

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022



Bringing the Future of Cardiovascular Health to Life™



The mission of The Texas Heart Institute is to improve cardiovascular health today through trailblazing research, thought leadership, education, and patient care.



INTRODUCTION

*Message from Joseph G. Rogers, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer*

For the past 60 years, The Texas Heart Institute has been recognized as a center of innovation, education, and clinical excellence in cardiovascular medicine, shaping a new landscape for patients with heart and vascular disease.

As we begin the next era in our storied history, The Texas Heart Institute continues to lead with pioneering research and a commitment to applying the latest advances to benefit patients across the globe.

In the pages that follow, many of our remarkable accomplishments over the past year are highlighted. We formally changed our name to The Texas Heart Institute to distinguish us from other organizations that treat heart and vascular disease and to highlight our stature earned through decades of work developing novel approaches to common and uncommon cardiovascular conditions. We also rebranded our clinical practice as The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care and opened a new 19,000-square-foot office on the 26th floor of the Fannin Tower in Houston. The beautiful space offers our patients convenient access to the most advanced diagnostic and treatment modalities available today and is fully integrated with our research programs, providing those seeking our care with the newest therapies and clinical trials.

The Texas Heart Institute research teams have achieved impressive milestones as

well. Our long-standing focus on novel approaches to treat the failing heart has resulted in the completion of pre-clinical experiments of a new total artificial heart, a federally-funded development program of a mechanical heart for children, and progress with gene- and stem cell therapies that are extending our understanding of new biological treatments for heart disease. Our heart rhythm specialists have developed a novel biomaterial that can be used to pace the heart in a more natural manner than a traditional pacemaker, and our drug development researchers have synthesized a new compound that enhances the effectiveness of vaccines to opportunistic infections with serious cardiovascular consequences and also boosts the effectiveness of cancer immunotherapy.

The Texas Heart Institute remains vibrant, with an unwavering focus on exploring the boundaries of cardiovascular health and disease, challenging contemporary dogma, and discovering new approaches to improve the lives of our patients. We truly are “Bringing the Future of Cardiovascular Health to Life.”



Eric D. Wade - Chairman, Board of Trustees, The Texas Heart Institute



Honoring the past and embracing the future...

Message from Eric D. Wade Chairman, Board of Trustees

The past year was transformative for The Texas Heart Institute. As we celebrated our 60th anniversary, we honored the storied history that positioned us among the most influential cardiovascular institutions in the world. However, our greatest cause for celebration lies in our vision and plans that shape the future.

The Texas Heart Institute's vision – **Bringing the Future of Cardiovascular Health to Life** – drives our team to deliver the next series of advancements in cardiovascular care. Every decision made, whether it be by our clinicians at the forefront of patient care or our researchers pushing the boundaries of science, is rooted in the shared purpose of improving cardiovascular health.

Our translational research programs are unraveling the complex biological processes that cause cardiovascular disease. We are developing groundbreaking devices, medications, and treatments that have the potential to transform cardiovascular health on a global scale.

We spent the year expanding our clinical practice by opening a new patient clinic and recruiting outstanding cardiologists and surgeons. We are confident that by fostering a community of diverse clinical practices and talents, we can accelerate cutting-edge advancements in cardiovascular medicine.

While we pioneer new approaches for cardiovascular health, we remain committed to the legacy left by Dr. Denton A. Cooley. Because of his foresight, The Texas Heart Institute continues to be recognized as a leader in cardiovascular medicine, an incubator of innovation, and a center of thought leadership for the professional and patient communities.

We are proud to share with you our achievements in 2022 and how The Texas Heart Institute is *bringing the future of cardiovascular health to life*. Thank you to all who have contributed to our success.

