



INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIAC IMAGING

NEWSLETTER

— CONFERENCE SPECIAL EDITION · 2026



**16th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF INDIAN
ASSOCIATION OF CARDIAC IMAGING 2026**

IACI 2026 **25 26 27**
SEPTEMBER, 2026

📍 **Venue : Hotel Greenpark , Vadapalani**

Theme : Redefining Cardiac Imaging - One beat at a time



— INSIDE THIS ISSUE —

Day-by-day report • The Cardiac Expedition • Cardio Shark & Specs Bingo
The Big Debate • Awards & winners • See you in Pune 2027

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

One Beat at a Time

Dear Colleagues,

As the waves rolled in along the Chennai shore, they almost seemed to keep time with a heartbeat — a fitting prelude to the **16th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiac Imaging**, held at Hotel Greenpark, Vadapalani, from 25 to 27 September 2026. Organised by IACI together with the **Barnard Institute of Radiology, Madras Medical College**, it was the first time *Namma Chennai* hosted the conference — and the city did us proud.

The theme, *Redefining Cardiac Imaging – One Beat at a Time*, ran through everything: hands-on workshops from first principles to the frontiers of CT-FFR, plaque quantification, perfusion, strain and 4D flow; scientific sessions led by national and international experts; and case-based deep dives that reminded us why the heart is the most fascinating organ to image.

This year also showed that learning can be serious fun. Delegates carried a *Republic of IACI* passport around the exhibition, vendors faced the sharks in *Cardio Shark!* while the audience played Specs Bingo, and the gala night opened with a spirited debate: wide detector or dual source?

This edition captures those three days — the science, the people and the ideas worth keeping. Our thanks to every speaker, chairperson, delegate, organiser and industry partner who made it possible.

Happy reading!

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Surg Cdr (Dr) Rahul Dudhal **Dr. Amol Kulkarni**
Dr. Parul Garde **Dr. Aparna Irodi**

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Sruthi Selvaraj, Postgraduate Resident, Madras Medical College, whose notes from the conference floor formed the first draft of this issue.

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On the cover: Hearts up! The IACI family in Chennai. Conference identity: artwork from the official IACI 2026 brochure.

IACI 2026 AT A GLANCE

THE MEETING

16th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiac Imaging

WHEN & WHERE

25–27 September 2026 · Hotel Greenpark, Vadapalani, Chennai

ORGANISED BY

IACI & Barnard Institute of Radiology, Madras Medical College

THEME

Redefining Cardiac Imaging – One Beat at a Time

FIVE WORKSHOPS

Basic Cardiac CT · Basic CMR · Advanced Cardiac Imaging · Echocardiography · Technologists

MAIN HALL

Seven scientific sessions, including two “Imaging Mysteries” case sessions

INTERNATIONAL FACULTY

Five experts from Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK and the USA

ACCREDITATION

Tamil Nadu Medical Council (6 credit hours) and The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University (30 credit points)

INNOVATIONS

Cardiac Expedition passport · Cardio Shark! with Specs Bingo · The Big Debate at the gala

MESSAGES

From the Office-Bearers

Reflections on IACI 2026 from the leadership of the Association and the Organising Committee.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. (Maj.) Vimal Raj

President, IACI • Organising Chairman, IACI 2026

Chief of Cardiothoracic Imaging, NH Group

The 16th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiac Imaging (IACI), held in Chennai in 2026, was a resounding success and will be remembered as a landmark meeting in the history of IACI, with several firsts that reflected the Association's commitment to innovation, education, and collaboration.

Under the able leadership and guidance of Dr. Babu Peter, the organising team delivered a truly outstanding three-day conference. From the academic programme and hands-on workshops to the lectures and social events, every aspect was meticulously planned and executed, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience for all our delegates.

One of the significant milestones this year was IACI's first-ever echocardiography hands-on workshop, organised exclusively for our members. The overwhelming response and enthusiasm from participants demonstrated the value of such interactive learning experiences and have already created a strong demand for similar initiatives in the future.

Another major highlight was Cardio Sharks, an innovative initiative that brought our industry partners onto a common platform. In a format inspired by Shark Tank, vendors presented their latest CT and MRI technologies and innovations to the entire audience. This not only made the session highly engaging but also strengthened the important connection between clinicians and industry.

I would also like to acknowledge the senior IACI coordinators who took responsibility for every task. Their dedication, attention to detail, and commitment to academic excellence ensured that every workshop and

session became a meaningful educational experience for its participants.

A special word of appreciation goes to our General Secretary, Dr. Nilay Nimbalkar, whose meticulous planning, tireless efforts, and exceptional coordination were instrumental in bringing the entire programme together. His ability to involve every member of the Executive Committee and harness the collective strength of the team was truly commendable.

Our sincere gratitude also goes to our international faculty, who travelled from across the world to be with us and generously shared their knowledge, experience, and expertise. Their participation enriched our scientific programme and reinforced IACI's growing international presence and collaborations.

Most importantly, this conference was a reflection of what IACI stands for — a community of passionate cardiac imagers coming together to learn, share, innovate, and grow. The success of Chennai 2026 was not the achievement of any individual; it was the result of the collective effort, commitment, and enthusiasm of our members, faculty, organising teams, industry partners, and delegates.

As we look ahead, let us build on this momentum and continue to raise the bar in cardiac imaging education, research, innovation, and patient care. Together, we can make IACI not just a professional association, but a movement that shapes the future of cardiac imaging in India and beyond.

My heartfelt congratulations and thanks to everyone who made IACI 2026 Chennai a truly memorable chapter in our journey.

