

A vertical strip on the left side of the page featuring a vibrant, abstract illustration of a heart and a network of blood vessels. The colors are primarily shades of blue, orange, and yellow, with glowing highlights that suggest a dynamic, life-giving flow of blood through the circulatory system.

# 18th Annual Virginia Heart & Vascular Symposium

Education | Collaboration | Innovation

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**SATURDAY ■ FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fredericksburg Convention Center  
Grand Ballroom  
2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



**Mary Washington Healthcare**

Advanced Cardiac Care

[Heart.mwhc.com](http://Heart.mwhc.com)

# Accredited Continuing Education

REGISTER at  
**VHVSymposium.mwhc.com**

## In-person Symposium

Registration includes breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon wine bar.

General registration: **\$75** | Residents & Students: **\$35**

Early Bird Pricing thru Dec. 31, 2025: **\$50**

### Cancellation Policy

This is an in-person only symposium. Cancellation requests received in writing no less than 30 days before the course will be refunded, less a 20% administrative fee. No refunds will be provided for cancellation requests received within 30 days or for registration fees of less than \$50. Please send cancellation requests to [uvace@uvahealth.org](mailto:uvace@uvahealth.org).

UVA Health Continuing Education reserves the right to cancel CE activities if necessary. In this case, the entire registration fee will be refunded. All other expenses incurred in conjunction with this CE activity are the sole responsibility of the participant.

### Target Audience

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Advanced Practice Providers
- Other Healthcare Professionals

### SYMPOSIUM DESIRED OUTCOMES

- 1 Apply evidence-based strategies to assess cardiovascular risk and guide treatment decisions for diverse patient populations.
- 2 Identify appropriate candidates for emerging therapies and technologies in cardiovascular and vascular care.
- 3 Explore current treatment options and innovations in managing vascular disease, arrhythmias, and structural heart conditions.
- 4 Review ways to enhance patient outcomes through interdisciplinary collaboration and the delivery of evidence-based clinical and nursing practices



# 2026 Symposium Agenda

Case-based Presentation Format

TIME	TOPIC	FACULTY
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast / Welcome / Exhibits	Sebhat Erqou, MD, PhD
7:30 a.m.	Future of Cardiovascular Medicine	Christopher Lewis, MD
<b>Session I: General Cardiology and Diagnostic Imaging</b>		
7:50 a.m.	KEYNOTE: Prevention	Michael J. Blaha, MD, MPH, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Lutherville, MD
8:30 a.m.	Lipid Management: In the beginning and the end	Aaron Schatz, MD
8:50 a.m.	Cardiac MRI	Dan Ruiz, MD
9:05 a.m.	Q & A	
9:10 a.m.	Break / Exhibits	
<b>Session II: Interventional Cardiology</b>		
9:30 a.m.	Interventional Versus Medical Management of CAD	Luis Guzmán, MD
9:50 a.m.	KEYNOTE: Optimizing Door To Balloon Time	Peter O'Brien, MD, Centra Health, Lynchburg, VA
10:30 a.m.	Q & A	
<b>Session III: Advances in Treatment for Valve Disease</b>		
10:35 a.m.	Mitral Valve Surgical Intervention	John Cardone, MD
10:55 a.m.	MitraClip: A Case Study	Ari Chanda, MD
11:15 a.m.	TriClip	TBA
11:35 a.m.	Q & A	
11:40 a.m.	Lunch and Exhibits	
<b>Session IV: Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine</b>		
12:20 p.m.	KEYNOTE: Cardiogenic Shock Management	Zackary J. Tushak, DO, Sentara Advanced Heart Failure Center, Norfolk, VA
1:00 p.m.	Carotid Thrombectomy/Interventions	John Muse, MD
1:20 p.m.	Renal Denervation	Micaela Iantorno, MD
1:40 p.m.	PVD: How and When to Screen	J. Emilio Exaire, MD
2:00 p.m.	Q & A	
<b>Session V: Electrophysiology Best Practice Recommendations</b>		
2:05 p.m.	Pacemaker Selection	Hakeem Ayinde, MD
2:25 p.m.	PVC's and VT: How Do We Treat?	Ashok Talreja, MD
2:45 p.m.	Q & A and Key Meeting Takeaways	TBA

# Speakers / Faculty

## **Hakeem Ayinde, MD, MS, FHRs**

Electrophysiologist  
Cardiology Associates of Fredericksburg

## **Michael J. Blaha, MD, MPH**

Cardiologist  
Professor of Cardiology and Epidemiology  
Johns Hopkins Medicine

## **John C. Cardone, MD, FACS**

Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Mary Washington Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery  
Medical Director, Structural Heart Program  
Mary Washington Hospital

## **Arijit Chanda, MD, FACC, RPVI, ABVM-Endo, CBNC**

Interventional and Structural Cardiologist  
Cardiology Associates of Fredericksburg

## **J. Emilio Exaire, MD**

Interventional Cardiologist  
Mary Washington Cardiology

## **Luis A. Guzmán, MD, FACC, FSCAI**

Interventional Cardiologist  
Mary Washington Cardiology

## **Micaela Iantorno, MD, MSc, RPVI, FAHA**

Interventional Cardiologist  
Critical Care Specialist  
Oracle Heart & Vascular

## **Christopher Lewis, MD**

Cardiologist  
Senior Vice President, Chief Medical Officer  
Mary Washington Healthcare

## **John Muse, MD, MBA**

Neurosurgeon  
Mary Washington Neurosurgery

## **Peter O'Brien, MD,**

Interventional Cardiologist  
Centra Medical Group Heart & Vascular Institute

## **Daniel Ruiz, MD**

Cardiologist  
Cardiology Associates of Fredericksburg

## **Aaron Schatz, MD, FACC**

Cardiologist, Medical Director  
Mary Washington Cardiology

## **Ashok Talreja, MD, FACC, FHRs**

Electrophysiologist  
Premier Cardiac and Vascular

## **Zackary J. Tushak, DO**

Cardiology, Internal Medicine  
Sentara Advanced Heart Failure Center

# Questions?

Email us at

**VHVSymposium@mwhc.com.**

# Planning Committee Members

## **Victoria Axford, MSN, RN**

Nurse Manager Interventional Radiology, Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiac Services, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Carla Boutchyard, LCSW**

Physician Liaison, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Michael Brown, BS, CCP**

Director, Cardiac Surgery/Structural Heart and Chief Perfusionist, Mary Washington Hospital

## **Karen E Charney**

Digital Marketing Specialist, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Peggy Sue Collins**

Marketing & Communications Specialist, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Amanda Creel, MSN, BS, RN, NEA-BC, NRP**

Nurse Manager, Diagnostic Cardiology, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Caitlin Donze, RN**

Interim Nurse Manager, Interventional Cardiology Cardiac Cath Lab, EP, & Cath Holding, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Sebhat A. Erqou, MD, PhD**

Cardiologist, Mary Washington Cardiology

## **Nancy L Matthes, MSLS**

Medical Librarian, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Stephanie Strazinsky, PA**

Virginia Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery, Mary Washington Healthcare

## **Kasia Wardynski**

Director of Development, Mary Washington Hospital Foundation and Stafford Hospital Foundation

# Accreditation Statements



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™  
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Washington Healthcare and UVA Health Continuing Education. 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.

- UVA Health Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum of **6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.™** Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
- 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 **6.0 AAPA Category 1 CME credits.** PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.



- UVA Health Continuing Education awards **6.0 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.
- UVA Health Continuing Education awards up to **6.0 contact hour(s)** for nurses who participate in this educational activity and complete the post activity evaluation.