INNOVATION

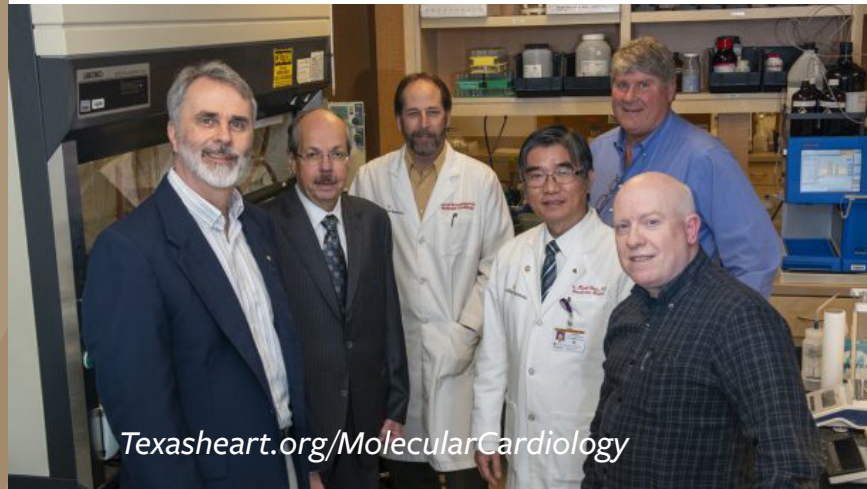
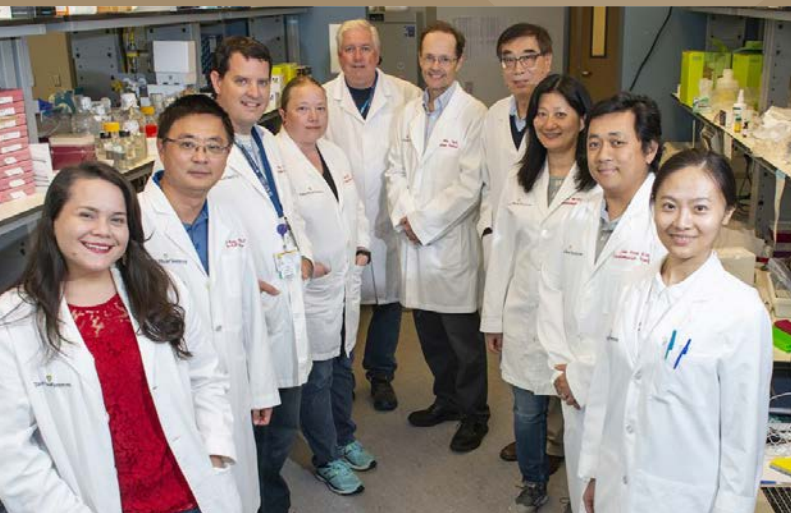
for the Future of Cardiovascular Health

BASIC, PRECLINICAL, AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

Cardiomyocyte Renewal Laboratory McGill Gene Editing Lab

Researchers in the Cardiomyocyte Renewal Laboratory, directed by James F. Martin, MD, PhD, are working to understand how genetic pathways function in the heart. By obtaining an in-depth understanding of these pathways, Dr. Martin and his team hope to develop new techniques for preventing and treating heart disorders. The investigators recently collaborated with teams at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine to uncover new insights into the mechanisms underlying the progression of congenital heart disease (CHD) -- a spectrum of heart defects that develop before birth and remain the leading cause of childhood death.

Texasheart.org/MartinLab



Texasheart.org/MolecularCardiology

Molecular Cardiology Research Laboratories

Investigators in the Molecular Cardiology Research Laboratories approach advances in cardiovascular care using a very special skillset—they combine expertise in molecular biology with extensive experience in the development of small-molecule and cell-based therapeutics to both understand the molecular mechanisms of heart disease and devise new treatments. The group's research interests are broad, including the development of new non-invasive diagnostic imaging technologies, stem-cell therapies for pulmonary hypertension and peripheral vascular disease, and computer-aided modeling to predict individualized stroke risk based on a patient's imaging data. The team's application of small-molecule therapeutics has the potential to detect and treat atherosclerosis and inflammatory vascular disease, enhance responses to vaccines for influenza and Chagas disease, increase the effectiveness of immunotherapy products targeting solid tumors, and improve engraftment of stem cells for transplant and regenerative medicine applications.



Regenerative Medicine Research Department Biorepository and Biospecimen Profiling Core Laboratory

The Regenerative Medicine team is trying to unravel the ways that cells injected into a patient's heart improve its function. Cell therapy has been studied for years as an alternative way to treat heart disease, but its effectiveness has been inconsistent. The Regenerative Medicine Research Department and the Biorepository and Biospecimen Profiling Core Laboratory, both under the direction of Camila Hochman-Mendez, MSc, PhD, have combined their expertise to provide new insights into patient-related factors that may affect clinical outcomes after cell therapy for heart disease. The team is also working to further refine the science of creating bioengineered organs and tissues.

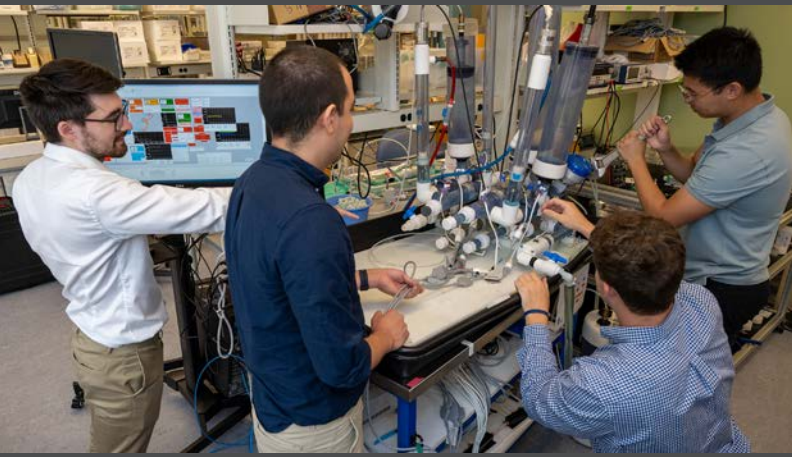
[Texasheart.org/RMR](https://texasheart.org/RMR)

