

2026 UVA Multidisciplinary Aortic Symposium



May 30, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. | 2:45 – 4:45 p.m. – optional Simulation Labs (no CE credit)

Provided by UVA Health Continuing Education

A live, hybrid conference

- UVA Pinn Hall Conference Center, Charlottesville, VA, 22901
- Virtually via Zoom

Program Overview

This multidisciplinary symposium will explore the full continuum of care for patients with aortic dissection and connective tissue disorders and features experts from cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, interventional radiology, genetics, cardiology, nursing, advanced practice providers, rehabilitation, mental health, and pharmacy. Through case-based discussions, debates, and evidence-driven updates, participants will examine emerging surgical and endovascular treatments – including Type A dissection management, Endo-Bentall procedures, aortic arch repair, and TEVAR versus fenestration strategies – as well as best practices in medical therapy, hypertension management, and long-term surveillance. Special focus will be placed on connective tissue disorders such as Marfan, Loeys-Dietz, and Ehlers-Danlos syndromes. The symposium will highlight coordinated care across inpatient, outpatient, and community settings strengthening outcomes. Attendees will gain practical insights into optimizing postoperative management, developing comprehensive care pathways, supporting patients' mental health needs, and advancing collaborative, patient-centered aortic disease care throughout the healthcare continuum.

Target Audience: surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, IR physicians, APPs, pharmacists, nurses, and genetic counselors

Desired Outcomes

At the conclusion of this activity, learners will be able to:

- Differentiate between open, endovascular, and hybrid approaches for type A and B aortic dissection, including arch repair and Endo-Bentall procedures.
- Debate the indications, risks, and benefits of TEVAR versus fenestration, incorporating anatomical, clinical, and patient factors.
- Describe the full healthcare continuum for patients with connective tissue disorders including EDS, Marfan, and Loeys-Dietz.
- Incorporate the patient perspective, mental health awareness, and psychosocial support strategies into clinical care.
- Apply postoperative care pathways for open aortic repair, with emphasis on APP-led surveillance and complication recognition.
- Implement evidence-based pharmacologic strategies for hypertension and long-term medical management of aortic disease.

Time	Program Agenda	Speaker/Moderators
7:30 a.m. - 8 a.m.	Registration, Breakfast (for in-person participants), and Exhibits	
8 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	Opening Remarks and Welcome	Behzad Farivar, MD, FACS
	Session One: Aortic Dissection Treatment/Management/Debate	Moderator: W. Darrin Clouse, MD, FACS, DFSVS, RPVI
8:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Keynote: From Concept to Clinical Reality: Endo-Bentall Repair in Ascending Aortic Disease"	Shahab A. Toursavadkohi, MD
8:45 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Type A Dissection Management	Adanna Akujuo, MD
9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	TEVAR versus Fenestration Debate Pros and Cons	Behzad Farivar, MD, FACS
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	The Art of Timing: Interventional Strategies for Acute and Chronic Aortic Dissection	Luke R. Wilkins, MD, FSIR
9:45 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Session One Question and Answer Panel	
10 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.	Break, Networking, and Exhibits	
	Session Two: Connective Tissue Disorders and More	Moderators: Julia Lovin, MD, Jessica Gehin, RNCC
10:20 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.	Growing Up with Aortic Disease: From Pediatric Diagnosis to Lifelong Care for patients with Loey's-Dietz	Peter Dean, MD
10:35 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.	Care by Design: Aligning Systems and Stories in the Management of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome	Dacre Knight, MD
10:50 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.	From Genes to the Aorta: Understanding Marfan Syndrome Across the Lifespan	Matthew J. Thomas, ScM, CGC
11:05 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Supporting the Whole Patient: Integrating Mental Health into Aortic Dissection Care	Melody Pannell, D. Min., MSW, M.Div., MACE, GC
11:20 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.	Session Two Question and Answer Panel	
11:35 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch (provided for in-person participants) and Exhibits	
	Session Three: Multidisciplinary Topics in Managing Aortic Disease	Moderators: Lindsey Cook, PA-C, Robbin Shifflett, BSN, RN-BC
12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Bridging Clinical Excellence and Program Efficiency in Aortic Disease Management	Catherine Hite, MSN, RN, FNP
12:45 p.m. - 1 p.m.	From OR to ICU: Collaborative Strategies for Managing Complications and Optimizing Recovery After Open AAA Repair	Hillary Bowen MSN, RN, CNL, ACCNS-AG, CCRN, CEN TCV-ICU, Lauren Huck, MSN, RN, ACNPC-AG
1 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Integrating Pharmacology and Critical Care: Hypertension Management in Aortic Disease	Lauren Lam, Pharm D, BCACP, Kierah Barnes, NP, CNL
1:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Session Three Question and Answer Panel	
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Break, Networking, and Exhibits	
	Session Four: Patient Testimonials and Care Team	Moderators: Bernie Ammons, MSN, RN, CV-BC-VA-BC, Jean Marie O'Malley, RN
1:45 p.m. - 2 p.m.	One Patient, Many Voices: Coordinated Care Across Disciplines in Aortic Dissection	Steve Casey, Patient Experience Speaker, John A. Kern, MD, Lauren Huck, MSN, RN, ACNPC-AG, Melody Pannell, D. Min., MSW, M.Div., MACE, GC, Matthew Thomas, ScM, CGC, W. Darrin Clouse, MD, FACS, DFSVS, RPVI, Lauren Lam, Pharm D, BCACP, Randy Ramcharitar, MD, MS, FSVM
2 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	From Diagnosis to Discovery: Following a Patient with Marfan Syndrome Across the Care Continuum	Emily Mullins, Patient Experience Speaker, Randy Ramcharitar, MD, MS, FSVM, Melody Pannell, D. Min., MSW, M.Div., MACE, GC, Matthew Thomas, ScM, CGC
2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Session Four Question & Answer Panel	
2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Evaluate to Claim Credit	Behzad Farivar, MD, FACS, Bernie Ammons, MSN, RN, CV-BC, VA-BC
2:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Simulation Labs (no CE credit offered)	
	Cardiac Surgery Scenarios	John A. Kern, MD
	Vascular Surgery Scenarios	Behzad Farivar, MD, FACS
	Interventional Radiology Scenarios	Luke R. Wilkins, MD, FSIR

