PROGRAM AGENDA

12 p.m.
Boxed Lunches Available

12:30 to 12:35 p.m. | Tom Draper, VP Sanger Heart & Vascular Hospital Operations
Welcome and Introduction

12:35 to 12:50 p.m. | Eric Skipper, MD, Medical Director, Cardiothoracic Surgery
“A Culture of Collaboration - The Robicsek Way”

12:50 to 1:15 p.m. | Joseph McGinn, MD, Chair SHVI Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery
“The Future of Coronary Revascularization/Hybrid”

1:15 to 1:40 p.m. | Markus Scherer, MD
“Cardiac CT: The New Road Map for Percutaneous and Surgical Interventions”

1:40 to 2:05 p.m. | Michael Rinaldi, MD
“Transcatheter Therapies for Mitral Disease”

2:05 to 2:15 p.m.
Break

2:15 to 2:45 p.m. | Michael Rinaldi, MD & Eric Skipper, MD
“SAVR v TAVR in the Normal Risk Patient”

2:45 to 3:10 p.m. | Joseph Paolillo, MD
“Evolution of Valve Therapy for the Right Heart - Current State”

3:10 to 3:25 p.m.
Panel Discussion

3:25 to 4:10 p.m. | W. Randolph Chitwood, Jr., MD
Keynote Address: “New Technology in Heart Valve Surgery: Where is it going?”

4:10 to 4:15 p.m.
Award Presentation

Francis R. Robicsek Symposium
Friday, March 3, 2017
Noon - 4:15 p.m.

This event features a multi-speaker symposium, Leading the Nation in Innovation and the Delivery of Surgical Cardiovascular Care, to showcase the research and clinical expertise of Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute physicians.
HONOREE

Francis Robicsek, MD, PhD

Carolina HealthCare System’s Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute is proud to host the first Francis Robicsek Symposium to honor the enduring clinical contributions Dr. Robicsek has made to the Sanger community and to the field of cardiovascular surgery.

Dr. Robicsek has volunteered medical services and training overseas for more than 50 years and has helped build numerous cardiac programs in countries such as Hungary, Guatemala, Romania, and Belize, as well as in the state of North Carolina. He has assisted in numerous surgeries worldwide—including the first open heart surgeries in Guatemala, Belize and Costa Rica—and in Charlotte alone has conducted nearly 36,000 cardiac operations.

He graduated summa cum laude from Pazmany Peter University Medical School in Budapest at age 22. Six years later, in 1955, he received his PhD in Biosciences and soon after became Associate Professor and Chief of the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the University Surgical Clinic at Budapest. Dr. Robicsek was considered one of Hungary’s top experts in the subject at the age of 28.

Upon moving to North Carolina at age 31, Dr. Robicsek had published nearly 100 papers in the United States, Sweden, Belgium, Germany and Hungary. His extensive medical qualifications earned him a meeting with Dr. Paul Sanger, Chief of Thoracic Surgery at Charlotte Memorial Hospital (today Carolinas Medical Center (CMC), who invited Dr. Robicsek to join the hospital’s cardiac department. Dr. Robicsek spent the next three years in thoracic surgical training and helped Dr. Sanger establish a cardiac surgical unit, the first at Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

He established the first open heart surgery program in Western North Carolina and, with assistance from Dr. Harry Daugherty and Dr. Alan Thomley, he performed the first successful heart transplant in Charlotte on January 6, 1986.

Dr. Robicsek spent four decades of his career performing heart surgery at CMC. He has held numerous responsibilities and positions, including Medical Director of the Sanger Clinic; President of Heineman Medical Research Laboratories; Chairman of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery; and Medical Director and Surgeon-in-Chief of Carolinas Heart & Vascular Institute (now Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute).

A visionary and expert in his field, Dr. Robicsek is author of seven books, has published more than 500 medical/scientific articles, has given more than 450 presentations, has served on numerous boards and journals, and has been a reviewer for more than 12 journals. A leading innovator, he also has created many new surgical procedures and holds patents on a dozen surgical instruments, including a vascular probe and a temporary atrial pacing wire.

HONORED GUEST SPEAKER

W. Randolph Chitwood, Jr. MD, FACS, FRCS-England

Dr. Randolph Chitwood is a native of Virginia. He is the son and grandson of “Southwestern Virginia mountain doctors and nurses”. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College and received his medical degree from the University of Virginia. After medical school, he completed the 10-year general and cardiothoracic surgical residency program at Duke University under Dr. David C. Sabiston. He was the first house staff member there to be selected to Alpha Omega Alpha. He then was selected to begin and head the new cardio surgical program at the East Carolina University School of Medicine. Except for a two-year hiatus as the Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Kentucky, he has spent his entire career at East Carolina University. He served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1995 to 2003. In July 2003, he was promoted to Senior Associate Vice Chancellor to be in charge of the development of a new specialty hospital and research institute – The East Carolina Heart Institute (ECHI).

He received a Doctor of Science, honoris causa in 2005 from his alma mater, Hampden-Sydney College. In 2007, as founder and Director of ECHI, he was named the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Distinguished Chair. This waste now includes an integrated Department of Cardiovascular Sciences as well as a heart hospital, outpatient, research, and education center. The Robotic Surgical Center at East Carolina University has trained over 450 surgeons worldwide. He performed the first robotic mitral valve operation in the United States and ten countries. He was principle investigator of the FDA robotic mitral valve trials that led to approval for this use in the United States. In early 2015, he retired from East Carolina University and is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Virginia as well as a consultant in the field of valve technologies and innovations. He continues to be very active in the field of heart surgery giving lectures and participating in surgery meetings nationally and internationally.

He is a member of 25 professional societies, including the American College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, the American College of Cardiology, and the Cardiac Surgery Biology Club. He is a past-president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery, the International Society for Heart Valve Disease, and the North Carolina Chapter of the American Heart Association.

He has served on the editorial boards of the Annals of Thoracic Surgery, the Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, the Journal of Cardiac Surgery, the Journal of Heart Valve Disease, the Asian Annals of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, CTS Net, Chest, the American Heart Journal, and the Journal of Robotic Surgery. He has authored over 250 peer reviewed scientific and clinical articles, as well as many book chapters and several monographs. Dr. Chitwood has given over 60 invited lectures and has just published the Atlas of Robotic Cardiac Surgery.

In 2001, he was awarded the Burkovsky Medal from the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 2003, he was elected to Fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons of England. In 2004, he received the O. Max Gardner Award from the University of North Carolina Board of Governors that recognizes a faculty member, who during the scholastic year, made the greatest contribution to the “welfare of the human race.” In 2005, he received the national Mended Hearts - Harken Award, which recognizes excellence in the field of cardiovascular medicine. In the same year he received the National Phi Kappa Phi Scholar Award for outstanding teaching, research, practice, and service. In 2006, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor at Ellis Island for contributions to the health and welfare of diverse populations nationally and internationally. In 2012, he was awarded the Bakoulev Premium Medal from the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences and the Bakoulev Scientific Center for Cardiovascular Surgery for his work in minimally invasive cardiac procedures. In May 2015, he received the AATS Mitral Conclave Achievement Award for his accomplishments in the field of mitral valve surgery.

His lifelong avocations have been photography, amateur radio, trout fishing, and antiquarian medical bibliophilia. He has made many productive photographic expeditions to interesting places worldwide, and his photographs have been shown through salon photographic exhibitions.