Electrophysiology Clinical Research & Innovations

The Electrophysiology Clinical Research & Innovations group, led by Mehdi Razavi, MD, is advancing technologies and therapies to treat arrhythmias (heart rhythm disorders) by taking their ideas “from the napkin to the podium.” This concisely describes the multistep process needed to translate their pioneering ideas into U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved treatment options for patients. The inventive team's recent work focuses on novel conductive, injectable hydrogel pacing electrodes. They are collaborating closely with the laboratory of Elizabeth Cosgriff-Hernandez, PhD, at The University of Texas at Austin, using novel chemistry and bioengineering methods to improve heart pacing.

[Texasheart.org/RazaviLab](https://texasheart.org/RazaviLab)





Innovative Device & Engineering Applications (IDEA) Lab

Engineers in the Innovative Device & Engineering Applications (IDEA) Lab and their physician collaborators are dedicated to developing novel cardiovascular devices to expand treatment options for patients with heart failure, congenital heart defects, and other heart conditions. By combining decades of institutional experience in mechanical circulatory assist device research with state-of-the-art engineering expertise, the team led by Yaxin Wang, PhD, and O.H. Frazier, MD, has developed a new class of ventricular assist devices (VADs) with the potential to benefit multiple patient populations. To address unmet needs for patients with heart failure, the team has been refining the design for their miniaturized partial-support intra-atrial blood pump. The new device should also reduce the risk of stroke, bleeding, and infection, improving the children's chances of survival.

Texasheart.org/IDEALab



Center for Clinical Research

The Texas Heart Institute's Center for Clinical Research (CCR), led by Emerson C. Perin, MD, PhD, and Casey Kappenman, MS, CCRC, is home to a team of skilled professionals who support the clinical research and clinical trials performed by Institute investigators. These studies test the safety and effectiveness of new drugs, devices, procedures, cell and gene therapies, and wearable technology for the treatment and detection of cardiovascular disease—representing a critical step in the regulatory approval process that provides new treatment options to patients. The team also supports registry and database-driven research to provide new clinical insights and improve strategies for cardiovascular disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The center works closely with study sponsors from industry, federal agencies, academic institutions, and entities within the Texas Medical Center, and supports relevant internal collaborations involving Institute research labs and cores.

Texasheart.org/ClinicalResearch



“We are here to contribute to humanity and do things that have not been done.”
– Emerson C. Perin, MD, PhD

Cardiovascular Pathology Research

The Texas Heart Institute Cardiovascular Pathology Research department and core laboratory has been providing specialized pathology and histology services for nearly 40 years. In addition to performing original research, the lab's experts support research projects for investigators within The Texas Heart Institute; from other academic institutions, including several in the Texas Medical Center; and from outside medical companies. The extensively experienced team is directed by the department's Chief, L. Maximilian Buja, MD, and its Administrative Director, Pamela J. Potts. The Cardiovascular Pathology core provides Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)-compliant services, microscopy, radiography, and computer-aided image analysis. The group has over 25 years of experience with scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) which is Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified for diagnostic testing of human samples.

Texasheart.org/Pathology

Center for Preclinical Surgical & Interventional Research

Experts in the Center for Preclinical Surgical & Interventional Research help researchers translate their novel ideas into clinical practice. The team of physicians and researchers is focused on the development and preclinical testing of new medical devices, tools, and procedures. With the shared goal of providing new treatment options for patients with cardiovascular diseases, the center advances projects in partnership with internal labs, other academic institutions, and outside companies. The Center leads sponsored-research testing of mechanical circulatory-assist devices, total artificial hearts, minimally invasive heart pumps, and devices to improve organ transplantation; collaborative innovations in interventional cardiology technologies; and improvements to preclinical models of cardiovascular disease, which will broadly benefit the development of new therapies and devices. The center facilitated research projects for over 25 sponsors in 2022 alone.

Texasheart.org/Preclinical





BENCH-TO-BEDSIDE

Continuing a Culture of Translational Research in 2022



Intellectual Property

Protecting our inventions with patents



Optioned Technology

Evaluating a new technology before development



Licensed Technology

Transferring technology know-how for product development

The Texas Heart Institute is focused on innovation and translation of fundamental discoveries into improvements in cardiovascular care through the invention and commercialization of new therapies and devices for patients with cardiovascular disease. Translational research benefits human health by moving laboratory findings through the rigorous development and testing process needed before the discovery yields a new Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved treatment option for patients. Intellectual property protection and technology licensing are key parts of this process.