— Dr. (Maj.) Vimal Raj

MESSAGES



MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANISING CHAIRMAN

Prof. Dr. S. Babu Peter

Organising Chairman, IACI 2026 · Joint Secretary, IACI · Vice Chairman, ICRI
Director, Barnard Institute of Radiology, Madras Medical College

A successful 16th Annual Conference of IACI recently concluded in Chennai!

All the cutting-edge workshops were much appreciated, and very positive feedback was received on the scientific sessions as well. Innovations were many — a few examples were the advanced cardiac workshop, the echo workshop and the exciting Shark Tank!

The registrations overflowed, with the final tally of delegates reaching a substantial 350.

The credit entirely goes to Team IACI, including the guidance of the past office-bearers, the unparalleled leadership of the IACI President, the meticulous attention to detail of all the organising subcommittee members, and the selfless dedication of all IACI faculty and members.

Special thanks to our BIR postgraduate residents and dedicated assistants, who assisted in the echo workshops and helped with even the small issues!

As Organising Chairman, I don't have enough words to say "Thank you". I remain indebted!

— Prof. Dr. S. Babu Peter



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dr. Nilay S. Nimbalkar

General Secretary, IACI · Organising Secretary, IACI 2026
Director, Precision Scan and Research Centre, Nagpur

IACI 2026 — the most eagerly awaited cardiac imaging conclave of the year — will long be remembered for its rich variety of workshops, cutting-edge discussions in cardiac imaging, and the unparalleled platform it offered industry to showcase their innovations.

The strength of IACI lies in its team. President Dr. (Maj.) Vimal Raj, Organising Chairman Dr. Babu Peter, Chairperson Dr. Hemant Telkar and Vice President Dr. Priya Chudgar steered the conference with vision and purpose, ably supported by a spirited young team whose energy brought it all to life.

As the Sanskrit saying goes — **संघे शक्तिः कलौ युगे** — in this era, strength lies in unity and organisation. Every national and international faculty member, along with the Executive Committee, poured heart and soul into making this event truly memorable.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire IACI team, and especially to our visionary President, Dr. (Maj.) Vimal Raj, for his inclusive approach towards delegates and industry alike, and to Dr. Babu Peter for his unmatched organising skills — a true step forward for the future of cardiac imaging.

— Dr. Nilay S. Nimbalkar

THE CONFERENCE REPORT

Where the Heart Meets Imaging

A three-day journey through the world of cardiac imaging — from first principles at the workstation to the frontiers of CT-FFR, perfusion and 4D flow.

As the sea waves echoed along the shores of Chennai, they almost seemed to resonate with the rhythm of a cardiac beat — setting the tone for what turned out to be a truly memorable three days. Dedicated halls for cardiac CT and MRI were filled with enthusiastic experts who made even complex concepts feel approachable for a new generation of eager learners.

DAY 1 · FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

Building the Foundations

Two full-day, hands-on workshops — one for cardiac MR, one for cardiac CT — sent delegates back to first principles, one workstation at a time.

The conference opened with its workshop day. In **Sesh Mahal**, delegates settled in at their workstations for the Basic CMR Workshop, while **Vijaya Hall** hosted the Basic Cardiac CT Workshop. Both followed a *learn-before-you-arrive* model: registered delegates had access to a pre-workshop webinar or learner series on physics, acquisition and optimisation, so that the day itself could be spent where it matters most — on real cases, at the console.

HALL A · SESH MAHAL · SUPPORTED BY PHILIPS

Basic CMR Workshop: A Comprehensive Guide to Cardiac MR

The day began exactly where every CMR journey should — with normal anatomy, standard measurements and imaging protocols. After a recap of the online learner series and a normal case demonstration, the faculty worked steadily through the conditions every reporting radiologist meets: **ischaemic heart disease; hypertrophic and dilated cardiomyopathy; restrictive, infiltrative and inflammatory cardiomyopathies; arrhythmogenic and genetic cardiomyopathies; the pericardium; cardiac masses; and valvular heart disease.**

What made the sessions stand out was the faculty's willingness to go right back to the fundamentals — from differentiating **thrombus from tumour on late gadolinium enhancement** to getting comfortable with the **17-segment model** — with every concept

demonstrated on live DICOM cases. The day then moved into more advanced territory: the value of **parametric mapping (T1, T2 and T2*)**, including its role in infiltrative diseases such as amyloidosis, and practical **Qp/Qs calculations** for assessing left-to-right shunts. Normal ventricular and atrial volumes, wall thickness and other reference values were covered along the way — a well-judged blend of the essentials and the exceptional.

And no workshop day would be complete without a little competition: the day closed with a recap and quiz that put everything to the test — and showed delegates just how much they had picked up.

Faculty: Dr. Rajesh Kannan, Dr. Salil Bhargava, Dr. Onkar Auti, Dr. Vishnu Vardhan Ravilla, Dr. Vineeta Ojha, Dr. Mary Varunya Jehendran and Dr. Ashita Barthur

HALL B · VIJAYA HALL · SUPPORTED BY GE HEALTHCARE

Basic Cardiac CT Workshop: From Physics to Practice

Next door, the CT workshop set out to bridge the gap between acquisition and interpretation. Quick recaps of the basics of cardiac CT, patient preparation, coronary anatomy and anomalies set the stage before delegates got down to what they had come for — reading cases at their own workstations.

Focused talks on **how to read a CCTA with stenosis grading, plaque morphology, chronic total occlusions and heavily calcified arteries, stent evaluation** and

the approach to coronary bypass grafts were interleaved with hands-on case sessions. Over the course of the day, delegates worked through **25 cases** spanning calcium scoring, coronary anomalies, atherosclerotic disease, stents and grafts — the high-impact scenarios that fill a cardiac CT list.



