

Elena Vasquez, MD

FACC, FHRS

Cardiovascular Medicine | Interventional Cardiology

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Board-certified interventional cardiologist with over a decade of clinical experience in academic and community hospital settings. Subspecialty expertise in complex coronary interventions, structural heart disease, and cardiac imaging. Active research program with 35+ peer-reviewed publications and PI roles on five multicenter clinical trials. Dedicated educator mentoring cardiology fellows and internal medicine residents at Meridian University School of Medicine. Committed to evidence-based, patient-centered cardiovascular care.

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

Certification	Issuing Board	Year	Status
Cardiovascular Disease	American Board of Internal Medicine	2014	Active
Internal Medicine	American Board of Internal Medicine	2011	Active
Nuclear Cardiology	Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology	2015	Active
Adult Echocardiography	National Board of Echocardiography	2015	Active
Interventional Cardiology	American Board of Internal Medicine	2016	Active

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Attending Interventional Cardiologist 2016–Present
Meridian Heart & Vascular Institute, New Haven, CT

- Perform 250+ percutaneous coronary interventions annually including complex CTO and left main procedures.
- Direct the Structural Heart Program; perform TAVR, MitraClip, and PFO/ASD closure procedures.
- Lead a multidisciplinary heart team with cardiothoracic surgery, imaging, and advanced practice providers.

Associate Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory 2018–Present
Vertex Medical Center, Bridgeport, CT

- Oversee quality assurance, protocol development, and staff training for a 4-suite cath lab performing 3,200 procedures annually.
- Spearheaded initiative reducing door-to-balloon times by 22% through workflow optimization.
- Implemented radial-first access program achieving 91% radial utilization.

Clinical Cardiologist 2014–2016
Apex Health System, Stamford, CT

- Provided comprehensive inpatient and outpatient cardiovascular care across three affiliated hospitals.
- Developed the nuclear cardiology stress lab protocol adopted system-wide.

Cardiology Fellow

2011–2014

New Haven General Hospital, New Haven, CT

- Chief Cardiology Fellow (2013–2014). Completed 1,200+ diagnostic catheterizations; 400+ interventional procedures.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Postgraduate Medical Training

2011–2014	Fellowship	Cardiovascular Disease, <i>New Haven General Hospital</i> , New Haven, CT
2008–2011	Residency	Internal Medicine, <i>Meridian University Medical Center</i> , New Haven, CT
2007–2008	Internship	Internal Medicine, <i>Meridian University Medical Center</i> , New Haven, CT

Education

2004–2008	MD	<i>Meridian University School of Medicine</i> , New Haven, CT Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society
2000–2004	BS, Biochemistry	<i>Nimbus College</i> , Cambridge, MA <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Phi Beta Kappa

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Medicine

2018–Present

Meridian University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology

Assistant Professor of Medicine

2014–2018

Meridian University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology

Program Director, Interventional Cardiology Fellowship

2019–Present

Meridian Heart & Vascular Institute / Meridian University

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Vasquez E, Chen R, Okafor M, Patel S. Five-year outcomes of drug-eluting stents versus bare-metal stents in elderly patients with multivessel coronary artery disease: a propensity-matched analysis. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2023;81(14):1342–1355.
2. Rodriguez K, Vasquez E, Thompson J, Lee H. Transcatheter aortic valve replacement in patients with bicuspid aortic stenosis: results from the SYNTAX-TAVR multicenter registry. *Circulation*. 2022;146(18):1389–1402.
3. Park S, Vasquez E, Nakamura T, et al. Radial versus femoral access for coronary angiography and intervention in patients with acute coronary syndromes: an updated meta-analysis of randomized trials. *Lancet*. 2022;399(10335):1765–1778.
4. Vasquez E, Osei A, Kim J. Impact of multidisciplinary heart team approach on clinical decision-making for complex coronary artery disease. *Eur Heart J*. 2021;42(36):3582–3594.
5. Nguyen P, Vasquez E, Cohen M, et al. Machine learning-based prediction of in-hospital mortality after percutaneous coronary intervention: development and external validation. *JAMA Cardiol*. 2021;6(8):932–941.
6. Vasquez E, Thompson J, Lee S, et al. Paclitaxel-coated balloons versus drug-eluting stents for the treatment of in-stent restenosis: 3-year results of the ISR-DES III trial. *Circ Cardiovasc Interv*. 2020;13(8):e009137.