Intellectual Property & Technology Transfer

17

Start-up companies with licensing and/or equity relationships to date

\$2.5M

Earned through licensing, royalty, and milestone payments

\$5.7M

Associated grants and contracts revenue

Center for Clinical Research

Conducting clinical research and trials to expand treatment options



Active studies supported by industry sponsors, federal grants, and investigator-initiated studies

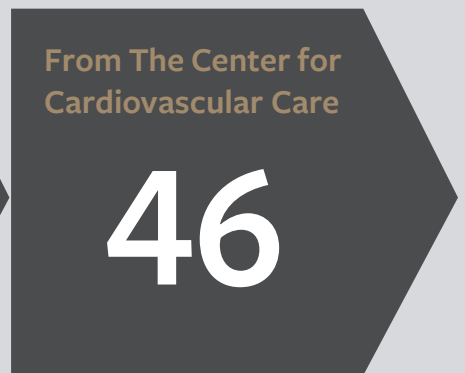


Studies in active study start-up



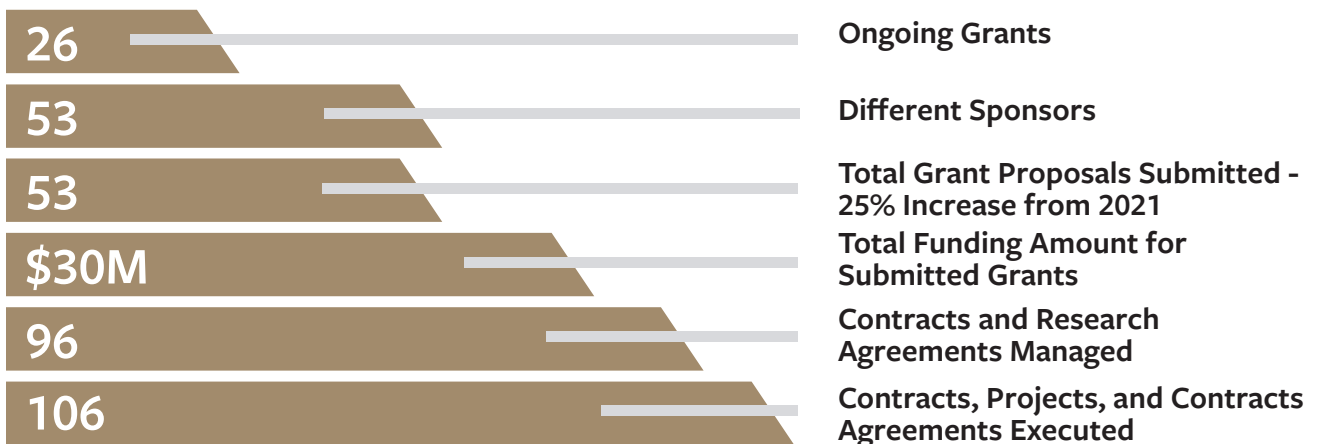
Publications

Sharing our discoveries and clinical expertise



Office of Research Administration

Supporting investigators during the discovery process





Introducing The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care



Eduardo Hernandez, MD

*President, The Texas Heart Institute
Center for Cardiovascular Care*

“The opening of The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care brings together a level of expertise that attracts local, regional, and international patients. In our enhanced, state-of-the-art space, we’ll continue to enroll patients in leading clinical research studies, as well as serve as a vital teaching location for our trainees and a resource for other cardiologists and cardiac surgeons seeking expert opinions for their most challenging cases.” - Eduardo Hernandez, MD

On December 6, 2022, the leadership of The Texas Heart Institute and its clinical care practice announced that the Texas Heart Medical Group had changed its name to The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care.

The name change of the direct patient-care offering, which was launched in October 2020, signifies that the practice provides more value to patients than a traditional medical group. Over the past six decades, The Texas Heart Institute has been internationally recognized for delivering exceptional clinical care in a sophisticated, patient-centered atmosphere. The physicians and surgeons of The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care are now fully integrated with The Institute, providing world-class care in addition to the newest and most innovative treatments for heart and vascular disease. The physicians’ first-hand access to The Institute’s pioneering research, training, and education benefits patients. The name change also signals a moment of recommitment from the renowned cardiac institution to move towards a future with an increased focus on preventive cardiology—and to ensure that The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care remains a leader within the field.

The practice includes 15 physicians specializing in all areas of cardiac care and vascular disease, including programs focused on general and preventative cardiology, heart valve care, coronary artery disease, cardiac arrhythmias, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, peripheral vascular disease, and vein care. The practice also includes a Women’s Heart Center that treats heart conditions arising during pregnancy, as well as other heart and vascular conditions that disproportionately affect women. Physicians at The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care are also experienced in the use of minimally invasive treatments such as transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedures.



Delivering the Future of Cardiovascular Care Today

Practice Unveils New Clinic Suite

The announcement, which was broadcast live to The Texas Heart Institute community, was made from a brand-new clinic space. Aligned with the name change, the multidisciplinary cardiovascular center moved to a newly renovated location on the 26th floor at 6624 Fannin Tower on December 7, 2022. The new office nearly doubles the existing clinic's footprint and is designed to enhance and personalize a patient-centric experience, while providing state-of-the-art technology. A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the space is planned for early 2023.

