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FELLOWS-IN-TRAINING & EARLY CAREER SECTION

# Picking Up the Torch

## Our Mission as the New FIT & EC Section Editors



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*The young do not know enough to be prudent,  
and therefore they attempt the impossible, and  
achieve it, generation after generation.*

—Pearl S. Buck (American writer and novelist) (1)

When Dr. Fuster started the Fellows-in-Training (FIT) & Early Career (EC) professionals' section of the *Journal of American College of Cardiology (JACC)* in 2014, he recognized the importance of providing a voice to a unique group within the cardiovascular scientific community. While being early in one's cardiovascular career may not be thought of as an advantage in many aspects of clinical practice, it can offer a view of the world that is unencumbered by preconceived notions, occasionally allowing disruptively brilliant ideas to surface.

Amid a global pandemic, an economic crisis, and nationwide social unrest, FITs and EC cardiovascular specialists currently face unprecedented challenges as they transition to independence. The deepest challenges can push us, even force us, to rise to the occasion of finding new and better ways of doing things. As we join the *JACC* team as new section editors for the FIT & EC section, we see this as a rare opportunity to identify, promote, and advance innovative ideas.

We are grateful for the strong legacy established by prior section editors, Drs. Michael Cullen, Garima

Sharma, and Shashank Sinha, who are now passing on their stewardship after 4 years of exemplary leadership. To date, this section has led a national discourse on diverse topics ranging from emerging subspecialties (2-4) new training paradigms (5), new technologies and precision medicine (6,7), research and mentorship initiatives (8,9), and gender imbalances in our field (10,11) to the effects of coronavirus disease-2019 (12-14) and beyond.

We bring a diversity of interests to our new editorial role. Dr. Yong is focused on addressing disparities in cardiovascular care and resolving inequities in the cardiology profession. Dr. Han is interested in the intersection of ethics, narrative medicine, and complex decision-making processes in surgery. Dr. Vaduganathan has interests in clinical trials and drug development, with a focus on cardiometabolic diseases. We look forward to engaging with authors to learn about your interests and best highlight your ideas.

Moving forward, we hope to focus the section on novel approaches to the real-world dilemmas facing FITs/ECs during this new era in the cardiovascular profession. We remain interested in manuscripts that are scholarly, offer a new perspective or a compelling argument, and are concisely written in  $\leq 1,500$  words. We encourage an accompanying figure or table to either summarize the perspective or provide supportive data. A maximum of 3 authors are allowed, and we require that they all be within 7 years of completion of their final year of fellowship training. The topics should broadly resonate with FITs/ECs and not overlap with prior published work from this section. We plan to continue the successful tradition of setting an annual theme for submissions and may develop options for alternative manuscript formats.

The editorial process for the FIT & EC page involves a personal review from each of us, followed by a joint discussion about each submission to provide a collaborative decision and feedback. We seek external

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The authors attest they are in compliance with human studies committees and animal welfare regulations of the authors' institutions and Food and Drug Administration guidelines, including patient consent where appropriate. For more information, visit the *JACC* [author instructions page](#).

advice and input as needed. We will invite perspectives from “respondents,” who are typically senior, established cardiologists, to pair with accepted works. We see the role of fostering this collaboration to serve not only as a wise reflection, but in some cases a stepping stone to meaningful mentorship.

We thank you in advance for sending us your contributions and for the opportunity to share in this potentially impactful dialogue. We take on this

responsibility with utmost respect and humility. Everyone must start somewhere. With that, we begin.

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