7. O'Brien C, **Vasquez E**, Singh R. The evolving role of intravascular imaging in optimizing percutaneous coronary intervention outcomes. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv.* 2020;13(15):1756–1770.
8. **Vasquez E**, Henderson M, Patel K. Spontaneous coronary artery dissection: contemporary diagnosis, management, and outcomes in a prospective cohort. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2019;74(10):1290–1300.
9. Williams A, **Vasquez E**, Murphy D. Comparison of prasugrel versus ticagrelor in patients undergoing primary PCI: a network meta-analysis. *Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Pharmacother.* 2019;5(3):151–162.
10. **Vasquez E**, Rivera J, Goldstein S. High-sensitivity cardiac troponin assays for early diagnosis of myocardial infarction: clinical implementation and impact on emergency department workflows. *Clin Chem.* 2018;64(9):1334–1345.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

“Advances in Transcatheter Structural Heart Interventions.”	2023
Annual Scientific Sessions, American College of Cardiology, New Orleans, LA.	
“Radial-First PCI: Evidence, Technique, and Implementation.”	2022
Cardiovascular Summit, Meridian Heart & Vascular Institute, New Haven, CT.	
“Intravascular Imaging-Guided PCI: OCT vs. IVUS.”	2021
Interventional Cardiology Grand Rounds, Vertex Medical Center, Bridgeport, CT.	
“Managing Antiplatelet Therapy in High-Bleeding-Risk PCI Patients.”	2020
Northeast Cardiology Symposium, Boston, MA.	
“Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection: A Paradigm Shift.”	2019
Cardiovascular Grand Rounds, Meridian University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT.	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & HONORS

Fellow , American College of Cardiology (FACC)	Elected 2016
Fellow , Heart Rhythm Society (FHRS)	Elected 2017
Member , American Heart Association Council on Clinical Cardiology	
Member , Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions	
Member , American Society of Echocardiography	
Meridian University Faculty Teaching Award	2021
Recognized for outstanding mentorship of cardiology fellows and residents.	
Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society	Inducted 2008
Chief Cardiology Fellow	New Haven General Hospital, 2013–2014

LICENSURE

State	License Number	Status
Connecticut	MD.043792	Active
New York	MD.281645	Active
Massachusetts	MD.258931	Active (Inactive Status)

RESEARCH & CLINICAL TRIALS

Principal Investigator	2021–Present
<i>NEXUS-RCT</i> : Randomized comparison of next-generation DES platforms in diabetic patients with multivessel disease. Multicenter, 1,200-patient enrollment. Funded by the Nimbus Research Institute.	

Site Principal Investigator	2019–Present
<i>VALOR-HF</i> : Valsartan versus sacubitril/valsartan for heart failure with reduced ejection fraction in patients undergoing coronary revascularization. Synapse Clinical Trials Network.	
Co-Investigator	2018–2022
<i>APEX-ACS</i> : Apixaban versus standard dual antiplatelet therapy in acute coronary syndrome patients at high bleeding risk. Vertex Medical Center site.	
Co-Investigator	2017–2021
<i>MERIDIAN-CTO</i> : Prospective registry of chronic total occlusion percutaneous coronary intervention outcomes using contemporary techniques. 500-patient observational cohort.	
Sub-Investigator	2016–2019
<i>PACIFICA</i> : Paclitaxel-coated balloon versus drug-eluting stent for de novo small-vessel coronary disease. Apex Health System site.	

