



# DUCCS Happy Hour

The bulletin of the Duke University Cooperative Cardiovascular Society

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## Reminder: Special Event and Musical Performance, Friday, February 24

We hope you have received your invitation for a special event hosted by the Duke Program for Women in Cardiology and DUCCS.

**The Art of Combining  
Your Medical Practice  
and Your Passions,  
featuring Suzie  
Brown Sax**

Friday, February 24  
7:30 pm  
21c Museum Hotel  
Durham, NC

Suzie Brown Sax is a transplant cardiologist from Vanderbilt University who pursues music and songwriting in her spare time. She will share her thoughts about career choices and then perform after dinner.

The event will take place at the 21c Museum Hotel, a unique venue that combines a boutique hotel, an art museum open to the public free of charge, and the award-winning Counting House restaurant.

All are invited including significant others.  
Drinks and dinner will be served.

To learn more about Suzie Brown Sax, go to <http://www.suziebrownsongs.com/> or <http://www.tedmed.com/speakers/show?id=526396>.

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February 2017



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## **You're Invited to Dinner at ACC**

It's almost time for our biannual gathering with Duke Cardiology fellows and DUCCS members new and old. We will meet for dinner at Nage Bistro in DC ("Nage" rhymes with "homage"). We hope to see you there!

### **DUCCS Dinner with Fellows at ACC**

Friday, March 17, 2017, 6:30 pm EDT

Nage Bistro

1600 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036

Dinner for one \$85

Dinner and sponsor a fellow \$170



Washington DC Metro by Matt Popovich

If you would like to attend, please [RSVP to Megan Honig](#). Please indicate whether you would like to sponsor a fellow and whether you will have any dietary needs or restrictions.

## **Membership Survey Still Open – Please Weigh In!**

Thank you to those of you who have told us about your needs, your interests, and job opportunities at your sites. Your feedback will help shape DUCCS activities in the coming years.

If you haven't yet taken our survey, please use the following link:  
[https://duke.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_exOVGs2UGjG2uqh](https://duke.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_exOVGs2UGjG2uqh)

The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete. We appreciate your time and your input.



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## 2017 Board of Directors Announced

The ACC Scientific Sessions marks the end of a term for several of our board members. Please join us in welcoming our new board members and thanking our outgoing members for their service.

### New Board Members

**Tim Albert**, Tanner Medical Group, Carrollton, GA  
**Greg Barsness**, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN  
**Melissa Burroughs Peña**, USCF Medical Center, San Francisco, CA  
**Lauren Cooper**, Inova Heart & Vascular, Falls Church, VA  
**Rich Krasuski**, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC  
(faculty liaison)  
**Ben Steinberg**, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

### Returning Board Members

**Alex Barbagelata**, Duke University Medical Center /  
Universidad Católica Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
**Wayne Batchelor**, Southern Medical Group, Tallahassee, FL  
(nominated for President)  
**Jim Daubert**, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC  
(faculty liaison)  
**Dan Friedman**, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC  
(fellow liaison)  
**John Heitner**, New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY  
**Ken Mahaffey**, Stanford University, Stanford, CA  
**Rob Mentz**, Duke Clinical Research Institute, Durham NC  
(director)  
**Brent Muhlestein**, Intermountain Health, Salt Lake City, UT  
(past president)  
**Ricky Schneider**, Holy Cross Hospital, Coral Springs, FL  
(nominated for Vice President)  
**Doug Schocken**, Duke University Medical Center, Durham,  
NC (faculty liaison)  
**Harry Severance**, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN  
**Jean-François Tanguay**, Montreal Heart Institute, Montreal,  
QC, Canada  
**David Whellan**, Jefferson Heart Institute, Philadelphia, PA  
**Michael White**, Creighton Cardiac Center, Omaha, NE

### Departing Board Members

**Julie Miller**, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD  
**Christopher O'Connor**, Inova Heart & Vascular, Falls Church, VA  
**Chris Perzanowski**, Bay Area Cardiology, Brandon, FL  
**Barry Ramo**, New Mexico Heart Institute, Albuquerque, NM  
**Wendy Schneider**, Altor BioScience Corporation, Miramar, FL  
**Cary Ward**, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC



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## Uptick in Memberships for 2017

Since our membership renewal campaign began in December 2016, 38 of you have joined, rejoined, or renewed.

We are thrilled to have so many of you as part of DUCCS and hope you will take advantage of the benefits of membership, including visiting professorships, networking, connecting with fellows, accessing library resources, and participating in clinical trials as part of a DUCCS team.

