



Women in Cardiology

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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We hope you have enjoyed reading this electronic newsletter. If you would like to continue to receive these emails, please become a member of the WIC Section by [clicking here](#) or calling our resource center at (202) 375-6000 ext: 5603.

Join us for WIC Events at ACC.09!

WIC Brown Bag Lunch Session
Sunday, March 29
12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Convention Center, Room #W101

Attend this session at ACC.09 to hear Dr. Molly Carenes, M.D., Director of the University of Wisconsin Center for Women's Health and Women's Health Research speak on the topic, "Forewarned is forearmed: An evidence-based approach to advancing women in academic medicine."

Women in Cardiology Section Meeting
Monday, March 30
3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Florida Ballroom II, Peabody Hotel

Learn more about how Section membership can benefit you! Network with other women who share some of the same interests and challenges as they relate to mentoring, personal and career issues, and learn more and become involved in member section initiatives.

Newly Elected Women FACC Reception
Monday, March 30
4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Coconuts Room, Peabody Hotel

Join us for a reception honoring Newly Elected Women Fellows, being held immediately following the Section Meeting. * Sponsored by Novartis *

Managing Editor: [Kelly Ventura](#).

Current WIC Council Chair:

Athena Poppas, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Incoming WIC Council Chair:

Carole Warnes, M.D., F.A.C.C.



The American College of Cardiology's Women in Cardiology Scientific Council & Section is pleased to present our new electronic newsletter. We hope this quarterly communication will serve to educate, inform, and stimulate conversation within the Section and College. Each issue will bring you updates on Section activities and its working group projects, the College's initiatives supporting the WIC community and avenues for involvement and discussion. We look forward to your comments on this new initiative!

WIC Survey: Positive Changes with a Call to Action

In late December, the Women in Cardiology (WIC) Council published the results of a survey aimed at better understanding the professional and lifestyle needs of cardiologists. This 10-year follow-up from a 1996 survey found that female cardiologists have made substantial progress, but continue to face challenges.

One of the most encouraging findings is that both male and female cardiologists experience a high level of job satisfaction, with 90% of women and 92% men reporting being moderately or very satisfied.

"That was very impressive to us," said Athena Poppas, M.D., F.A.C.C., an associate professor of medicine at Brown University Medical School, Providence, R.I., and chair of the WIC Council. "Both men and women love their jobs."

The survey also reflects the success of mentoring programs. Some 86% of women and 92% of men say their mentors are positive career role models. However, only 41% of women and 38% of men say that mentors offer similarly valuable guidance on non-career issues such as family and lifestyle.

"The ACC has supported us in educating people about how to find a mentor and how to be a mentor, through programs like the ACCF Leadership and Career Development Conference, WIC networking luncheons and the mentoring web site," Dr. Poppas said. "I think we've also learned that you can have more than one mentor — one for your career and maybe a different mentor for lifestyle questions."

The current survey is part of larger efforts by the ACC to examine why women are under-represented in cardiology and to lead the way in turning that situation around. Although the number of women entering cardiology training programs has nearly doubled in the last decade, women still represent fewer than 20% of cardiology fellows.

The survey offers insight into the challenges facing women in cardiology, including:

- Few women can be found in training programs for interventional cardiology (8.7%) or electrophysiology (11.3%), perhaps in part because of concerns about radiation exposure during pregnancy. Twenty-four percent of women chose a career or training track to reduce radiation exposure, and 18% planned conception and pregnancy around such considerations.
- Women, far more than men, continue to feel that family responsibilities interfere with their ability to work (40% vs. 22%) and to advance professionally (36% vs. 17%).
- Female cardiologists were less likely to be married than their male colleagues (73% vs. 91%), a trend that has not changed in 10 years. In addition, 92% of male cardiologists, reported having children, as compared with only 66% of female cardiologists.
- Men and women handle child care very differently. Sixty-six percent of male cardiologists report that a spouse provides all child care, whereas female cardiologists rely on a variety of in-home and outside child care arrangements.
- Far more female than male cardiologists report having experienced discrimination during their career (69% vs. 22%), a rate that has not changed in 10 years. Moreover, women say that discrimination is often based on gender (65%) or parenting responsibilities (27%), whereas men typically cite race or religion.

"We should consider this survey a call to action," Dr. Poppas said. "In medicine and other professions, we have seen that improvements in the workplace to meet the needs of women benefit everyone. If attitudes are to change, it needs to come from the top, with transparency in hiring and promotion, and zero tolerance for discrimination."

The Women in Cardiology Section of the American College of Cardiology works to further the careers of women in cardiology by strengthening their professional support system and skills through networking events, professional development and mentoring programs. To learn more and to join the section, visit wic.acc.org.

The full survey results were published in the December 16/23, 2008, issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. The January 2009 issue of Cardiology also included an article about the survey results. [Click here](#) for the full survey.

Make sure to visit and bookmark the [WIC website](#) for news of the WIC Council and Section, virtual mentoring program, outreach materials, and more.