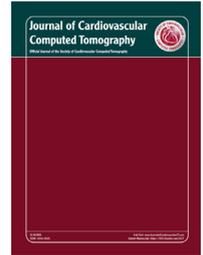


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From the Desk of the President

President's page: Worldwide expansion of cardiac CT—an impressive growth in recent years

Dear Colleagues,

In the paragraphs to follow, my goal is to share the impressive expansion in education and research, particularly in the clinical use of cardiac CT worldwide. The Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT) has fostered the creation of international regional committees (IRCs) by establishing strong partnerships with international members in different regions, countries, or continents worldwide. These partnerships have served as the main catalyst to promote a number of activities that are supporting the significant growth of cardiac CT as a field on the international stage, as highlighted below:

- Education: regional educational symposiums and meetings.
- Advocacy and reimbursement: development of national coverage payments by local governments and private payers.
- Research: creation of international registries for data collection in cardiac CT (eg, CONFIRM trial).¹
- Guidelines: translation of SCCT guidelines in different languages.

To date, there have been 13 IRCs created in all 5 continents, and SCCT has experienced a significant growth in international members. Special membership promotions are available to attract and retain international members. The educational meetings promoted by the IRCs have been outstanding not only in terms of attendance but also in the high level of presentations by local and international speakers. For example, below are highlights of local initiatives.

- SCCT Australia and New Zealand:
 - o In May of 2014, the Australia and New Zealand IRC hosted an afternoon symposium on coronary CT angiography (CCTA) at the World Congress of Cardiology in Melbourne.
 - o A CCTA master class will be held from February 21 to 22, 2015, at Holy Spirit Northside Hospital in Brisbane,



Queensland, Australia. For more information, contact chair@cardiacimaging.org.au

- o Australia and New Zealand present at the SCCT 10th Annual Scientific Meeting (SCCT2015) will highlight the new and exciting initiatives, science, and research.
- o The Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, in association with the ANZ IRC, is developing local guidelines for the use and reporting of coronary calcium scans and a separate guideline update on noninvasive coronary imaging to foster quality use of these technologies in the ANZ region.
- SCCT Brazil:
 - o The Brazil IRC held the fourth SCCT Annual Meeting from September 12 to 14, 2014, at the seventh Cardiac Radiology National Meeting in Rio de Janeiro with 200 attendees. Twenty-five new members joined the society.

