgery.

**GW RESEARCHERS AWARDED GRANT FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

Dr. Marco Mercader (GW Cardiology), Narine Sarvazyan, PhD (GW Pharmacology), and Matthew Kay, PhD (GW Bioengineering), in collaboration with Nocturnal Product Development, received the Small Business Technology Transfer award from NIH to research a new generation of catheters for treatment of atrial fibrillation.

**GW PRESENTATIONS AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS**


GW Cardiology Fellow Dr. David Cohen presented “Epicardial NADH Fluorescence Images Correlate with Lesion Size and Predict Lesion Depth After Radiofrequency Ablation” at the 2013 American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. This research project was sponsored by the GW Heart & Vascular Institute, mentored by Dr. Marco Mercader.

**ADVANCING TREATMENT OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION**

Dr. Allen Solomon is the GW principal investigator for the Global Registry on Long-Term Oral Antithrombotic Treatment In Patients with Atrial Fibrillation (GLORIA-AF) study.
GW Vascular Surgeons Advance Vascular Medicine Research

CARDIOLOGY FELLOW COLLABORATES WITH GW VASCULAR SURGEONS

Cardiology fellow Dr. Bernard Ashby and GW Vascular Surgery faculty co-authors Drs. Richard Neville, Anton Sidawy, and Bao-Ngoc Nguyen presented “The Impact of Congestive Heart Failure on the Acute Post Operative Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Lower Extremity Revascularization” at the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery’s 38th Annual Meeting held January 2014 in Palm Beach, Florida.

Dr. Ashby also presented “Vascular Risk Score as a Predictor of Poor Outcomes in Patients Undergoing Vascular Intervention” and “Patient-Radiation Exposure in Endovascular Interventions and Coronary Procedures” at the American College of Cardiology’s Scientific Sessions, March 2014 in Washington, DC.

GW Cardiology Leaders in Mobile Health Research

MOBILE PHONES PLUS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO MANAGE CHRONIC DISEASE

Dr. Richard Katz, Director of the Division of Cardiology, was awarded $1.9 million by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for a three-year project to study the combined use of mobile phones and community health workers to enhance patient management of diabetes and cardiovascular co-morbidities.

MOBILE PHONES AND THE ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF LIPID MEDICATIONS

Drs. Richard Katz, Director of the Institute, and Brian Choi, Associate Professor of Medicine, were awarded $97,000 from the Merck Foundation to improve medication adherence of statins and attainment of lipids goals using patient cell phone reminders linked to the GW clinic electronic medical record.
GW Innovations in Heart Failure Research

**PREDICTING PROGNOSIS IN PATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE**

Dr. Gurusher Panjrath, director of GW Heart Failure and Mechanical Support Program and Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Johns Hopkins colleagues published their research “Metabolic Rates of ATP Transfer Through Creatine Kinase (CK Flux) Predict Clinical Heart Failure Events and Death” in *Science Translational Medicine*.

**GW HEART & VASCULAR INSTITUTE AND GW HOSPITAL JOIN TO REDUCE HEART FAILURE HOSPITAL READMISSIONS**

Drs. Panjrath, Katz, and GW heart failure nurse practitioner Linda Bostrom are collaborating with GW Hospital, the Institute for Public Health Innovation, Sensei Corp., and Grand-Aides with an innovative program to improve heart failure patients’ quality of life and to reduce hospital readmissions. This team trains and deploys community health workers to monitor patients at home, and provides patients with a mobile phone heart failure application with communication back to the medical team.

**SMARTPHONES TO IMPROVE CARDIOVASCULAR NUTRITION**

Dr. Brian Choi received NIH SBIR funding to launch a clinical trial of a cell phone app that provides nutrition counseling to improve dietary adherence to a Mediterranean Diet, which has been shown to reduce risk of heart attack and stroke.

Cardiovascular genomics open a window to personalized treatment of heart failure.
GW Cardiologists and Cardiovascular Genomics

EPIGENOMIC PROFILES IN LEFT VENTRICULAR ASSIST DEVICE (LVAD) THERAPY

LVADs are a new treatment option for patients with end-stage heart failure. Dr. Ramesh Mazhari, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of Interventional Cardiology, and cardiology clinical faculty Drs. Shashank Desai and Palak Shah, are collecting heart muscle tissue at the time of LVAD insertion to analyze the genomic profile that may predict patient outcomes. Preliminary data from the first 40 patients will be presented at the American Heart Association meeting in Chicago in November 2014.

