



# *DUCCS Happy Hour*

The monthly bulletin of the Duke University Cooperative Cardiovascular Society

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## Fellows and Longtime Members Meet at ACC

DUCCS dinners with fellows at ACC and AHA Scientific Sessions are rapidly becoming a tradition. In Chicago, 30 members and fellows gathered at Petterino's restaurant in the Theater District to catch up with old friends and connect with colleagues at all stages of their careers.

Over dinner, current fellows and seasoned DUCCS

members made connections of all kinds. One member came looking for cardiologists to join his practice. One fellow had a line on a basketball-viewing party and brought two members with him after dinner to cheer for UNC in the Final Four.

Our dinner was made possible by members who sponsored fellows' attendance. Thank you to Greg Barsness, Bill Carter,

John Heitner, Mike Honan, Rob Mentz, Brent Muhlestein, Barry Ramo, Doug Schocken, Bill Smith, Jean-Francois Tanguay, Cary Ward, and Dave Whellan for their generosity.

We look forward to seeing even more of you at AHA this fall.



Approaching the DUCCS dinner at Petterino's

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## **PRIME-HF: New DUCCS Study Underway**

We are pleased to announce the start of the PRIME-HF trial (PredischARGE Initiation of Ivabradine in the Management of Heart Failure).



PRIME-HF is a pragmatic trial that will test the efficacy of initiation of ivabradine prior to discharge from a hospitalization for acute HF compared with usual care. Key endpoints include quality of life, heart rate, beta-blocker use and clinical outcomes through 6 mos. It is a 450-patient study that will begin enrolling soon. Of the 50 sites, we are targeting at >20 DUCCS sites so we can revive the DUCCS vs. SWANs (sites without a name) competition.

We see PRIME-HF as a critical trial to build upon the prior research successes of the DUCCS' consortium and lay the foundation for future studies.



Please contact Rob Mentz ([robert.mentz@duke.edu](mailto:robert.mentz@duke.edu) or 919-928-6874) if you are interested in participating as a site in PRIME-HF.

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## Spotlight On... DUCCS Vice President Ricky Schneider



Schneiders at Yellowstone National Park, June 2015: Ricky, David, Emily (Greg's bride), Greg, Wendy, Steve, Jessie (Steve's love)

**Clinical interests:** preventive cardiology, patient education, dispelling patient and primary physician myths and misconceptions regarding diagnostic testing.

**Research interests:** at Yale, Duke (with the late Fred Cobb) and then Penn in the mid-70s to the mid-80s, I tried to build a career out of dog lab and clinical validation of what were then new nuclear cardiology tools. Finally realized I'm a better doctor than researcher. DUCCS got me started incorporating multicenter clinical trials into my practice - adding a great source of personal pride and professional growth for nearly 30 years running!

**Something nobody knows about me:** I intended to be an ophthalmologist, did eye physiology research in college, and was funded throughout med school by The Seeing Eye. My med school advisor and mentor, Yale chief of cardiology Larry Cohen, taught me the merits of internal medicine and cardiology.

**A question I hated being asked:** My chief at Penn asked me in 1985 to utilize my family vacation in the Outer Banks to create a research plan that would make me famous. I returned from the beach at Duck with an answer I've never regretted: cardiology practice in South Florida!