



Wenatchee Cardiac Symposium

January 30 & 31

Speaker Biographies

Lauren Weber, MD

Board Certification: Cardiovascular Disease

Confluence Health

Wenatchee, WA

Title: Coronary Calcium Scoring in Contemporary Medicine

1. Define CAC scoring and review the supporting data/indications
2. How to incorporate CAC scoring into clinical practice
3. How to decide if downstream/cascade testing is needed

Dr. Lauren A. Weber is a cardiologist in Wenatchee, Washington and is affiliated with Confluence Health. She received her medical degree from Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years. She has expertise in treating coronary artery disease, heart failure, hypertension & high blood pressure,

Roy Lin, MD

Board Certification: Cardiovascular Disease

Confluence Health

Wenatchee, WA

Title: A Practical Approach to Managing Atrial Fibrillation

1. Emergency or Outpatient Management
2. Rate Versus Rhythm Control
3. Stroke Prevention

Dr. Roy Lin, MD is a cardiologist in Wenatchee, WA and has over 15 years of experience in the medical field. Dr. Lin has extensive experience in Cardiac Electrical System Procedures, Cardiac Implantable Device Procedures, and Heart Conditions. He graduated from Ross University School of Medicine in 2009

Marina Jansen, MD

Board Certification: Cardiovascular Disease

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

Seattle, WA

Title: What's New in Pulmonary Hypertension?

1. Learning new updated PH classification
2. Identifying and describing new medical class of medications for Pulmonary Hypertension
3. Updates on right ventricular echocardiography guidelines

Marina Jansen, MD, is a cardiologist who specializes in the care for adult heart failure patients age 18 and older.

Dr. Jansen's goal is to ensure that her patients receive the benefits of the most recent, evidence-based treatment options. She strives to treat her patients as she would treat her own family, and believes that understanding and good communication are the crucial components of successful treatment and health maintenance.

Dr. Jansen is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, and a member of the American Heart Association and American Society of Echocardiography.

Ming Zhang, MD

Board Certification: Cardiology

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

Seattle, WA

Title: Transcatheter Valvular Intervention

1. Update of transcatheter aortic valve intervention, transcatheter mitral valve intervention, and transcatheter tricuspid valve intervention
2. Future of transcatheter valve intervention

Ming Zhang, MD, PhD, FACC, is a board-certified cardiologist with advanced fellowship training in structural heart disease. In addition to his considerable medical training, he brings research, teaching experience and an extensive patient care history to the treatment of complex cardiac conditions. Dr. Zhang stays up to date on treatment options, guidelines and available research therapies, and he takes a team-approach to care. Patient-centric, he treats his patients as he would a friend or family member, with dedication and commitment to personalized care.

Dr. Zhang is a member of the American College of Cardiology and The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions.

Away from work, he enjoys hiking and biking.

Preethi Pirlamarla, MD

Board Certification: Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant
Cardiology

UW Medicine

Seattle, WA

Title: Updates in Management of Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction

1. Review the updated definitions of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction
2. Pathophysiology of HFrEF and how this relates to clinical management
3. Updates in pharmacologic and therapeutic interventions in heart failure
4. Define the advanced heart failure patient

Preethi Pirlamarla, MD, is a board-certified cardiologist specializing in advanced heart failure and heart transplantation. Dr. Pirlamarla believes in a team approach to patient care and providing the most current information so patients can make informed decisions, especially about advanced heart failure therapies and treatments. Her goal is to help patients return to the activities they enjoy most.

Dr. Pirlamarla's clinical expertise includes all things advanced heart failure and evaluation for heart transplantation.

Katie Bates, MD

Kittitas Valley Healthcare

Ellensburg, WA

Title: Under Pressure: Key Updates from the 2025 AHA/ACC Hypertension Guidelines

1. Evidence-based approaches to evaluating and diagnosing hypertension
2. Current recommendations for pharmacologic and lifestyle management of hypertension
3. Tailoring hypertension management to patient comorbidities and special populations

Katie Bates, DNP, ARNP, is an experienced, board-certified cardiovascular nurse practitioner with a strong focus on Advanced Practice Provider education and mentorship, virtual care innovation, and advancing healthcare delivery in rural communities.

Dave Elison, MD

Board Certification: Interventional Cardiology

UW Medicine

Seattle, WA

Title: Valve Assessments

1. Understanding echocardiographic evaluation of stenotic and regurgitation lesions
2. Non-invasive modalities beyond basic echocardiography
3. Outline instances in which invasive valve assessment is warranted

David Elison, MD, is a board-certified interventional cardiologist who specializes in valvular heart disease and catheter-based interventions. He believes in a team approach to patient care and provides the most current information so patients can make informed decisions, especially when treating valvular heart disease. His goal is to help patients return to the activities they enjoy most. Dr. Elison's clinical expertise includes a wide range of catheter-based interventions for the aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve disease. He also participates in the future of treatments participating in a number of clinical trials.

Gautam Nayak, MD

Board Certification: Cardiovascular Disease

Kittitas Valley Healthcare

Ellensburg, WA

Title: Evaluation of Syncope

1. Recognize the most common causes of syncope
2. Employ the appropriate evaluation to optimally risk stratify and determine the cause of syncope
3. Therapeutic options for different causes of syncope

Dr. Nayak has truly enjoyed caring for patients in central Washington since 2009. Delivering world class care in a rural system requires time with each patient, local availability of critical resources, and collaboration with colleagues at the state and national level to get patients to advanced care when needed. Cardiology is evolving quickly, and he thoroughly enjoys bringing modern, safe, data-driven treatment strategies to his patients. While he may not have all the answers, he is a strong advocate for all of his patients and loves the challenge of ensuring the best care possible.