- The first meeting of Brazil-Latin America IRC took place from October 23 to 24, 2014, with more than 250 attendees. Fifty-seven new members joined SCCT at this meeting.
 - Planning for the fifth SCCT Brazil annual meeting for September 2015 is underway.
 - The IRC is working on publishing its second guideline of appropriateness criteria of cardiovascular CT based on SCCT guidelines.
 - SCCT Canada:
 - The Canadian IRC held its first meeting, “Cardiac CT Imaging Day,” in 2012. This sister event to the Canadian Association of Radiologists’ 75th annual scientific meeting had 100 attendees.
 - In 2013, new and exciting initiatives, science, and research from Canada and the Canada IRC were highlighted at the SCCT’s eighth annual scientific meeting (SCCT2013).
 - SCCT China:
 - After a very successful first meeting of the SCCT China IRC in 2013, the second SCCT China IRC meeting was held in Shanghai, China, from October 31 to November 2, 2014, with 400 participants. The meeting focused on cardiac CT with a theme of “Anatomy, Function and Integration.”
 - The third annual meeting of the China IRC is in the planning stages. This meeting will be held in Beijing, from October 30 to November 1, 2015.
 - SCCT Europe:
 - The Italian Society of Cardiology in collaboration with Dr Andreini and the Italian Society of Cardiology Working Group of Cardiac CT and Nuclear Cardiology is organizing a symposium on CCTA at the next National Congress to be held in Rome from December 13 to 15, 2014. The symposium will focus on the most innovative applications of CCTA, as CT perfusion or fractional flow reserve-CT.
 - The SCCT Europe IRC is in the beginning stages of planning a meeting in conjunction with the Nordic Cardiac CT Conference 2015 meeting in Denmark.
 - SCCT India:
 - SCCT’s newest IRC, created in November 2014, is working on creating educational opportunities in the region and recently established a CT angiography academy.
 - SCCT Israel:
 - The Israel IRC held a joint symposium with the Israel Heart Society that took place during the 61st annual meeting of the Israel Heart Society in April 2014.
 - The Israel IRC is in the planning stages of a cardiac CT symposium.
 - SCCT Japan:
 - The Japan IRC was the first IRC to be created. This IRC has held annual meetings every year and they just had their eighth annual scientific meeting in September.
 - This IRC is working on translating SCCT guidelines into Japanese and have recently completed the translation of the SCCT guideline for transcatheter aortic valve implantation.
 - SCCT Korea:
 - The Korea IRC is planning its third annual meeting as a full 2-day program in February 2015. Two meetings were held previously, with each having more than 200 attendees.
 - SCCT Latin America:
 - In conjunction with the Brazil IRC, the first meeting of Brazil-Latin America IRC took place from October 23 to 24, 2014. The course covered the most important aspects related to cardiac CT including a review of the basic concepts of acquisition, processing, and analysis of images; review of the indications of the method; the role of CT in the emergency department; and its application in evaluating the myocardium, with the positron emission tomography-CT contribution. Fifty-seven new members joined SCCT at this meeting.
 - Cardiac CT-specific meetings are in the planning stages for 2015.
 - SCCT Middle East:
 - The Middle East IRC continues to hold regular meetings. Their most recent ones include 2 cardiac CT workshops that were held in November 2014.
 - SCCT United Kingdom:
 - Coming off the success of their jointly run conference with the British Society of Cardiovascular Imaging, the United Kingdom IRC will continue to work closely with the British Society of Cardiovascular Imaging to encourage the highest quality of cardiac CT practice and education to foster closer global research collaboration.
 - The biannual BSCCT-SCCT meeting in London took place on December 17, 2013. This meeting was organized by the United Kingdom IRC, in association with the sections of the radiology and cardiology of the Royal Society of Medicine and the British Society of Cardiovascular Imaging.
 - SCCT Taiwan:
 - The Taiwan IRC was started in February 2014. They will hold their first meeting, SCCT Taiwan Forum 2015, in April 2015 at the National Taiwan University.
- Moreover, during every SCCT annual meeting, an international region is highlighted and presents its latest contributions to the field. In the upcoming 2015 meeting planned at Las Vegas, Australia and New Zealand will be highlighted.
- Most importantly, the dissemination of knowledge in an organized manner is impacting the proper use, acceptance, and growth of cardiac CT in clinical daily practice. First and foremost, patients need to come first, and following the established guidelines in appropriateness criteria, proper acquisition, interpretation, and reporting of cardiac CT are imperative to achieve the best outcome possible to patients.² In many countries, cardiac CT is becoming the main noninvasive modality to evaluate patients with suspected obstructive coronary artery disease to serve as a gate-keeper to the catheterization laboratory.³ For example, a survey in China demonstrated that 2.4 million cardiac CT studies were performed in the year 2013,⁴ surpassing the use of single-photon emission CT—myocardial perfusion imaging studies.
- Finally, I believe that the worldwide expansion of cardiac CT is only at its early stage. SCCT is fortunate enough to have

great international leaders propelling the field ahead of us and contributing to the scientific, educational, and clinical growth of cardiac CT.

Warm regards,



International Regional Committee meeting during the Annual Meeting of SCCT in San Diego, July, 2014. Standing from left to right: Dr Mouaz Mallah (Saudi Arabia), Dr Byoung-Wook Choi (South Korea), Dr Patricia Carrascosa (Argentina), Dr Ed Nicol (United Kingdom), Tanya Tolpegin (USA), Dr Daniele Andreini (Italy), Dr Ronen Rubinshtein (Israel), Dr Ming-Ting Wu (Taiwan), Dr Wen-Jeng Lee (Taiwan), Debra Fernandez (USA), and Dr Teruhito Mochizuki (Japan). Seated from left to right: Dr Aloha Meave (Mexico), Dr Sachio Kuribayashi (Japan), Dr Stephan Achenbach (Germany), Dr Ricardo C. Cury (USA), Dr Bin Lu (China), Dr Hyuk-Jae Chang (South Korea).

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