### Three-Year Renewals, 2017-2019

Name	Class of...	Institution*
Warren Holland	1970	
<b>Win Shen</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>Mayo Clinic</b>
Stephen Culp	1992	Culp Private Medicine
Kenneth Zabel	1995	Cardiovascular Specialists of Lawrence
Michael Hudson	2000	Henry Ford Health System
David Whellan	2002	Jefferson Health
<b>William Smith IV</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Cape Fear Heart Associates</b>
<b>Tripp Meine</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Cape Fear Heart Associates</b>
Gregory Egnaczyk	2010	Christ Hospital
Sudarshan Rajagopal	2013	Duke University Medical Center
<b>Emanuel Finet</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Indiana University</b>
Louis Kohl	2015	Hennepin County Medical Center
Arun Krishnamoorthy	2016	Piedmont Heart Institute
<b>Lauren Cooper</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Inova Heart &amp; Vascular Institute</b>
<b>Meena Rao</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Cape Fear Heart Associates</b>
<b>Benjamin Steinberg</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>University of Utah</b>
Bleakley Chandler		University Cardiology Associates
*bold text indicates renewal processed after Jan 13, 2017		

### One-Year Renewals, 2017

Name	Class of...	Institution*
Stafford Warren	1974	Parkersburg Cardiology Associates
Robert Vranian	1978	Virginia Cardiovascular Consultants
<b>John Parker</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>Sentara Healthcare</b>
Dean Bramlet	1981	Cardiovascular Diagnostic Center
<b>Dwight Davis</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>Penn State Hershey Heart &amp; Vascular</b>
Ricky Schneider	1983	Holy Cross Hospital
<b>James Heinsimer</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>Beaumont Health System</b>
Stephen Greer	1987	Arkansas Cardiology
William Kraus	1988	Duke University Medical Center
Robert Sorrentino	1991	Augusta University
Kenneth Mahaffey	1996	Stanford Medicine
Gery Tomassoni	1998	Baptist Health Lexington
<b>John Heitner</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>New York Methodist Hospital</b>
Adam Berman	2006	Augusta University
<b>Larry Allen</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>University of Colorado</b>
Andre Tse		Jacksonville, FL
David Adler		Cardiovascular Associates, Ltd.
Wayne Old		Sentara Heart Hospital
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## **Active Members, Cast Your Votes for DUCCS President and Vice President**

President Brent Muhlestein and Vice President Ricky Schneider will complete their three-year terms this March at the American College of Cardiology Scientific Sessions. We are pleased to have received two strong nominations for leadership roles going forward.

Dr. Wayne Batchelor of Southern Medical Group has been nominated to be our next DUCCS President. His CV is posted on the DUCCS website at the following link: [Dr. Wayne Batchelor CV](#).

Dr. Ricky Schneider has been nominated to serve as Vice President for another term. His CV is posted on the DUCCS website at the following link: [Dr. Ricky Schneider CV](#).

Please read on for biographical and vision statements from Dr. Batchelor and Dr. Schneider.

According to the DUCCS Constitution, active members must vote in the new president and vice president. We are hoping members will give their support to Dr. Batchelor and Dr. Schneider. If you are a DUCCS member, please [email Megan Honig](#) with your vote.

## **CONNECT-HF Is Recruiting Sites**

Dr. Adam DeVore and the Outcomes Group are excited to announce the launch



**CONNECT-HF**

Partnering to improve cardiac care

of the CONNECT-HF – Care Optimization through Patient and Hospital Engagement Clinical Trial for Heart Failure trial.

This is a pragmatic, cluster-randomized, open-label trial to evaluate two different intensities of quality improvement strategies to bolster downstream outcomes based on heart failure readmissions or all-cause mortality, heart-failure quality metrics, and data captured up to one year after patient discharge. Approximately 8,000 HF patients will be enrolled from geographically, socioeconomically and structurally diverse hospitals over a two year period. Results from this study will prove important in upcoming years as we strive to translate evidence into practice and to provide the most efficient and effective patient-centered care possible, leading to better longitudinal HF patient outcomes.

DCRI is currently recruiting hospitals to participate in this exciting trial. If you or a colleague might be interested in becoming involved, please contact Kirsten Bahnson by email at [DCRI-CONNECT-HF@dm.duke.edu](mailto:DCRI-CONNECT-HF@dm.duke.edu) or phone at 919-688-8453 for more information.