Basic requirements of cardiac CT imaging — back to first principles.

Spotlight: imaging after PCI

A focused strand of the workshop tackled the technical complexities of imaging after percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). Delegates engaged directly with dedicated advanced post-processing workstations, reviewing anonymised clinical datasets:

- **In-stent restenosis (ISR) vs neoatherosclerosis:** interactive reporting sessions broke down the

subtle luminal attenuation differences and intimal hyperplasia patterns critical for distinguishing true lumen patency from restenosis.

- **Standardised CAD-RADS™ 2.0 integration:** hands-on exercises reinforced the practical application of the stent modifier (“S”) and comprehensive risk categorisation in daily clinical reporting.
- **Challenging geometries:** case reviews covered complex bifurcation stenting, overlapping stents and small-calibre vessels (< 3.0 mm), equipping participants with actionable tips for tricky assessments.

GLIMPSES FROM THE FLOOR

“Assessing stent patency with CTCA requires not just visual inspection, but rigorous post-processing discipline. Today’s workshop bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and day-to-day diagnostic confidence.”

The day concluded with an interactive case quiz and a lively panel discussion on the evolving role of photon-counting CT and dual-energy protocols in stent evaluation.

Faculty: Dr. Bhavana Nagabhushana Reddy, Dr. Parul Garde, Dr. Subhajit Das, Dr. Shruthi Kalyan, Dr. Tosha Desai, Dr. Amaresh, Dr. Niraj Pandey, Dr. Alpa Bharati and Dr. Zeeshan Lakhani



Basic CMR Workshop, Sesh Mahal: “Patterns of myocardial enhancement”.



The Basic CMR Workshop group in Sesh Mahal.



A workstation for every delegate.



Basic Cardiac CT Workshop, Vijaya Hall: coronary volume rendering on screen, cases at every console.

DAY 2 · SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

From Basics to the Cutting Edge

An advanced workshop upstairs, a packed scientific programme downstairs, a quiz that kept everyone guessing — and a gala night with a debate on the side.

VIJAYA HALL · SUPPORTED BY NEOSOFT AND
MEDIKABAZAAR | UNITED IMAGING

Advanced Cardiac Imaging Workshop: Innovation & Precision

Day 2 began with even more excitement as experienced imagers stepped into the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Workshop — six focused sessions, each closing with Q&A and case review, that moved the conversation from *what the heart looks like* to *how it is working*.

CT-FFR: numbers need context

Dr. Sandeep Hedgire set out the interpretation methodology, clinical utility and evidence behind CT-derived fractional flow reserve; **Dr. Tarun Mittal** asked “Is CT-FFR always right?”, drawing on experience from the NHS; and **Dr. Vijaya Bhaskar Nori** shared early Indian experience with AI-based FFR. The discussion kept returning to its role in moderate stenoses and atypical chest pain — and to one lesson worth remembering: **numbers must always be interpreted in context**. Because CT-FFR is derived from the modelled lumen, it can look reassuring when lumen narrowing does not reflect the underlying pathology — coronary dissection was one example discussed — and accurate modelling becomes harder in smaller vessels.

Coronary plaque: looking beyond the lumen

Dr. Roosha Parikh explained how and why to characterise and quantify coronary plaque, and **Dr. Sandeep Hedgire** followed with the practical considerations of doing it in clinical practice. The message was clear: cardiac CT is moving beyond simply identifying stenosis towards understanding the composition of plaque — and identifying cardiovascular risk earlier could allow intervention before disease becomes clinically significant.

Perfusion, strain and 4D flow

Dr. A. Pudhiavan showed how to perform and interpret dynamic stress CT perfusion, and **Dr. Vimal Raj** presented the Indian experience with dual-source and wide-detector CT. **Dr. Ming Yen Ng** explained the sequences and processing behind quantitative myocardial perfusion, with **Dr. Suraj Gowda** sharing

Indian experience across vendors. **Dr. Priya Chudgar** covered how and why to do CMR strain analysis, complemented by **Dr. Roosha Parikh**’s US perspective, and **Dr. Ming Yen Ng** and **Dr. Anoop Ayyappan** closed the day with the concepts and the Indian experience of 4D flow.

Hands-on time on the **suiteHEART** post-processing platform let delegates move beyond watching demonstrations and see for themselves how advanced post-processing turns complex imaging data into clinically meaningful information.

HALL A · SESH MAHAL

Meanwhile, Downstairs: The Scientific Programme

Sesh Mahal had its own momentum. The day began with **non-competitive oral paper presentations**, and the first half of the morning focused predominantly on cardiac MRI before shifting to cardiac CT.

Session 1 — CMR: From Substrate to Survival

Dr. Elizabeth Joseph discussed how CMR guides prognosis and therapy at the cardiomyopathy crossroads; **Dr. Bhavin Jankharia** imaged the “genetic blueprint” of inherited heart disease; **Dr. Ming Yen Ng** deciphered MINOCA, showing how CMR can unravel its causes when the coronary arteries alone do not tell the whole story; **Dr. Aparna Irodi** explained how CMR guides electrophysiologists in substrate mapping and arrhythmia ablation; and **Dr. Rajesh Kannan** made the case for the incremental value of CMR in congenital heart disease.

Chairpersons: Dr. Madhan Kumar Murugan, Dr. S. Nadaradjan and Dr. Leena Robinson

Mid-morning, the conference was formally inaugurated on a celebratory note, with our esteemed IACI President, **Dr. (Maj.) Vimal Raj**, opening the meeting and setting the stage for learning, collaboration and camaraderie. The inauguration was followed by appreciation awards, recognising the sincere efforts and contributions that came together to make the conference a truly successful and memorable occasion.