“We remain steadfast in our mission to improve cardiovascular health through trailblazing research, thought leadership, education, and patient care. With an emphasis on quality, a spirit of inquiry and discovery, and a willingness to take bold action, today we have furthered our vision to deliver the future of cardiovascular care with the opening of our newly renovated center and announcement of our new name,” said Joseph G. Rogers, MD, President and CEO of The Texas Heart Institute.

[Texasheartmedical.org](https://texasheartmedical.org)



EXPERT PHYSICIAN HIRES EXPAND CLINICAL PRACTICE IN 2022

In June 2022, the Texas Heart Medical Group, now The Texas Heart Institute Center for Cardiovascular Care, announced that Drs. James Livesay, Charles Hallman, and Jennifer Cozart from Surgical Associates of Texas, P.A., had joined the practice. “Our surgeons are experienced members of the surgical team founded by Dr. Denton A. Cooley at the world-renowned Texas Heart Institute in Houston’s Texas Medical Center,” said Eduardo Hernandez, MD, President of the practice. “Over the years, this team performed more than 115,000 open-heart surgeries, a record unmatched by most surgical teams around the world.”

Dr. Livesay received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and completed a general surgery residency and research fellowship in cardiac physiology at UCLA. After completing a thoracic and cardiovascular surgery residency at The Institute under Dr. Cooley’s mentorship, Livesay joined Cooley’s surgical group in 1981.

Dr. Hallman completed medical school at BCM and is also a graduate of the cardiovascular surgery program founded by Dr. Cooley. He has been a member of The Institute’s Professional Staff since 1992 and is the faculty director of the Cardiovascular Surgery Fellowship Program at The Institute and Baylor St. Luke’s Hospital.

Dr. Cozart earned her medical degree and completed a general surgery residency at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. She then completed a cardiothoracic surgery residency at The Institute and BCM. In 2011, she joined Surgical Associates of Texas and The Institute’s Professional Staff. She recently developed and implemented a Hybrid Atrial Fibrillation Program in collaboration with cardiac electrophysiology colleagues.

“Dr. Cooley made it his life’s work to conquer the challenges of cardiovascular disease



Nikolaos A. Diakos, MD, PhD, is an interventional cardiologist and specialist in heart failure.



“Drs. Livesay, Hallman, and Cozart bring remarkable surgical expertise and innovation...their commitment to excellence and quality aligns perfectly with our practice and brings a critical dimension to the care we provide.” - Joseph G. Rogers, MD

through research, education, and clinical care, and these attributes remained the foundation and character of the Surgical Associates of Texas, P.A., practice,” said Dr. Livesay.

Dr. Nikolaos A. Diakos, an interventional cardiologist and specialist in heart failure and mechanical cardiac support, joined the practice in September 2022. “Dr. Diakos strengthens our longstanding commitment to clinical excellence in the modern diagnosis and management of heart failure and the use of the most contemporary and innovative tools to treat patients with coronary artery disease,” said Dr. Hernandez.

Dr. Diakos received his medical and doctoral de-

grees from the University of Athens. He completed a translational research fellowship and a residency in internal medicine at the University of Utah, a clinical and research fellowship in cardiovascular disease at Tufts Medical Center, a fellowship in advanced heart failure and transplantation at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University, and interventional cardiology training at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York.

“Dr. Diakos has remarkable clinical and research expertise that aligns with our mission and vision of delivering the highest quality care and maintaining a culture of innovation, discovery, and excellence in patient care,” added Dr. Joseph G. Rogers.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE FELLOWSHIP

Training the Future Leaders of Cardiovascular Care

Since 1962, The Texas Heart Institute's cardiology and advanced subspecialty fellowship programs at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center have been among the nation's most prestigious. Over 490 fellows have graduated since the fellowships' inception. Cardiovascular Disease Fellows train for three years in the general Cardiology program, led by Program Director Dr. Stephanie Coulter and Associate Program Director Dr. George Younis.

On June 10, 2022, the program celebrated 13 talented graduates—six in general Cardiology (of whom five will pursue subspecialty training at The Institute), and seven with additional subspecialty training in Interventional Cardiology (three graduates; program director, Dr. R. David Fish), Electrophysiology (two graduates; program director, Dr. Mohammad Saeed), and Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology (two graduates; program director, Dr. Andrew Civitello).

General Cardiology program graduate Dr. Mitch Tan was named the Tauber Outstanding Fellow of the Year. He will complete two additional years of training through The Institute's Electrophysiology fellowship.

In July 2022, the programs welcomed six first-year Cardiology fellows and one new Advanced Heart

Failure fellow. Fellows train with the newest cardiovascular diagnostic and therapeutic technologies, including percutaneous heart-assist devices, 3D echocardiography, advanced fluoro-less electrophysiology with 3D mapping, and transcatheter aortic valve protocols developed at The Institute. According to Dr. Younis, "Fellows receive hands-on experience from day one. They benefit from excellent procedural volumes and clinical experience with a variety of pathologies from the diverse Houston-area population."

