3RD ANNUAL
STEVEN M. GOOTTER FOUNDATION
LECTURE

Neuroscientific Therapies for Heart Disease

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Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), Radiology, and Bioengineering
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On February 10, 2005, sudden cardiac death claimed the life of Steven Mark Gootter, a vibrant, athletic, healthy 42-year-old man. Steve, a non-smoker, had no history of heart disease and no prior warnings of heart failure. Steve was an entrepreneur who enjoyed a successful career in real estate, financial planning, and mergers and acquisitions. He excelled at fostering his own and others’ creative ideas, and was a compassionate, generous, fun-loving man.

Steve’s untimely death mobilized his family and friends to establish the Steven M. Gootter Foundation, with the objective of sparing others the tragedy of losing a loved one to sudden cardiac death. Each year in the United States, more than 335,000 lives are lost to heart disease -- more than are lost to breast cancer and lung cancer combined. The Steven M. Gootter Foundation is dedicated to defeating sudden cardiac death by supporting increased awareness, education and scientific research, and the distribution of AEDs.

Along with the other members of the foundation’s board, Steven Gootter’s sister and brother-in-law (Claudine and Andrew Messing) are dedicated to the mission of saving lives by defeating sudden cardiac death.
Dr. Kalyanam Shivkumar is a Professor of Medicine, Radiology, and Bioengineering at UCLA. He is the Director of the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center and also Director and Chief of UCLA Interventional Cardiovascular Programs. Dr. Shivkumar is a physician scientist who specializes in interventional cardiac electrophysiology, leading a large group that is involved in clinical care, teaching, research, and medical innovation. On the clinical side, his team has developed and implemented several innovative therapies to manage cardiac arrhythmias and other cardiac interventions in a non-pharmacological manner. Dr. Shivkumar’s research is focused on mechanisms of cardiac arrhythmias, especially on the role of the autonomic nervous system, which has important implications for neurovisceral science in general. His group has developed advanced neuroaxial modulation treatment for patients with refractory ventricular arrhythmias in whom death was imminent, resulting in a life-saving therapy. Together, the work done by Dr. Shivkumar and his team has opened the door for important neuroscience therapies for the cardiovascular system, with major therapeutic implications.

Dr. Shivkumar’s innovative work has resulted in over 360 publications and an H-index of 62. His IP has been incorporated into medical devices that are now FDA approved and in clinical use. He also serves on the editorial board for several journals in cardiology and cardiac electrophysiology, and is a peer reviewer for many basic science and clinical journals. He is a peer reviewer for NIH and he oversees a 15-university NIH consortium on neural control of the heart. Dr. Shivkumar is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, was elected as an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London) in 2016, and elected President of the International Society of Autonomic Neuroscience in 2019.
Previous Gootter Foundation Lecture Speakers

2019 Lecture Speaker:
“The Long QT Syndrome: The Long Road From Zero Knowledge to Personalized Management”

Peter J. Schwartz, MD
Professor and Head, Center for Cardiac Arrhythmias of Genetic Origin
IRCCS Istituto, Auxologico Italiano

2018 Lecture Speaker:
“An Evolutionary View of CaMKII Oxidation: Physiological Innovation, and a Poison Pill for Cardiovascular Disease”

Mark E. Anderson, MD, PhD
William Osler Professor of Medicine
Director of the Department of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University, and Physician in Chief
Johns Hopkins Hospital