The ceremony was graced by **Prof. T. S. Swaminathan**, former Director of the Barnard Institute of Radiology; **Prof. N. Kulasekaran**, former National President of IRIA; **Dr. Vijayakumar**, observer from the Tamil Nadu Medical Council; and **Dr. S. Nadaradjan**, President of the TN & PY IRIA, who was present on all three days and was impressed by the scale of the conference and the depth of cardiac imaging knowledge imparted by the faculty.



Dignitaries beside the ceremonial lamp at the inauguration.



Lighting the lamp to inaugurate IACI 2026.

Session 2 — Cardiac CT 2026: Rules, Rivals and Real-World Cases

Dr. Leena Robinson navigated the latest guidelines and evidence for coronary CT in stable and unstable chest pain; **Dr. Mona Bhatia** covered what every radiologist should know about imaging before and after TAVR; **Dr. Megha Sheth** showed how to master paediatric cardiac CT (*"Tiny Hearts, Beats Fast"*); **Dr. Sandeep Hedgire** staged case-based face-offs between CCTA and catheter angiography, with tips to improve CTCA reporting; and **Dr. Vijaya Bhaskar Nori** asked whether CTCA in 2026 is hero, helper or gatekeeper.

Chairpersons: Dr. Mahesha Bannur, Dr. K. Shivasankar and Dr. Sebastin Varghese

Session 3 — What's New in Cardiac Imaging?

The afternoon took us into the future of imaging. **Dr. Roosha Parikh** explored CT-guided PCI and

revascularisation — a new frontier in which cardiac CT moves beyond diagnosis to guiding intervention. **Dr. Tarun Mittal** went *"Beyond the Lumen"* into the present realities and future horizons of CT-FFR, computational fluid dynamics and AI, and **Dr. Sandeep Hedgire** went *"Beyond Vision"* with AI-based quantitative assessment of CT coronary angiography. **Dr. Bhavin Jankharia** distilled the essential trials every cardiac imager needs to know, and **Dr. Priya Jagia** unpicked cardiac imaging in women — *"a puzzle to solve"*.

Chairpersons: Dr. Madhan Mohan, Dr. Karthikeyan D. and Dr. Leena Robinson

Session 4 — Imaging Mysteries: A Case-Based Deep Dive

Case-based detective work followed: **Dr. Richa Kothari** showed that *not everything that looks like truncus is truncus*, **Dr. Alpa Bharati** unmasked a rare cause of HCM — *the lipid heart connection* — and **Dr. Parang Sanghavi** offered *"V for Victory: a clue to win the heart"*.

Chairpersons: Dr. Sandeep Hedgire, Dr. Roosha Parikh and Dr. Rajesh Kannan

SESH MAHAL • 4:15 PM

The Quiz: Finding the Cardiac Master!!

And then came one of the most entertaining hours of the conference. *Finding the Cardiac Master!!*, conducted by quizmasters **Dr. Suraj Gowda** and **Dr. Vineeta Ojha** and chaired by the ever-enthusiastic **Dr. Ashita Barthur**, was anything but conventional. **Wild-card rounds** gave the audience a second chance to make it into the top six, keeping everyone invested right until the end; and the **rapid-fire round** had the hall on the edge of its seats.

There was a twist, too. Explorers on the **Cardiac Expedition** had a secret advantage: every vendor booth held a sealed envelope with a quiz answer inside, so delegates who had engaged meaningfully with the exhibitors that day walked into the quiz already holding answers others didn't have. (More on the Expedition in *Innovations*.)

Winners: see *Awards & Winners*.



"Name Your Faculty!" — could you identify all eight?



Quiz time: "Identify the imaging technique".



A full house in the main hall.



Faculty and organisers on stage in Sesh Mahal.



Honouring the fraternity: felicitations on the main stage.



At the NeoSoft booth in the exhibition.



An attentive audience.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

General Body Meeting. IACI members met for the GBM at 5:15 PM on 26 September in Vijaya Hall (first floor). The Executive Body had met on the evening of 25 September.

GALA NIGHT · SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER · 7:30 PM ONWARDS

The Big Debate: More Slices or Dual Source?

The gala dinner came with a main course of healthy controversy — which CT technology does cardiac imaging really need?



The Big Debate, presented by Medikabazaar and United Imaging.



The gala dinner invitation.

What better way to end an eventful day than with a gala dinner — with a side of debate? *The Big Debate* — *More Slices or Dual Source? A Clinical Discussion on Cardiac CT* saw two doyens of cardiac imaging, **Dr. Mona Bhatia** (HOD, Radiodiagnosis and Imaging, Fortis Escorts Heart Institute) and **Dr. Vijaya Bhaskar Nori** (MD & Chief Radiologist, Vista Imaging and Medical Centre), battle it out over the eternal CT question: *wide detector or dual source?*

Dr. Vimal Raj moderated, and **Dr. A. Pudhiavan** (Consultant Cardiothoracic Radiologist, KMCH

Multiplespecialty Hospital) was handed the unenviable task of delivering the final word on which technology is best. Whole-heart coverage in a single beat, or the temporal resolution to freeze a fast heart?

The evening also marked the **unveiling of a new CT scanner by United Imaging**, billed as “a new era in cardiac imaging”. Then the formalities gave way to celebration — with “**Flaunt Your Culture!!**” as the evening’s theme, a DJ floor and cocktails, the gala was as much about camaraderie as it was about CT.



The Big Debate on stage at the gala.



United Imaging unveils the uCT SiriuX at the gala.