For Match Day 2022, the fellowship selected six exceptional young physicians to matriculate in July 2023. The Institute's fellowship program recruits from the top medical residency programs in the country, attracting 80% of candidates applying for cardiology fellowships in the United States—about 925 applicants vying for just six training spots.

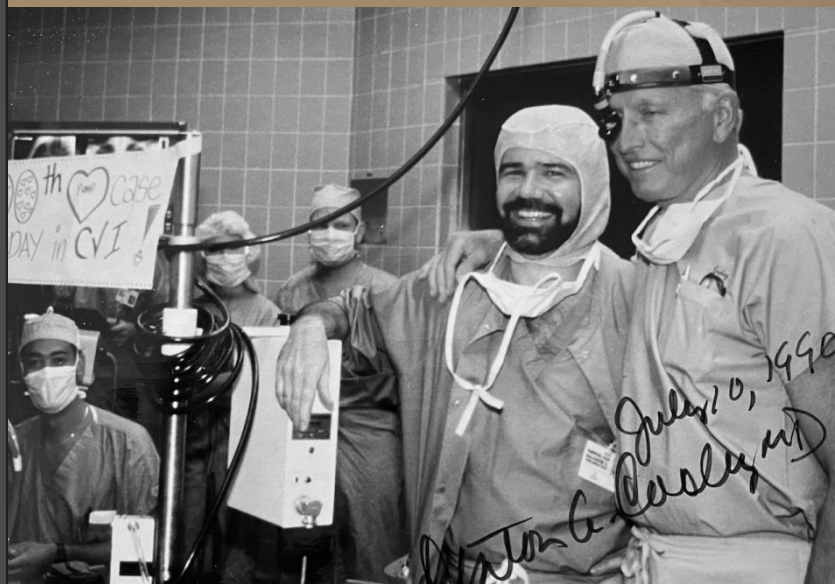
"Physicians come to The Institute for training in every aspect of cardiovascular medicine—patient care, research, and education—in a collaborative, intellectually-stimulating clinical environment where they learn in real time, on real cases," said Dr. Coulter.

Texasheart.org/Fellowship



School of Perfusion Technology

Celebrating 50 Years of Perfusion Innovation



The Texas Heart Institute School of Perfusion Technology celebrated its 50th anniversary at its Annual Perfusion Conference on June 2-4, 2022. This professional education conference provides expert technical presentations by the school's leadership, faculty, students, alumni, collaborating physicians, and visiting perfusionists.

In addition, Terry Crane, CCP Emeritus and the school's former director, described the training program's early history and milestone achievements. Dr. Denton A. Cooley originally recognized the need for well-trained professionals to operate the heart-lung machines used during cardiac surgery. He and perfusionist and instructor Charles C. Reed established the Perfusion School in December 1971. The field evolved from the Cooley "Coffeepot" oxygenator, constructed from restaurant-supply items, to the equipment used today. Current Director Deborah Lowery Adams, MA, LP, CCP, highlighted the school's key role in developing national accreditation and certification standards for perfusionists. Additionally, Crane and Adams presented a memorial bronze bust of Reed to his son, Charles Reed, PhD, RN, CNRN.

The nationally recognized post-baccalaureate certificate training program celebrated the graduation of 13 students in 2022. The 18-month program teaches students to use cardiopulmonary bypass machines and other equipment used in open-heart surgery, pre-

paring them to work in cardiovascular surgery suites throughout the country. "We're incredibly proud of this excellent group of students, and we're happy to share that each graduate has secured a position where they can use their training to help surgical patients," said Adams.

Inaugural Sal Guercio Memorial Scholarship

On June 3, 2022, the Perfusion School honored June 2022 graduate Kyle Guster with the inaugural Sal Guercio Memorial Scholarship. The award commemorates Sal Guercio—Perfusion School alumnus, staff perfusionist for 27 years, and respected clinical instructor—and recognizes an outstanding student in the program. Ann Guercio, CCP, LP, MBA, who advocated creating the scholarship to honor her late husband's commitment to teaching, led the selection committee and presented the award. "We were impressed with all the applicants. In talking to the perfusion staff and surgeons, Kyle emerged as the frontrunner who best embodied Sal's dedication to THI and Perfusion Education," she said.

Before enrolling, Guster worked as a perfusion assistant for two years. Having worked with perfusionists trained by Mr. Guercio, Guster hopes to carry on his legacy of sharing knowledge and shaping careers.

[Texasheart.org/Perfusion](https://texasheart.org/Perfusion)



CARDIOLOGY GRAND ROUNDS

The Texas Heart Institute Tradition Returns in 2022

The Texas Heart Institute's accredited Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME) offers weekly seminars, annual symposia, and special events to provide emerging clinical information to healthcare professionals. The Institute's weekly Cardiology Grand Rounds provides them an opportunity to learn from the world's leading medical and surgical experts, scientists, and engineers about the latest advances in cardiovascular care.