GENE THERAPY A PROMISING TOOL FOR CARDIAC REGENERATION

Scott Shapiro, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, co-authored a study demonstrating the benefit of gene therapy with Cyclin A2 on new heart muscle growth in an animal heart attack model in *Science Translational Medicine*.

GW Cardiologists Advance Cardiac Imaging

GW PRESENT AT AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY (ASE) 2014 MEETING

GW cardiology fellows Drs. Gupreet Sodhi and Bianca Ummat, supervised by cardiology faculty Drs. Brian Choi and Jannet Lewis, studied an innovative way to use echocardiography to better identify risk for complications from hypertension. They presented “Right Ventricular Strain by Speckle Tracking Imaging: Assessment in Stable Outpatient Hypertensive Patients” at ASE’s 25th Annual Scientific Sessions in Portland, Oregon June 2014.
NEW APPLICATIONS AND APPROPRIATE USE OF CARDIOVASCULAR IMAGING

Cardiology fellow Dr. Miriam Fishman, under the mentorship of Drs. Brian Choi and Allen Solomon, presented her research on handheld echocardiography for athletic preparticipation screening at the 34th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Heart Rhythm Society. Current clinical guidelines do not recommend cardiac ultrasound prior to athletic participation, primarily due to economic considerations. Dr. Fishman tested the feasibility of using a handheld ultrasound device to supplement standard preparticipation procedures and found that real-time interpretation by an expert echocardiographer using the device added less than two minutes to a standard exam.

Cardiovascular disease has declined in high-income countries, but increased dramatically in low- and middle-income countries.

ACCESS TO CARDIOVASCULAR IMAGING IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES (LMICS)

Cardiovascular disease (CVD), the leading cause of worldwide mortality, has declined in high-income countries, but increased dramatically in LMICs. CVD diagnosis depends upon modern medical imaging, which is often missing in LMICs. Dr. Choi is working with organizations supported by the American College of Radiology and the World Heart Federation to determine the best ways of bringing accurate imaging to these countries.

GW Cardiologists and Preventive Heart Research

GW CARDIOLOGY FACULTY CONTINUE ASSESSMENT OF THE WOMEN’S HEALTH INITIATIVE (WHI)

Launched by the National Institutes of Health in 1991, the WHI continues to monitor cardiovascular disease, cancer, and osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. GW WHI principal
investigator Dr. Lisa W. Martin, Associate Professor of Medicine, co-authored “Obesity, Physical Activity, and Their Interaction in Incident Atrial Fibrillation in Postmenopausal Women” in the Journal of the American Heart Association, in August 2014.

**LINKING PHYSICIAN AND PHARMACIES ENHANCES CARDIAC CARE**

GW medical student Jeffrey Twum-Ampofo, mentored by Dr. Brian Choi, presented “The Effect of Pharmacy Spatial Accessibility on Cardiovascular Risk Factors” at the American College of Cardiology’s Scientific Sessions, March 2014 in Washington, DC. This study suggests that “one-stop-shop” co-location of physician and pharmacy services enhances medication adherence and patient satisfaction.

**IMPACT OF MALPRACTICE ON CARDIOVASCULAR TESTING**

Steven Farmer, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health, was awarded an NIH RO1 grant for $3 million to study the “Joint effects of Malpractice Risk and Financial Incentives on Cardiovascular Testing.”

**NEW MEDICATIONS FOR CARDIAC PREVENTION**

Dr. Lisa Martin is the GW site Principal Investigator for three multicenter new drug trials:

- A randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled trial to evaluate the effect of long-term treatment with BELVIQ on the incidence of major adverse cardiovascular events in obese and overweight subjects with cardiovascular disease of multiple cardiovascular risk factors.

- A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel Group Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of SAR236553/REGN727 in Patients With Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia Not Adequately Controlled With Their Lipid-Modifying Therapy.

- Open-Label Extension Study of EFC12492, R727-CL-1112, EFC12732, & LTS11717 Studies to Assess the Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Alirocumab in Patients with Heterozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia.
The GW Heart & Vascular Institute enhances the educational experience of our GW medical residents and cardiology fellows by inviting renowned cardiologists and master teachers to serve as visiting professors.

Fellows Program and Teaching

The GW Cardiology Fellowship program led by Dr. Allen Solomon, is a three-year educational program designed to prepare cardiologists in training for outstanding careers in clinical or academic medicine. A fourth year of training is offered to cardiology fellowship graduates looking to further specialize in electrophysiology led by Dr. Cynthia Tracy, and interventional cardiology led by Drs. Jonathan Reiner, and Ramesh Mazhari.