DAY 3 · SUNDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER

Seeing the Heart in Motion

Hands-on echocardiography, a workshop for the technologists who make every scan possible, a CMR masterclass — and a Shark Tank like no other.

HALL A · SESH MAHAL

Best of the Best and Beyond

The final day began early with the **“Best of the Best” competitive oral paper presentations**, where young researchers made their case for the conference’s top honours. First prize went to **Dr. Vishesh Anil Agrawal** (Narayana Health) for *“Diagnostic Performance of AI-Derived FFR-CT: First Real-World Evidence from India”*.

Session 5 — Beyond the Lumen: Tissue, Trouble and Tomorrow’s Risk Markers

The session opened with the **IACI Oration**, delivered by **Dr. Hemant Telkar**. **Dr. Sumer Shikhare’s** *“Delayed Gadolinium Enhancement Imaging in Challenging Cases — Troubleshooting for Success”* offered practical insights into tackling difficult cases and optimising delayed enhancement for accurate and confident interpretation, and **Dr. Suman Singhal** discussed the role of epicardial adipose tissue (EAT) and the fat attenuation index (FAI) in risk stratification for coronary artery disease.

Chairpersons: Dr. Vijaya Bhaskar Nori and Dr. Vimal Raj

Session 6 — CMR Masterclass: From Diastole to Devices

A true masterclass, with **Dr. Johann Christopher** on assessing diastolic dysfunction with CMR, **Dr. Vineeta Ojha** on pulmonary hypertension, **Dr. Priya Chudgar** on valvular heart disease and **Dr. Vimal Raj** on performing CMR in patients with AICDs. **Prof. S. Babu Peter’s** parametric-mapping masterclass was a highlight, connecting the physics of T1 and T2 mapping to what we actually see and interpret in cardiac MR (more in *A Resident’s Diary*).

Chairpersons: Dr. Rajesh Kannan, Dr. Shajeev Jaikumar and Dr. Elizabeth Joseph

At 12:30 PM, the vendors faced the sharks — see *Cardio Shark!* in *Innovations*.

Session 7 — Imaging Mysteries: A Case-Based Deep Dive

Six more puzzles for the post-lunch crowd: **Dr. Abhilash Kumar’s** interesting case; **Dr. Aniruddha Patil’s** *“The Calcified Impostor”* — mimics of aorto-

mitral curtain calcification; **Dr. Suraj Gowda’s** *“A Coronary Connection with a Consequence”*; **Dr. Pranav Gupta’s** *“Cyst in the Middle: A Road Less Travelled”*; **Dr. Nidhi Doshi’s** *“Two Eyes on the Heart”* on the complementary roles of cardiac MRI and FAPI PET-CT; and **Dr. A. Amaresh Kumar’s** multimodality journey *“From Occlusion to Recanalisation”* of an organised RCA thrombus.

Chairpersons: Dr. Elizabeth Joseph and Dr. Priya Chudgar

The conference came to a close with the **closing ceremony and award distribution**, celebrating the brilliant papers and posters presented during the conference and recognising the hard work and creativity behind them.

HALL B · VIJAYA HALL · SUPPORTED BY GE HEALTHCARE

Echocardiography Workshop

Upstairs, the Echocardiography Workshop engaged delegates from the very first minute. Bookended by pre- and post-workshop assessments with **Dr. Manish Jha**, the programme moved from the essentials — probes, machine settings and “knobology” with **Dr. Atul Karande**, and cardiac anatomy and imaging planes with **Dr. Jesu Krupa** — to **Doppler** (colour, PW, CW and tissue Doppler) with **Dr. Nakkeeran Shanmugam**, **LV and RV function**, **pericardial effusion and the IVC** with **Dr. Naveen Ballal**, and **valvular pathology, pulmonary hypertension and diastolic dysfunction** with **Dr. K. Anjani Kiranmayi**.

Talks were paired with live demonstrations, and two hands-on sessions on healthy volunteers let delegates practise probe handling, patient positioning, standard views, basic Doppler and estimating LV function — connecting what they had learnt in theory with what actually happens at the scanner. A panel on multimodality assessment of the heart — *echo vs CT vs MRI vs nuclear* — with **Dr. Johann Christopher**, **Dr. Naveen Ballal**, **Dr. Richa Kothari** and **Dr. Amol Kulkarni** capped the day’s teaching.

HALL C · VAHINI HALL · SUPPORTED BY
SIEMENS HEALTHINEERS

Technologist Workshop: Every Great Scan Starts at the Console

IACI 2026 also made room for the professionals who make every cardiac scan possible. A **Cardiac CT Masterclass** covered patient preparation and protocol optimisation (Mr. Visakh T.), coronary acquisition, calcium scoring and anatomy mapping (Dr. Preeti Neve), post-processing (Dr. Minal Seth) and artefacts and how to deal with them (Dr. Asik Ali).



Hands-on echocardiography on a volunteer.



Group photo in a workshop hall.



On the main stage: "What if there is only ONE simple protocol for any cardiac exam?"



Specs Bingo: winning rows struck off on the CardioShark IACI 2026 cards.

IACI 2026 BY THE NUMBERS

5

workshops, from basics to advanced imaging

7

scientific sessions in the main hall

5

international faculty

25

cases on every console at the Basic CT Workshop

3

halls running in parallel on the final day

4

award categories for papers and posters

₹32,500

in Cardiac Expedition prize money

350+

delegates

BEYOND THE LECTURE HALL

Innovations That Made IACI 2026 Different

One passport, a tank full of sharks and a card full of buzzwords: how IACI 2026 turned the exhibition hall and the vendor showcase into learning — and fun.

