

Meet the International Speakers



GS ROUBIN

MBBS, MD, PhD, FRACP, FACC, FAHA, FSCAI, MD (Hons Causa)

Dr Roubin is an internationally renowned interventional cardiologist recognised for his groundbreaking work in the development of coronary stenting and the first Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved coronary stent, pioneering work in carotid stenting, embolic protection devices, large-bore vascular closure, and, most recently, catheter-based electrocautery technology for transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and myomectomy procedures. He is a native of Queensland, Australia, and moved to the United States in 1984 to work with percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) pioneer Andreas Gruentzig.

Dr Roubin has published more than 280 papers in peer-reviewed journals, edited 3 textbooks on interventional cardiovascular medicine, coronary, and carotid artery stenting, and contributed to 20 textbooks on interventional cardiology and vascular medicine. His book, *The first balloon-expandable coronary stent: An expedition that changed cardiovascular medicine* (University of Queensland Press), is available on amazon.com. He has been pivotal in the success of several biotechnology startup businesses. He is the named inventor on 10 issued United States and European patents, and 41 additional patent applications worldwide. He lectures extensively in the United States and abroad and has received numerous awards for his notable contributions to cardiovascular medicine.



N MAJANI

PhD, MSc, MMed, MD

Dr Majani is a Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist and Director of Clinical Auditing and Quality Assurance at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She is part of the pioneering team that established paediatric cardiac surgery services in Tanzania and led the country's first large-scale newborn screening programme for critical congenital heart disease (CCHD).

Dr Majani holds a PhD in cardiovascular research from Utrecht University, Netherlands, and an MSc in epidemiology. She also completed her fellowship in paediatric cardiology at Wolfson Medical Centre in Israel. Her academic and professional work focuses on health equity, early detection, and the strengthening of child heart disease care systems across Africa.

A passionate advocate for local capacity building, Dr Majani leads training programmes to empower healthcare professionals in paediatric cardiac care. She collaborates widely with international organisations to facilitate knowledge exchange, promote resource-sharing, and address gaps in cardiac services in low-resource settings.

Her leadership has earned national and international recognition. She is frequently invited to speak at global conferences, where she presents innovative strategies for improving congenital heart disease outcomes in underserved populations. In addition to her clinical and academic work, Dr Majani plays an active role in fundraising initiatives to support children with heart disease.

She is the cofounder of Heart Team Africa Foundation, a Tanzania-based, non-governmental organisation that provides financial assistance and access to life-saving care for children and adults with cardiovascular diseases. Dr Majani is married and a proud mother of three children.

**BJ GERSH****MBChB, DPhil, FRCP, MACC, PhD (honoris causa)**

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Consultant in Cardiovascular Diseases and Internal Medicine, Dr Gersh received his MB, ChB, from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Dr Gersh's broad interests include the natural history and therapy of acute and chronic coronary artery disease, clinical electrophysiology, and, in particular, atrial fibrillation, clinical trials methodology, sudden cardiac death and syncope, cardiac stem cell therapy, the design and analysis of randomised trials, the epidemiology of cardiovascular disease in the developing world, and the impact of socio-economic status on cardiovascular disease. He has approximately 1 357 publications (1 198 manuscripts and 150 book chapters) with a 163 h-index. In 2014 and 2015, he was named in the Thomson Reuters list of individuals with the greatest number of cited scientific papers from 2002 to 2012. Dr Gersh is the editor of 15 books and is on the editorial board of multiple journals, including *Circulation* (Senior Advisory Editor), *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (Guest Editor), *Nature Cardiovascular Medicine*, and the *European Heart Journal* (Deputy Editor). He is also Editor-in-Chief of *UpToDate in Cardiology*, and a Consulting Editor for *Circulation Research*. Dr Gersh is a member of the Association of University Cardiologists and the Circulatory System Devices Panel of the Medical Device Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), ending 30 June 2028.

He is an Honorary Member/Fellow of the South African Heart Association, the Sociedad Chilena de Cardiología Y Cirugía Cardiovascular, the Cardiological Society of India, and the British Cardiovascular Society. He is an Honorary Professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine at Duke University School of Medicine. In 2019, Dr Gersh was appointed as an Honorary Clinical Professor at the Centre for Clinical Pharmacology, William Harvey Research Institute, Queen Mary University of London.

Dr Gersh was the 2004 recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award of the American Heart Association (AHA) Council of Clinical Cardiology and the 2007 recipient of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) Distinguished Service Award, the Hatter Award for "Advancement in the Cardiovascular Science" from University College London and the University of Cape Town in 2009 and 2016. He received the degree of PhD (honoris causa) from the University of Coimbra, Portugal, in 2005. Dr Gersh is the recipient of the 2012 James B. Herrick Award of the AHA, and in 2013, he was designated Master of the ACC. At European Society of Cardiology (ESC) in 2013, he was designated as 1 of the 4 "Legends of Modern Cardiology". Dr Gersh is the 2015 recipient of the Mayo Clinic Distinguished Alumni Award, the René Laennec Invited Lecture and Silver Medal of the ESC (2010) and received the Gold Medal of the ESC in August 2016. Dr Gersh is the recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Scientist Award of the American Heart (AHA). In 2020, he was named a highly cited researcher by Web of Science. Dr Gersh is the recipient of the 2023 AHA Master Clinician Award.

To date he has over 95 peer-reviewed published articles.