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## DUCCS Vision Statement

**Wayne Batchelor, M.D., M.H.S., F.A.C.C., S.C.A.I.**

*Dr. Batchelor is nominated to become the next DUCCS President. Please review his [CV](#) and the statement below to learn more.*

1. I would really like to push the type of DUCCS clinical trial network collaboration promulgated by the EXERDUCCS investigators. This idea of creating a specific network of DUCCS sites who work together on a specific protocol to provide facile trial start-up, enrollment and trial completion with solid data is very intriguing to me. I think that this is natural progression of current DUCSS activities, however, I would like to see this idea expanded upon. For example, smaller pharmacodynamic/pharmacokinetic studies and/or studies looking at physiologic endpoints rather than hard clinical endpoints would be ideal for this type of DUCCS collaboration. I would hope that in the future this would be nice subdivision of the DUCCS collaboration that could ultimately be marketed to industry, clinical investigators and others as an attractive way to tackle smaller clinical studies in a timely fashion.
2. I would like to see the current DUCCS network continue to strengthen with regular communication (i.e. email updates/communications) w.r.t. clinical trials and other scholarly activities. I have not seen a database created of current DUCCS members, however, I would think that posting current members information (simple info like emails) on the DUCCS website would be useful so that members can readily contact each other. I apologize if this has been already done and is a redundant idea, however, I am not aware of such a database that is readily available to members.
3. I would like for there to be an opportunity to become a life-time DUCCS member. I would put forth a membership of about \$5,000.00 (could be less, or more depending on further discussion). This would be a one-time membership fee for life and would create a bolus of capital that could be useful, while sparing physicians from constantly having to renew. We could have some perks associated with this to further entice members to consider this.
4. I would like to continue to look at ways in which we could enhance the fellows' experience. I think that DUCCS has already done a superb job in moving this objective forward so that I would simply want to see these efforts continue to be supported.



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## DUCCS Personal Statement Ricky M. Schneider, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.P.

*Dr. Schneider is nominated to serve a 4<sup>th</sup> term as DUCCS Vice President.*

*Please review his [CV](#) and the statement below to learn more.*

I realized many years ago that I would be happiest if I worked on being the best husband and father—and doctor—possible. I left academics in 1986 when my chief at the University of Pennsylvania challenged me to spend my Outer Banks vacation contemplating the sort of cardiology research that would make America great again (or something like that). Lying on the beach, I decided to go into private practice. I have completed 31 years of cardiology practice in South Florida. I served on the executive board of my main hospital for 14 years, including 4 years as chief of medicine and 2 years as vice-chief of staff, before becoming employed by Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale.

My wife, Wendy, until recently a DUCCS Board member and head of the DUCCSinator committee, is an RN, MSN (University of Pennsylvania). Since August 2016, she has been a lead coordinator of oncology immunotherapy trials for Altor Bioscience, in Miramar FL. We have 3 sons, David, a businessman (near us in Miami), Greg, a special education teacher (New York City—recently married to Emily, who is expecting our first grandchild, a boy, in March 2017), and Steven, a corporate compliance lawyer (New York City).

I attended college and then medical school at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, graduating in 1977. I was fortunate to be mentored by Dr. Larry Cohen, and to do basic research in nuclear cardiology with Dr. Barry Zaret. I completed an internship and residency in medicine at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, and then enjoyed a 3-year cardiology fellowship at Duke University, where I worked with Dr. Fred Cobb, again doing basic nuclear cardiology research in dogs. I left Durham for Philadelphia in 1983 to become director of nuclear cardiology at Presbyterian-University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

Fortuitously, shortly after my move to South Florida, Duke cardiology organized DUCCS as a consortium of former fellows interested in collaborating with Duke in performing multicenter clinical research trials. Sharing Dr. Eugene Stead's vision of a "university without walls," Drs. Joe Greenfield and Galen Wagner recruited many of us to become the first DUCCS members, and to give seed money to establish the new organization. For me, in private cardiology practice, DUCCS has kept me connected with Duke and with academics - and has made clinical research an integral part of my medical career.

In the late 1990s, Dr. Wagner asked me to join the DUCCS Board. I have served 3 terms as the DUCCS vice president and am hoping to serve a 4th. Over the last 3 years, it was my pleasure to join many others devoted to DUCCS by fulfilling my pledge to the Galen Wagner Endowment Fund, which now provides perpetual financial support for a Duke cardiology faculty member to serve as DUCCS director. Those wishing to donate now should contact Ms. Blue Dean at [blue.dean@duke.edu](mailto:blue.dean@duke.edu).