IDEA 1 · THE CARDIAC EXPEDITION

Explore, Collect & Win Big



The Cardiac Expedition flyer.

At registration, every delegate collected a small maroon booklet: the “**Republic of IACI**” passport, their official travel document for the **Cardiac Expedition**. The promise on the flyer was bold — *Two days. Vendor booths. Real cash prizes. Your passport is your weapon.*

Over 26 and 27 September, explorers visited the exhibition booths during breaks to collect stamps. Curiosity came with a bonus for quiz contestants: each booth held a sealed envelope with a secret quiz answer, rewarding those who engaged meaningfully with vendors on 26 September.

On the final afternoon, explorers brought their passports to the registration desk, where **Dr. Ruma** and **Dr. Suraj** noted each name, total points and time of submission before handing the passport straight back to its proud owner. Points were tallied that evening, and the highest scorers won real cash prizes.

The idea was simple: turn the exhibition from somewhere delegates walk past into somewhere they stop, ask questions and learn about the technology they use every day — and give our industry partners exactly the conversations they came for.

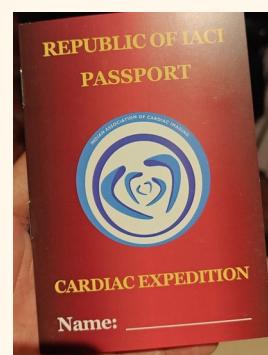
HOW THE EXPEDITION WORKED

- 1 **Collect your passport** at registration — your official travel document.
- 2 **Visit vendor booths** during breaks and get stamped: **1 stamp = 5 points.**
- 3 **Impress a vendor** with a great conversation to win a rare collectible card worth double.
- 4 **Keep moving** — the more booths you visit, the more you earn.
- 5 **Submit your passport** for tallying before the closing ceremony on 27 September.

REAL CASH PRIZES

- 1ST ₹15,000**
2ND ₹10,000
3RD ₹7,500

Winners: see Awards & Winners.



The “Republic of IACI” passport.

IDEA 2 · CARDIO SHARK! AND SPECS BINGO

Three Minutes. Two Sharks. No Mercy.



“Cardio Shark! Sharks Ready to Strike.” Technology met tough questions in Sesh Mahal on 27 September.

IACI 2026 gave the traditional vendor presentation a makeover. In the **Shark Tank** session — branded *Cardio Shark! Sharks Ready to Strike* — industry partners had to show the best their **CT and MRI** had to offer, pitch by pitch, while the sharks fired back with tough questions. As the poster promised: *three minutes, two sharks, no mercy*. The session was chaired by **Dr. Vimal Raj** and **Dr. Babu Peter** and conducted by **Dr. Ruma Zaidi**.

And the audience wasn’t just watching. While the vendors pitched and the sharks struck, delegates played **Specs Bingo!** Cards carrying the buzzwords everyone expects to hear in a vendor pitch were handed out just before the session, and delegates struck them off as they came up. With four winning patterns and goodies for the first to complete any one of them, nobody could afford to stop listening — which was exactly the point.

HOW SPECS BINGO WORKED

- 1 Bingo cards were handed out just before the session.
- 2 Delegates listened intently to the vendor pitches...
- 3 ...and struck off each **buzzword** as they heard it.
- 4 **Four winning patterns** — the first to complete any one of them won goodies.

Winners: see Awards & Winners.

B	I	N	G	O
Automate cardiac	uAIFI	3.0T-like imaging at 1.5T	ACS	1–2 mSv CCT
Go Heart workflow	ACS Cine	Micro Perfusion Index	MoCo	Cardio Capture
Live MR	Beat-to-beat algorithm	Harmonic Damping	Dynamic CCTA	3D whole heart pro
NanoPanel precise detector	Material decomposition	My Exam Companion	CardioBoost	Dual AI
uCT SiriuX	CMR @ 0.55T	Helium-free	Fully sealed magnet	Smart Workflow

MORE IDEAS WORTH KEEPING

- **Learn before you arrive** — pre-workshop webinars freed the hands-on days for real cases.
- **A workstation for every learner** — hands-on CT and CMR workshops; echo scanning on volunteers.
- **The whole team in the room** — a Technologist Workshop with simulators and live artefact fixing.
- **Reporting as detective work** — two “Imaging Mysteries” sessions built around challenging cases.
- **A quiz with a twist** — wild cards, a rapid-fire round and secret answers hidden at the vendor booths.
- **A gala with substance** — the Big Debate turned dinner into a clinical discussion.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Our International Faculty

Five international experts from Hong Kong, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States took time out of busy schedules to share their expertise with us — our sincere thanks to each of them.

**Dr. Ming Yen Ng**

University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

- Deciphering MINOCA through CMR
- Quantitative myocardial perfusion: basic concepts, sequences and processing
- 4D flow: basic concepts and role in daily practice

**Dr. Roosha Parikh**

Associate Director of Cardiac CT and Multimodality Cardiovascular Imager, St. Francis Heart Hospital, Long Island, NY, USA

- How and why to do coronary plaque characterisation and quantification
- Utility of CMR-based strain analysis: a US perspective
- CT-guided PCI and revascularisation: a new frontier in CTCA
- Co-chaired “Imaging Mysteries” (Session 4)

**Dr. Tarun Mittal**

Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals, London, UK

- Is CT-FFR always right? Experience from the NHS
- Beyond the Lumen: the present realities and future horizons of CT-FFR, CFD and AI

**Dr. Sandeep Hedgire**

Chief, Cardiovascular Imaging Division, Department of Radiology, Massachusetts General Hospital – Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

- CT-FFR: interpretation methodology, clinical utility and evidence
- Plaque quantification: practical considerations in clinical practice
- Case-based face-offs: CCTA vs catheter angiography
- Beyond Vision: AI-based quantitative assessment of CT coronary angiography
- Co-chaired “Imaging Mysteries” (Session 4)

**Dr. Sumer Shikhare**

Senior Consultant, Cardiothoracic Imaging, Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Singapore

- Delayed gadolinium enhancement imaging in challenging cases: troubleshooting for success

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Awards & Winners

The closing ceremony celebrated the brilliant papers and posters presented at IACI 2026 — and the curious, competitive spirit that ran through all three days.