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

11. **Vasquez E**, Goldstein S, Chen L. Gender differences in outcomes after primary percutaneous coronary intervention for ST-elevation myocardial infarction. *Am Heart J*. 2018;201:53–64.
12. Nakamura T, **Vasquez E**, O'Brien C. Bioresorbable vascular scaffolds: lessons learned from early clinical experience. *Nat Rev Cardiol*. 2017;14(10):590–604.
13. **Vasquez E**, Williams A, Patel K. Echocardiographic predictors of functional recovery after transcatheter aortic valve replacement. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr*. 2017;30(7):675–684.
14. Henderson M, **Vasquez E**, Lee S. Contemporary incidence, predictors, and outcomes of acute kidney injury in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention: insights from the NCDR CathPCI registry. *JACC Cardiovasc Interv*. 2016;9(16):1662–1673.
15. **Vasquez E**, Rivera J, Murphy D. Prognostic value of coronary computed tomography angiography-derived fractional flow reserve. *J Cardiovasc Comput Tomogr*. 2016;10(4):289–297.
16. Singh R, **Vasquez E**, Cohen M. The obesity paradox in cardiovascular disease: a review of the evidence and clinical implications. *Prog Cardiovasc Dis*. 2015;58(2):156–167.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Vasquez E, Thompson J. Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in Multivessel Disease. In: Patel S, ed. *Interventional Cardiology: A Comprehensive Guide*. 3rd ed. New Haven, CT: Meridian University Press; 2022:245–278.

Vasquez E. Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement: Patient Selection and Outcomes. In: Lee H, ed. *Advances in Structural Heart Disease*. New York, NY: Synapse Medical Publishing; 2020:112–139.

Vasquez E, Chen R. Intravascular Imaging in Coronary Intervention. In: Murphy D, ed. *Essentials of Interventional Cardiology*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia, PA: Vertex Health Press; 2019:201–228.

PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Journal of the American College of Cardiology (2016–Present)

Circulation (2015–Present)

European Heart Journal (2017–Present)

JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions (2015–Present)

Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions (2014–Present)

American Heart Journal (2016–Present)

Abstract Grader

American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session (2018–Present)

Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT) Conference (2019–Present)

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Program Director, Interventional Cardiology Fellowship 2019–Present
Meridian Heart & Vascular Institute / Meridian University School of Medicine. Supervise 2 fellows per year in a 12-month ACGME-accredited program.

Core Faculty, Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship 2015–Present
Meridian University School of Medicine. Didactic lectures, procedural supervision, and research mentorship for 8 fellows annually.

Clinical Preceptor , Internal Medicine Residency Meridian University Medical Center. Bedside teaching and clinical skills assessment for 20+ residents per rotation.	2014–Present
Course Director , “Advanced Coronary Pathophysiology and Revascularization” Meridian University School of Medicine. Elective course for M4 medical students.	2020–Present
Mentor , Medical Student Research Program Supervised 8 medical students in cardiovascular outcomes research; 5 have published first-author papers.	2016–Present

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP & COMMITTEE SERVICE

Chair , Cardiovascular Quality Improvement Committee <i>Meridian Heart & Vascular Institute</i>	2020–Present
Member , Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee <i>Vertex Medical Center</i>	2018–Present
Member , Credentialing and Privileging Committee <i>Meridian Heart & Vascular Institute</i>	2017–Present
Member , Cardiology Fellowship Clinical Competency Committee <i>Meridian University School of Medicine</i>	2015–Present
Physician Lead , PCI Appropriate Use Criteria Initiative <i>Vertex Medical Center</i> . Led institutional adoption of AUC guidelines resulting in 96% appropriate-use rate.	2019–2021

CLINICAL SKILLS & PROCEDURES

Coronary Interventions

- Complex PCI (CTO, bifurcation, left main)
- Rotational and orbital atherectomy
- Intravascular imaging (IVUS, OCT)
- Fractional flow reserve (FFR/iFR)
- Mechanical circulatory support (Impella, IABP)

Cardiac Imaging

- Transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography
- Nuclear cardiology (SPECT, PET)
- Cardiac CT angiography
- Cardiac MRI (Level II competency)

Structural Interventions

- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)
- Transcatheter mitral valve repair (MitraClip)
- Left atrial appendage occlusion (Watchman)
- PFO/ASD/VSD closure
- Balloon aortic and mitral valvuloplasty

Vascular Access

- Transradial (distal and proximal)
- Transfemoral
- Ultrasound-guided vascular access
- Large-bore access and closure