Cases & Cocktails (no CE credit offered)

- Friday, May 29, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Courtyard Marriott – UVA Medical Center,
1201 West Main Street, Charlottesville, VA

All those registered for the conference are cordially invited to Cases & Cocktails, a networking reception with opportunity to connect with faculty and the planning team. Discuss real-world aortic and vascular cases across vascular medicine, vascular surgery, cardiac surgery, interventional radiology, and genetics. Enjoy informal case conversation, colleague networking, and hors d'oeuvres with beverages.

Course Faculty and Planning Committee

(*denotes Planning Committee Member)

Unless otherwise noted, all faculty and planning committee members are from the University of Virginia.

Course Director: **Bernie Ammons**, MSN, RN, CV-BC, VA-BC, Aortic Center/Vascular Surgery Clinical Program Coordinator*

Adanna C. Akujuo, MD, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Kierah M. Barnes-Vaval DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, NEA-BC, CCRN, CSC, CMC, Thoracic Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit, Director of APP Professional Practice and Development

Hillary Bowen, MSN, RN, CNL, ACCNS-AG, CCRN, CEN, TCV-ICU, Clinical Nurse Leader

Steve Casey, Patient Experience Speaker, Haymarket, VA

W. Darrin Clouse, MD, FACS, DFSVS, RPVI, Edwin P. Lehman Professor of Surgery, Chief, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Lindsey Cook, PA-C, Vascular & Endovascular Surgery*

Behzad S. Farivar, MD, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery, Co-Director, Aortic Center, Director, Complex Endovascular Aortic Program, Associate Program Director, Vascular Surgery Fellowship*

Jessica Gehin, RNCC, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Hypermobility Disorders Center

Catherine M. Hite, MSN, RN, FNP, Cardiac, Vascular & Endovascular Surgery

April Howell, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Ambulatory Director, Heart and Vascular Center*

Lauren Huck, MSN, RN, ACNPC-AG, Vascular & Endovascular Surgery*

John A. Kern, MD, Stanton P. Nolan Professor of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Program Director, CT Surgery

Dacre Knight, MD, Medical Director of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Hypermobility Disorders Center

Lauren Lam, Pharm D, BCACP, Ambulatory Clinical Pharmacist, Cardiovascular Medicine, Primary Care Center

Julia Lovin, MD, Pediatric Cardiology

Emily Mullins, Patient Experience Speaker, Moneta, VA

Jean Marie O'Malley, RN, Structural Heart and Valve Nurse Navigator*

Melody Pannell, D. Min., MSW, M.Div., MACE, GC, Director of Healthcare Leadership Education and Community Wellness

Randy Ramcharitar, MD, MS, FSVM, Vascular Medicine, Heritable Aneurysm and Arteriopathy Medical Director*

Robin Shifflett, BSN, RN-BC, Nurse Manager, Cardio Vascular Surgery Clinic*

Matthew J. Thomas, ScM, CGC, Genetic Counselor

Shahab A. Toursavadkohi, MD, Vascular Surgery, Associate Professor of Surgery, Co-Director, Center for Aortic Disease at the University of Maryland Medical System, Baltimore, Maryland

Luke R. Wilkins, MD, FSIR, Associate Professor of Radiology, Program Director, IR/DR Residency, Division of Vascular and Interventional Radiology*

Linda Hanson, MSM, Continuing Education Program Manager*



Registration:



Scan the QR code or navigate to www.cmevillage.com and select this conference from the Upcoming Courses list.

Registration will close at midnight on Thursday, May 21st, 2026. The course syllabus will be available online the week of the conference until 30 days after the conference.

PLEASE NOTE: Policies on cancellation, payment methods, and accommodation requests can be found on our conference website.

Early Bird rate through May 10, 2026

Attendee	\$75
UVA Employee	\$35
Fellow/Resident/Student.....	\$25

Rate May 11 - May 21, 2026

Attendee	\$90
UVA Employee	\$50
Fellow/Resident/Student.....	\$40

Please choose your registration category carefully. You will not be able to change from virtual to in-person registration (*please note the refund policy on website*).

Requirements for Successful Completion of the Course

Symposium participants requesting credit are required to complete the post-activity evaluation for the symposium sessions in which they participate.

Hotel Accommodations

Discounted hotel accommodations are available at the Courtyard Marriott – UVA Medical Center, 1201 West Main Street, Charlottesville, VA

Reserve your room now online to receive the discounted conference room rate of \$249 plus tax. Guest parking is \$10/day.

To receive the group rate, be sure to make a reservation by April 28th. The group rate will be available until this date unless the block of rooms sells out early.

Accreditation and Designation Statements



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, UVA Health Continuing Education 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.

IPCE Credit



IPCE CREDIT

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 4.75 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

Nurses

UVA Health Continuing Education awards 4.75 contact hours for nurses who participate in this educational activity and complete the post activity evaluation.

Physicians

UVA Health Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Physician Associates



UVA Health Continuing Education 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 4.75 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

Hours of Participation

UVA Health Continuing Education awards 4.75 hours of participation (consistent with the designated number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™ or ANCC contact hours) to a participant who successfully completes this educational activity. UVA Health Continuing Education maintains a record of participation for six (6) years.

Contact Information

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