Creighton Don, MD

Board Certification: Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology

UW Medicine

Seattle, WA

Title: Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion (LAAO) —What Every Provider Should Know and Do

1. Identify the indications for stroke reduction therapies and be able to discuss risks and benefits for antiplatelet therapy, anticoagulation or LAAO
2. Understand current and emerging clinical data supporting LAAO and know which patients might benefit from LAAO
3. Recognize late complications associated with LAAO and how to manage patients who have had LAAO

Creighton W. Don, M.D, PhD is an interventional cardiologist and Professor of Medicine, Section Chief of Cardiology at the Puget Sound Veteran's Administration Hospital in Seattle and Director of the Interventional Cardiology and Structural Heart Fellowships at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, WA. He completed his cardiology fellowship at the University of Washington and an interventional fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital before joining UW Medicine in 2009.

Dr. Don is an expert in complex coronary interventions including advanced therapies for in-stent restenosis and brachytherapy, percutaneous treatment for valvular heart disease (including TAVR, TMVR, TTVR, MitraClip, mitral annular devices), and other structural interventions such as left atrial appendage closure, PFO closure, and paravalvular leak closure. He earned an MPH at UW and his research focuses on evaluating outcomes in real-world practice of patients undergoing complex coronary and structural heart procedures. He has been recognized in the Seattle Magazine as a Top Doctor in Seattle for interventional cardiology for several years.

Joel Rhyner, PA-C

Kittitas Valley Healthcare

Ellensburg, WA

Title: Lipid Management

1. The evolving landscape of lipid management
2. Therapeutic toolbox: 2026 update
3. Practical implementation tips

At the heart of his practice is a commitment to proactive, precision driven care that strengthens lives, not just treats disease. He believes in combining cutting-edge cardiovascular science with practical lifestyle strategies, empowering every patient to achieve optimal heart health and longevity. Through personalized prevention, advanced diagnostics and community centered programs, he strives to lead a new standard of cardiology for KVH and our community.

David Zhang, MD

Board Certification: Cardiology

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

Seattle, WA

Title: Digital Frontiers in Cardio-Oncology: Leveraging AI for Precision Care

1. Understand the evolving landscape of Cardio-Oncology
2. Explore AI-driven tools for cardiac risk stratification and monitoring
3. Apply practical AI solutions in primary care and community settings

David Zhang, MD, PhD, FACP, FACC, offers personalized, state-of-the-art cardiac care for adult patients. He specializes in advanced heart failure treatment, heart disease prevention, focusing on educating patients to take a proactive approach in minimizing cardiac risk factors. Dr. Zhang employs cardiac catheterization, cardiac imaging, cardiac therapy optimization and a variety of other tactics to manage heart disease. He has published articles on heart health research and has written books on heart failure.

Dr. Zhang establishes a one-to-one relationship with each patient, ensuring their comfort and keeping them informed about their care in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

Lou Toni, MD

Board Certification: Pediatric Cardiology

Seattle Children's Hospital

Seattle, WA

Title: Pediatric Chest Pain: Sports Screening Young Athletes

1. Understand etiologies of chest pain in the pediatric population
2. Review CV sports screening guidelines for young athletes
3. Identify risk factors for sports participation
4. Understand special considerations for children and young adults with congenital heart disease

BOARD CERTIFICATION(S)

Pediatric Cardiology

EDUCATION

University Of Medicine & Dentistry Of New Jersey, Newark, NJ

RESIDENCY

Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA

FELLOWSHIP

Cohen Childrens Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY

Christine Chung, MD

Board Certification: Interventional Cardiology

UW Medicine

Seattle, WA

Title: Management of Tricuspid Valve Disease

1. Clinical significance of TR and recognize limitations of current medical/surgical management strategies
2. Discuss landscape of transcatheter therapies for TR
3. Appropriate patient profiles for referral to a structural heart team for consideration of transcatheter tricuspid interventions

Christine J. Chung, MD, is an interventional cardiologist specializing in the management of structural heart disease and coronary artery disease. She strives to provide patient-centered care, working together with patients, their families, and their other healthcare providers to fulfill their health-related goals.

Her clinical interests include all forms of valvular heart disease, left atrial appendage closure, closure of patent foramen ovale and atrial septal defects, alcohol septal ablation, percutaneous coronary intervention, and cardiogenic shock.

Dr. Chung is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at the UW School of Medicine.

Tony Chen, MD

Board Certification: Cardiology

Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

Seattle, WA

Title: Coronary Artery Disease and Acute Myocardial Infarction

1. Describe pathophysiology of atherosclerotic coronary artery disease
2. Review the difference between acute coronary syndrome versus chronic coronary syndrome
3. Establish the utility of different noninvasive stress tests and which to order depending on the patient's goals

Tony Chen, MD, is a board-certified general cardiologist whose practice spans the full spectrum of cardiovascular care, from preventive medicine to the management of critically ill patients in the cardiac ICU. Conditions he commonly treats include heart failure, cardiomyopathy, coronary artery disease and cardiac rhythm disorders. Dr. Chen's goal is to collaborate with patients to develop individualized care plans that align with their personal goals of care. He strives to educate, partner with and meet patients where they are in their health journey.

Dr. Chen is a member of the American College of Cardiology.

Away from work, Dr. Chen enjoys endurance sports, having completed two half-marathons, one full marathon and a Half-Ironman triathlon. He also keeps busy with his wife and four boys.