Paper & Poster Awards

PRIZE	WINNER	TITLE	INSTITUTION
COMPETITIVE PAPERS			
1st	Dr. Vishesh Anil Agrawal	Diagnostic Performance of AI-Derived FFR-CT: First Real-World Evidence from India	Narayana Health
2nd	Dr. Apoorva D.	Prevalence and Characteristics of High-Risk Plaque on CT Coronary Angiography in an Indian Population	CMC, Vellore
3rd	Dr. Rakshith N. R.	Comparison of Cardiac CT and MRI in Evaluation for Percutaneous Pulmonary Valve Implantation (PPVI) in Patients with Prior Repair of TOF	Narayana Health
SCIENTIFIC EXHIBIT			
1st	Dr. Saitheja Paidipelli	Accuracy and Utility of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Based Quantification of Myocardial Blood Flow Assessment in Dynamic CT Myocardial Perfusion across Different Vendor Platforms	Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences
2nd	Dr. Shyam Sundhar	Saving Hearts Before Function Drops: Clinical Impact of T2* Gradient-Echo Mapping in Early Detection of Myocardial Siderosis Before LVEF Declines	Madras Medical College
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT			
1st	Dr. Anusha Bonala	Mapping the Anatomy for Transcatheter Valvular Interventions: A Pictorial Review of Preoperative CT Planning and Device Selection	Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences
2nd	Dr. Ankisha Gupta	Crossed Circuits: The Coronary-to-Pulmonary Artery Connection on CCTA	Kasturba Medical College, Manipal
	Dr. Vignesh Anil Agarwal	The Functional Side of Coronary CT: A Practical Guide to CT Myocardial Perfusion Imaging	Narayana Health
INTERESTING CASES			
1st	Dr. Saitheja Paidipelli	The Masquerader in the Pericardium: A Rare Case of Primary Pericardial Malignant Chondrosarcoma Mimicking Infective and Cystic Aetiologies	Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences
2nd	Dr. Rohith K.	Recanalised Organized Thrombus of the Right Coronary Artery: Multimodality Imaging Correlation with CCTA, Coronary Angiography and OCT	Apollo Hospitals, Greaves Road, Chennai
3rd	Dr. Rakshith N. R.	Surviving on a Single Source: An Unusual Congenital Conglomerate of Arch, Coronary and Valvular Anomalies	Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences

A special double for Dr. Saitheja Paidipelli, who took first prize in both the Scientific Exhibit and Interesting Cases categories — and two third prizes for Dr. Rakshith N. R.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE • CONTINUED

Quiz: Finding the Cardiac Master!!

Winners	Dr. Onkar Auti and Dr. Vishnu Ravilla
Runners-up	Dr. A. Pudhiavan and Dr. Vishesh Agrawal

Cardiac Expedition: Top Explorers

1st place • ₹15,000	Shreyosi Santra
2nd place • ₹10,000	Zeeshan Sakina Lakhani
3rd place • ₹7,500	Shubhi Agarwal

Specs Bingo

Winner	Dr. Suchi
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Moments of Honour

Competitive Papers, first prize: Dr. Vishesh Anil Agrawal.



Educational Exhibit, first prize: Dr. Anusha Bonala.



Interesting Cases, first prize: Dr. Saitheja Paidipelli.

WHAT WE TOOK HOME

Take-Home Messages

Three days, countless cases, numerous new concepts — and one recurring message.

01

Strong foundations

A refreshing return to basics: anatomy, measurements, protocols and pathology, demonstrated on real cases at the workstation.

02

Beyond stenosis

Plaque characterisation showed cardiac CT evolving from measuring lumen narrowing towards understanding disease biology and risk.

03

Numbers need context

CT-FFR, parametric mapping and quantitative imaging deliver powerful numbers — but they must always be read alongside the clinical and anatomical picture.

04

Hands-on learning

Workshops and live demonstrations turned concepts we had only read about into things we could actually understand and apply.

05

The future is already here

AI, quantitative coronary imaging, perfusion, strain and 4D flow offered a glimpse of where cardiac imaging is heading.

06

Learning can be fun

Passports, bingo cards, sharks, wild cards and rapid-fire rounds proved that academic learning doesn't always have to be serious.

“Cardiac imaging is no longer just about looking at the heart. It is about understanding it.”

From anatomy and function to tissue characterisation, perfusion, plaque composition and haemodynamics, modern cardiac imaging is increasingly capable of telling us not just what the heart looks like, but how it works — and why it is behaving the way it does.

THROUGH FRESH EYES

A Resident's Diary

By Dr. Sruthi Selvaraj, Postgraduate Resident, Madras Medical College

As someone very new to the world of cardiac MR, I found that the very first day made me realise just how fascinating — and how indispensable — it is. The faculty never hesitated to go back to the simplest things, and that made even complex concepts feel approachable.

The quiz's rapid-fire round was, without doubt, my personal favourite! But the session that truly stayed with me was Prof. S. Babu Peter's masterclass on T1 and T2 mapping. What initially seemed like a collection of numbers, colours and technical parameters became far more meaningful through the way it was explained — connecting the physics to what we actually see and interpret in cardiac MR.