- In FY14, the Institute provided education support to two electrophysiology fellows and two interventional cardiology fellows. The Institute also provided education
resources to eight core fellows in the general cardiology fellowship.

- In addition to clinical training, fellows lead academic research studies through the Institute’s annual research awards for young investigators.

In addition to cardiology fellow training, the Institute participates in GW’s Office of International Medicine Program. The program hosts foreign medical graduates to participate in a year-long academic program exposing them to U.S. healthcare, and preparing trainees for U.S. medical residency programs. In FY14 three Saudi Arabian medical graduates worked with cardiology faculty Drs. Brian Choi, Marco Mercader, and Gurusher Panjrath on research projects supported by the GW Heart & Vascular Institute.

Symposia, Visiting Professors, and National Scientific Meetings

Visiting Professors

The GW Heart & Vascular Institute enhances the educational experience of our GW medical residents and cardiology fellows by inviting renowned cardiologists and master teachers to serve as visiting professors. The following programs were offered in FY14:

Joseph Alpert, MD, Professor of Medicine and former Chairman of Medicine at University of Arizona and Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Medicine, presented GW’s Cardiology and Department of Medicine Grand Rounds and discussed cases with GW medical residents and cardiology fellows. This visiting professorship was supported through the Institute by the Cummings Family Endowment.
P. Jacob Varghese, MD, retired July 1, 2014, after 35 years of dedicated service. In honor of Dr. Varghese’s many years of commitment to GW, the Institute established the P. Jacob Varghese, M.D. Cardiology Fellows Fund. This fund will provide an annual GW Cardiology Alumni Visiting Professorship beginning in the spring of 2015. The 2015 cardiology fellows alumni committee members Drs. Reza Senai, Narian Rajan, and Hamid Taheri, assist the Institute’s cardiology fellowship program director, Allen Solomon, in selecting a speaker. The Institute announced the establishment of this tradition honoring Dr. Varghese at the 2014 GW Cardiology Alumni Reception at the American College of Cardiology’s Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Symposia

Faculty and Fellows participate in Institute sponsored symposia to share best practices in cardiology with clinicians and professors involved in multidisciplinary cardiac care throughout the country. In FY14 the Institute supported:

William A. Zoghbi, MD, a national leader in cardiac imaging and past president of both the American Society of Echocardiography and the American College of Cardiology, was the GW Heart & Vascular Institute’s 2014 Understein Memorial Visiting Professor. Dr. Zoghbi holds the William L. Winters Endowed Chair of Cardiovascular Imaging at the Methodist DeBakey Heart Center and is Director of the Cardiovascular Imaging Institute at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. Dr. Zoghbi delivered cardiology grand rounds on “Multimodality Cardiac Imaging,” and medical grand rounds on “Achieving the Triple AIM in Cardiovascular Healthcare: An Individual and Global Imperative,” to more than 200 GW faculty and trainees. The Understein Memorial Visiting Professor endowment was established in 1978 by the family of Jack Understein, in gratitude for the care provided at GW. Jack Understein’s sons, Norman Understein and Robert Understein, attend the annual lectureship honoring the legacy of their father.
FIRST ANNUAL HEART FAILURE AND ARRHYTHMIA SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON, DC

Drs. Marco Mercader, Associate Professor of Medicine, Director of Electrophysiology Research, and Gurusher Panjraham, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Director of Heart Failure and Mechanical Support Program, co-chaired the symposium at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC on May 17, 2014. The program included presentations from GW faculty and fellows, and guest speakers Drs. Desai, Najam, and Venkataraman. The symposium attracted 80 medical professionals providing updates on heart failure, arrhythmias, myocardial ischemia and vascular issues.

SECOND ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM VASCULAR SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON, DC

Drs. Richard Neville, Chief, Vascular Surgery, and Anton Sidawy, Lewis B. Saltz Chair of Surgery, hosted the 2014 Cherry Blossom Vascular Symposium, which featured nationally recognized specialists and surgeons discussing hot topics in vascular care. The two-day symposium attracted 85 medical professionals to George Washington University’s campus. Dr. Jonathan Reiner, Director of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories, delivered the keynote address: “The Real Story Behind Innovations in Cardiovascular Medicine—Lessons to be Learned.”