To maintain its educational programs during the pandemic, The Institute adopted virtual-conference approaches to continue its professional training and fellows' education. The webcast format also made Grand Rounds available to viewers from across the country. The presentations are available online for on-demand CME credit.

"Inside the Studio" Interview Series Debuts

In conjunction with the 2022-2023 Cardiology Grand Rounds season, The Institute debuted a new "Inside the Studio" video series. In each episode, President and CEO Joseph G. Rogers, MD, interviews leaders in cardiovascular medicine, biomedical science, and the community.

Visiting Grand Rounds speakers have used these discussions with Dr. Rogers to emphasize their key points and discuss their broader implications. Episodes from the Fall 2022 series included interviews with Dr. John Mandrola of Baptist Health Louisville, Dr. Salim Virani of Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Carolyn Lam of Duke-National University of Singapore, and Dr. Robert Lustig of UC San Francisco.

Darren Woodside, PhD, Vice President of Research, has contributed to the series by interviewing visiting scientists who hope to translate their basic research into new therapies for patients with cardiovascular disease. His first guest was Dr. Anthony B. Firulli of Indiana University School of Medicine. These conversations often underscore the importance of the "bedside to bench to bedside" process in which clinical need drives discovery science and translational research.



A photograph of three men standing in front of a wood-paneled wall. The man on the left is wearing a blue suit and a red patterned tie. The man in the center is wearing a dark suit, a blue shirt, and a red and blue striped tie, and is holding a framed award plaque. The man on the right is wearing a white lab coat with 'TEXAS HEART INSTITUTE' on it and a stethoscope. The award plaque has 'WILLERSON, MD' and 'AWARD' visible on it.

The Texas Heart Institute Journal

Inaugural James T. Willerson, MD, Editor's Choice Awards

On June 17, 2022, *The Texas Heart Institute Journal* presented its inaugural James T. Willerson, MD, Editor's Choice Awards to three groups of authors to recognize outstanding articles published in *The Journal* in 2021. Dr. Zvonimir Krajcic, *The Journal's* Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Joseph G. Rogers, Associate Editor and The Institute's President and CEO, presented the awards at a special Cardiology Grand Rounds in the Denton A. Cooley Auditorium.

The Editor's Choice Awards were created to honor Dr. Willerson, *The Journal's* former Editor-in-Chief and The Institute's President Emeritus who, until his passing in the fall of 2020, remained committed to providing physicians and healthcare professionals with information related to all aspects of treating patients who have cardiovascular disease. Dr. Willerson's standards for excellence in research and scientific publishing were unsurpassed, and today *The Journal's* readership continues to grow because of the strong foundation he and his predecessors built.

The Editor's Choice Awards are made possible by The Texas Heart Institute Board of Trustees and a gift from

Morton Cohn. The winning articles exemplify *The Journal's* intended purpose to provide physicians and healthcare professionals with quality and timely information related to the treatment of patients with some of the most complex cardiovascular conditions.

"The purpose of this award is to acknowledge excellence in scientific discovery and medical writing," said Dr. Krajcic. "Dr. Willerson was truly one of the greatest beacons as far as Texas Heart Institute is concerned... he published many books and manuscripts, he was a researcher and a scientist, but above all, he was an excellent physician and took good care of his patients. Very few of us will achieve the accolades and recognition that Dr. Willerson achieved in his lifetime."

"*The Texas Heart Institute Journal* has a long and storied history of providing clinically meaningful contributions to the medical literature. *The Journal* also encourages new authors to submit original work and gain experience with the medical publication process," stated Dr. Rogers.

Meridian.AllenPress.com/THIJ



#WALK30: IMPROVING HEALTH, ONE STEP AT A TIME

Center for Women's Heart & Vascular Health Partners With Fit Houston

In December 2022, The Texas Heart Institute and Fit Houston announced their special partnership to promote #WALK30, a health campaign that combines The Institute's industry-leading research, thought leadership, education, and patient care with Fit Houston's strategic community wellness movements.

Because lifestyle and activity are critical to health, #WALK30 brings accessible, community-based solutions to Houston's neighborhoods and workplaces. "Regular physical activity reduces cardiovascular and cancer risk and improves mental health. Fit Houston is laser-focused on facilitating free physical activity that is available in every community and is done through a positive wellness movement with cultural empathy," said Fit Houston Founder and Executive Director Lharissa Jacobs.

"Improving fitness is critical to our success," added Dr. Stephanie Coulter, Director of The Institute's Center for Women's Heart & Vascular Health. "As we relaunch and expand our Houston HeartReach community-wide outreach programs post-COVID, Fit Houston is

the perfect community partner."

The #WALK30 campaign launched in January 2023 and creates a pathway for CEOs, organizational leaders, families, and individuals to "Take the Healthy Pledge" and inspire others to walk for 30 minutes each day, wherever they are, and then share walking activity and its benefits on social media.