For us, as young radiologists and learners, the conference was more than a series of lectures. It was a chance to learn from experts, discover new perspectives, ask questions and exchange ideas — and, most importantly, to feel inspired to look at cardiac imaging with fresh eyes. It reminded me that the best way to understand sophisticated technology is to first master the basics, question the numbers, recognise the limitations and always connect imaging back to the patient.

And perhaps the most important lesson of all? **Keep learning, keep questioning — and never stop being curious about what lies behind the image.**

GALLERY

Snapshots from Chennai

Three days of learning, laughter and camaraderie at Hotel Greenpark, Vadapalani — a few of our favourite moments.



THANK YOU

With Gratitude

A conference like this doesn't come together by chance — it is the result of months of planning, countless conversations and an incredible amount of work behind the scenes.

Our heartfelt thanks to the **organising committee**, led by **Dr. (Maj.) Vimal Raj**, President of IACI and Organising Chairman; **Prof. Dr. S. Babu Peter**, Organising Chairman and Director of one of the oldest institutes of radiology in the country — **the Barnard Institute of Radiology, Madras Medical College**; and **Dr. Nilay S. Nimbalkar**, General Secretary and Organising Secretary — together with Treasurer **Dr. Parul Garde**, Chief Patron **Dr. K. Shantaraman**, Dean, Madras Medical College, and our patrons and former presidents.

We are equally grateful to the **Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Chapter of IRIA** and its Chennai Subchapter, to every committee and the local

organising team, and to all the faculty, chairpersons, quizmasters, judges and volunteers who gave their time so generously.

Our **trade partners and exhibitors** brought the conference to life with their stalls and innovations. The vibrant exhibition area — energised this year by the Cardiac Expedition — made room for meaningful interactions, networking and the exchange of ideas for exhibitors and delegates alike.

With seamless hospitality, a memorable culinary experience, warm interactions and a lively exhibition space, IACI 2026 proved to be a successful blend of **learning, networking and camaraderie**.



Faculty and organisers at IACI 2026.



Together on the staircase at Hotel Greenpark.

THE TEAM BEHIND IACI 2026

CHIEF PATRON

Dr. K. Shantaraman, Dean, Madras Medical College

PATRONS & FORMER IACI PRESIDENTS

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PAPERS & POSTERS	Dr. Aparna · Dr. Leena · Dr. Anita · Dr. Ankita Shah
REGISTRATION	Dr. Shivasankar · Dr. Saranya
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LOCAL TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION	Dr. Asif · Dr. Gopi Bagya
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Thank You to Our Sponsors

IACI 2026 was made possible by the generous support of our industry partners.

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BRONZE SPONSORS



Workshop partners: Philips (Basic CMR), GE HealthCare (Basic Cardiac CT and Echo), NeoSoft and Medikabazaar | United Imaging (Advanced Cardiac Imaging), Siemens Healthineers (Technologist Workshop).

NEXT STOP

Pune Calling! See You at IACI 2027

Pune calling all radiologists — the 17th Annual Conference of IACI heads to the city of the Peshwas and the Shaniwar Wada.

From the historic city of the Marathas to the academic core of modern science — **Pune** will host the **17th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiac Imaging in 2027**.

THEME

Pulse of Pune: Advancing Cardiac Imaging Together

We look forward to welcoming you to Pune!

MISSED A SESSION?

Delegates registered for the two-day conference (in any combination) can watch the conference videos for 30 days after the meeting. Workshop videos are not available.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Editorial Team: Surg Cdr (Dr) Rahul Dudhal · Dr. Amol Kulkarni · Dr. Parul Garde · Dr. Aparna Irodi
Resident's Diary: Dr. Sruthi Selvaraj

Have a case, a paper, a photograph or a story for the next issue? Write to us — we would love to hear from you!



The flyer is a vertical rectangular graphic with a light blue and white background. At the top center is the IACI logo, a circular emblem with a heart and a pulse line. Below it, the text "INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIAC IMAGING" is written in a bold, dark blue font. The main title "IACI 2027" is prominently displayed in large, bold, orange and blue letters. Underneath, it says "17th Annual Conference Of Indian Association Of Cardiac Imaging" in a smaller, dark blue font. The theme "Theme : Pulse of Pune : Advancing Cardiac Imaging Together" is written in a bold, dark blue font. Below the theme, the text "Pune Calling All Radiologists!" is written in a bold, dark blue font. A purple banner contains the text "From the historical city of Marathas to the academic core of modern science, Pune hosts the upcoming IACI annual conference - 2027." Below this is a QR code. Under the QR code, the text "Scan QR Code for Registration" is written in a bold, dark blue font. At the bottom, there are two circular images: one showing the Shaniwar Wada fort and another showing a heart with a pulse line. Below these images, the text "Valid for Conference Days 25th September to 27th September" and "Registration Fees Non Refundable & Non Transferable" are written in a small, dark blue font. The bottom of the flyer features a large, stylized graphic of the Shaniwar Wada fort in orange and blue.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIAC IMAGING

IACI 2027

17th Annual Conference Of
Indian Association Of Cardiac Imaging

**Theme : Pulse of Pune : Advancing
Cardiac Imaging Together**

Pune Calling All Radiologists!

From the historical city of Marathas to the academic core of modern science, Pune hosts the upcoming IACI annual conference - 2027.



**Scan QR Code
for Registration**

Valid for Conference Days
25th September to 27th September

Registration Fees Non Refundable
& Non Transferable

The IACI 2027 announcement flyer.