TELEHEALTH AND mHEALTH FORUM TO DISCUSS IMPROVING HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES

GW and Verizon Wireless co-hosted a telehealth and mHealth forum with keynote speaker former U.S. Senator Tom Daschle on December 4, 2013. Dr. Richard Katz, Director of GW Heart & Vascular Institute and Bloedorn Professor of Cardiology, discussed how 21st Century mobile technology innovations are improving healthcare access and outcomes for patients. The Verizon Foundation awarded the GW Heart & Vascular Institute $15,000 to support Dr. Katz’s research in mHealth.
National Scientific Meetings

Faculty of the Institute are selected to lead educational sessions at annual scientific meetings of the professions’ leading national cardiovascular organizations. In FY14, the following Institute faculty participated in national meetings:

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY’S SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS, MARCH 29-31 IN WASHINGTON, DC**

Dr. Gurusher Panjrath, Director of Advanced Heart Failure Services at GW, presented “Stand Alone Ventricular Assist Device Center, A view From Inside and Out.” Dr. Panjrath co-chaired a symposium that included Dr. Richard Katz: “Careers in Heart Failure and Transplantation,” organized by the Heart Failure and Transplantation Section of the American College of Cardiology.

**HEART RHYTHM SOCIETY SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS MEETING, MAY 7-10 IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Dr. Cynthia Tracy continued her leadership role in the Heart Rhythm Society chairing the Cardiovascular Implantable Electronic Devices Scientific Session on ICD Implantation, Programming, and Follow-up.

Books Authored by Faculty

**Dr. Jannet Lewis**, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Women’s Heart Center at the GW Heart & Vascular Institute, and Brian Choi, MD, MBA, Associate Professor of Medicine and Radiology and Co-Director of Advanced Cardiac Imaging at GW, co-authored a chapter on “Role of Echocardiography in Evaluation of Women with Chest Pain,” in the book Chest Pain with Normal Coronary Arteries.

**Dr. Cynthia Tracy**, Professor of Medicine and Director of Electrophysiology at GW, and Ali Boushahri, MD, GW Cardiology Fellow, provided a chapter on “Managing Arrhythmias in the Intensive Care Unit” that was published in Cardiac Emergencies in the ICU. Dr. Tracy also co-authored the 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Atrial Fibrillation, in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (2014).
National Discussion on Advances in Heart Treatment

Vice President Cheney and Dr. Jonathan Reiner discussed *Heart: An American Medical Odyssey* on National Press Circuit

Vice President Cheney and his longtime GW cardiologist, Dr. Jonathan Reiner, joined together on a national press circuit to promote their book on heart disease. The book chronicles the fascinating story of Cheney’s thirty-five-year battle with heart disease — providing insight into the incredible medical breakthroughs that have changed cardiac care over the last four decades. The authors appeared on The Charlie Rose Show, 60 Minutes, CNN’s Piers Morgan, The Today Show with Savannah Guthrie, and the Dr. Oz Show.

To celebrate the publication of this ground-breaking work, the GW Heart & Vascular Institute hosted a book discussion and dinner at National Press Club with Vice President Cheney and Dr. Reiner on December 3, 2013. The discussion was moderated by Barbara Cochran to a sold out audience of the National Press Club’s Book Rap. The dinner was sponsored by the GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences, the GW Hospital, and Thoratec Corporation.

Vice President Cheney and Dr. Reiner participated in numerous public forums discussing heart disease, including being interviewed by award-winning presidential historian Michael Beschloss at an education forum hosted by the Smithsonian Associates, and headlining the American Heart Association’s 2014 Go Red For Women Luncheon in Dallas, TX, interviewed by Mrs. Lynne Cheney.
THE INSTITUTE
AT-A-GLANCE
Our Priorities

- Research 16%
- Education 10%
- Fellows-in-Training 46%
- Community Outreach 27%

Our Supporters

- Individuals 12%
- Corporations and Foundations 21%
- In-Kind Gifts 34%
- Investments 28%
- Other Revenue 5%
Mission

The mission of the GW Heart & Vascular Institute is to promote cardiac and vascular research, education, and community service with the goal of accelerating the pace of scientific discovery, reducing mortality and improving the quality of life of Americans with heart and vascular disease.

To achieve these goals, the GW Heart & Vascular Institute seeks to provide an interdisciplinary structure to integrate basic and clinical investigators, clinicians, medical educators, health policy experts and community leaders.

The Institute’s goal is to be the leading center for heart and vascular research, education and community service — and to do so by leveraging the enormous resources of The George Washington University.