The campaign stemmed from the Fit Houston team's successful Equity Pitch to prominent business and civic leaders who participated in the Houston 2036 Taskforce on Equity, a citywide effort to create and enact social justice initiatives in Houston.

On "Inside the Studio with Dr. Joseph G. Rogers," The Institute's President & CEO interviewed leaders of Houston-area nonprofits and academic institutions about their strategies for promoting exercise and wellness for themselves, their employees, and their communities. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner lent his support to the challenge with a special video message. The program launch included a kickoff event at Arthur Storey Park in January 2023, with over 100 walkers supporting the mission in person.

Texasheart.org/Walk30



THE COOLEY CIRCLE DINNER

Special Event Honors Dr. Emerson C. Perin

On Monday, October 24, 2022, The Texas Heart Institute held The Cooley Circle Dinner, an annual event that celebrates The Institute's supporters and recognizes the accomplishments made possible through philanthropy. The event also honored Emerson C. Perin, MD, PhD, interventional cardiologist and Medical Director of The Texas Heart Institute, for his leadership in the development of stem cell therapies for cardiovascular diseases.

This year's dinner was especially meaningful for two reasons: The Institute was celebrating its 60th Anniversary, and the dinner was the first in-person social gathering for The Institute and its supporters since the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020. Nearly 100 guests attended the special evening at the Coronado Club. In addition to honoring Dr. Perin, many of the guests enjoyed the opportunity to meet The Institute's new President and CEO, Joseph G. Rogers, MD, who joined The Institute in May 2021.

"Every advance that has occurred and will occur at The Texas Heart Institute is because of you. Thank you for helping to deliver the future of cardiovascular health today," Dr. Rogers told guests.

Dr. Rogers shared that cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of death and disability globally for men and women and that, in the United States alone, one in every five deaths is caused by heart disease. He also described the two-part vision of The Institute's leadership to forge a better future for those with cardiovascular diseases and to do this better than anyone else in the world.

The event closed with The Institute's Board Chair, Eric Wade, toasting the guests for their continued advocacy of and generosity toward The Texas Heart Institute and its mission to improve cardiovascular health through trailblazing research, thought leadership, education, and patient care.



RAY C. FISH FOUNDATION MAKES PROFOUND IMPACT

Celebrating 60 Years of Philanthropy

When Denton A. Cooley, MD, founded The Texas Heart Institute in 1962, he relied entirely on the generosity of the Houston community to seed his vision. Although The Institute now receives funding from multiple sources—including industry, government grants, and most recently, its clinical practice—philanthropy is still a primary source of revenue.

As The Institute celebrates its 60th Anniversary, it also celebrates the generosity of its longtime philanthropic partners, especially Mr. Ray C. Fish and the Ray C. Fish Foundation. Although Mr. Fish died in 1962, the year The Institute was founded, the Ray C. Fish Foundation provided the initial gift of \$5 million needed to take The Institute from concept to reality. That gift, which is equivalent to approximately \$50 million today, was just the start of a longtime partnership between the board of the Ray C. Fish Foundation and The Texas Heart Institute.

Ten years after the initial gift was made, The Institute's most prestigious scientific award was named in honor of Mr. Fish. The Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement recognizes those whose innovations have made significant contributions globally to cardiovascular medicine and surgery. Since 1972, 40 remarkable clinicians and scientists have been recognized for their contributions to cardiovascular health and the important body of scientific knowledge that is propelling discovery and medical inventions to improve lives around the world.

[Texasheart.org/RayCFish](https://texasheart.org/RayCFish)



Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement

Surgeon Dr. Tirone E. David Honored

The Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement continues to be supported by the board of the Ray C. Fish Foundation. Through the board's generosity, the 2023 recipient, Tirone E. David, MD, received his award in early January 2023. Dr. David is a Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto and has developed numerous operative procedures, including one that has become world-renowned as the "David procedure." Dr. David joins a prestigious group of cardiologists and surgeons who have received the award, many of whom are affiliated with The Texas Heart Institute, including Drs. Cool-

ey, O.H. Frazier, James T. Willerson, David A. Ott, and Emerson C. Perin.

Contributions from individuals, companies, and family foundations, like the Ray C. Fish Foundation, allow The Texas Heart Institute to push the boundaries of discovery and help enable transformational change in cardiovascular health. Supporting The Institute positively impacts the lives of many people, not just in Texas but across the globe. Our progress would not be possible without the confidence, commitment, and support of our community partners.



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The School of Perfusion Technology was established in 1971 to train cardiovascular perfusionists, who play a critical role in operating the circulation equipment that sustains patients during open-heart surgery and other medical procedures. The school was the first of its kind to be accredited in the United States. Led by Director and Clinical Coordinator Deborah Lowery Adams, MA, LP, CCP, the program offers a post-baccalaureate certification in perfusion technology; this 18-month schedule combines academic coursework and clinical rotations to prepare trainees to become a Certified Clinical Perfusionist.

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