



# Launching hearts to new frontiers: The evolution of PET imaging for patients with coronary artery disease

## Breakfast Symposium:

Sunday, June 9, 2024 – 6:45am-7:45am EDT  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, room 701B

## Description:

Breakthroughs in science are reshaping medical practices and laying the groundwork for the future of nuclear medicine, molecular imaging, and theranostics. This symposium offers a visionary perspective on the future of combating cardiac disease through advances in nuclear medicine.

Advances in positron emission tomography (PET) myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI) and their applications in patients with epicardial and/or microvascular coronary artery disease will be discussed. New developments addressing different subgroups, including women and obese patients will also be shared; as will information on forthcoming updates in US and international procedure standards and impact documents.





## Speakers:



**Rene R. Sevag Packard,**  
MD, PhD, UCLA

Dr. Packard is an imaging cardiologist and assistant professor-in-residence (tenure-track) of Medicine, Physiology, and Bioengineering at UCLA, and was promoted to associate professor-in-residence effective July 2024. He is Director of Nuclear Cardiology and Molecular Imaging and serves as the Lauren

B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine Cardiovascular Investigator.

Dr. Packard trained at the University of Geneva (Switzerland), the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Case Western Reserve University, and UCLA where he graduated from the STAR (specialty training and advanced research) program, earning a PhD in Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology.

Dr. Packard's research efforts are to integrate molecular and cellular techniques with novel bioengineering and multiscale imaging approaches to address biological pathways of cardiovascular disease. He has published more than 60 articles and 4 book chapters, and his work has been supported by the NIH, the AHA, and the VA. In the field of nuclear cardiology, Dr. Packard's research has focused on the investigational PET radiopharmaceutical <sup>18</sup>F-flurpiridaz, its diagnostic performance, and the development of methods for automation perfusion as well as myocardial blood flow quantitation.

Dr. Packard is a member of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Cardiovascular Council Board of Directors since 2021 and will assume the role of Vice-President Elect in June 2024. He is further serving as chair of two upcoming multi-societal documents on 'State-of-the-Art PET/CT MPI' and '18F-Flurpiridaz PET MPI Procedure Standards'.



**Vasken Dilsizian,**  
MD, UMMC

Dr. Dilsizian has been a professor of medicine and radiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine since 2001, and chief of the division of nuclear medicine since 2007.

He graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1982. This was followed by Internal Medicine residency at

Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1982-85, Fellowship in Cardiology at Boston University Medical Center 1985-87, Nuclear Cardiology Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospitals 1987-88, and Nuclear Medicine residency at the National Institutes of Health 1991-1992. He holds master's (Tau Beta Pi) and bachelor's (Magna Cum Laude) degrees in chemical engineering, both from Tufts University. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Nuclear Medicine.

Dilsizian has been involved in many councils, committees, and task forces of the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) and the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI). He served as the President of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (2019-2020) and Vice President of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (1999-2000). He was awarded the 2014 Hermann Blumgart Award, the 2023 Taplin Memorial Lecture Award, and the 2024 Mario Verani Memorial Lecture Award for his innumerable contributions to the science of nuclear cardiology. He served as the Vice-Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI; 2021-2022), and is currently Vic-Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center (2022-2024). He also served as the Chair of the ACC Task Force on clinical competence and training in nuclear cardiology (COCATS 4 - TF6). He has published over 280 original, peer-reviewed manuscripts and invited editorials/articles, 11 books, and 51 book chapters.



**Saurabh Malhotra,**  
MD, MPH, FACC, FASNC,  
Cook County Health

Dr. Malhotra is the Director of Advanced Cardiac Imaging, Cardiac Amyloidosis and Clinical Research in the Division of Cardiology at Cook County Health. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Rush Medical College. Dr. Malhotra is a multimodality imaging

cardiologist. His clinical and research interest is in imaging infiltrative cardiomyopathies and imaging of cardiac arrhythmogenesis. Dr. Malhotra is a fellow of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) and the American College of Cardiology. He is an associate guest editor for the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology. Dr. Malhotra is the President of the Cardiovascular Council of SNMMI, Immediate Past President of the Eastern Great Lakes Chapter of the SNMMI, and serves on the Board of Directors of ASNC, and the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission.