Zoom On: Prof. Mamas A. Mamas

Prof. Mamas A Mamas is a structural interventional cardiologist, treating patients with underlying coronary artery with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) in both the elective and emergency setting and undertaking Transcatheter Aortic Valve Interventions (TAVI). He is also the Associate Editor of Circulation Cardiovascular Interventions and leads a large research groups focussed around electronic health record research.

What are your key areas of interest and research?
My areas of interest are around Big Data, specifically using electronic patient healthcare records to look at real-world outcomes of patients with cardiovascular disease to understand the effectiveness of treatments that we offer and to understand the disparities in the treatments that we offer. Are we delivering the right treatments to the right patients? To understand complications of treatments and to develop risk models in being able to identify patients at risk. Perhaps to deliver better treatment for them or delivering the appropriate treatment for them.

What are the major challenges in your field?
Too much to do, too little time to do it in.

What is your top management tip?
My top management tip is to build a good team around you and look to identify talent and talent beyond your own institution. Often, people just focus on their own working space and they only look to identify talent there. I think that’s why social media is so useful in that it basically gives you the whole world to look into. I’ve met some really amazing people and really talented people. And once you have identified these amazing and talented people, you need to bring them in, give them opportunities, mentor them, and promote them. That, to me, is very important. Surrounding yourself with really good with people and identifying really good people and looking beyond your narrow borders and overlooking your own personal biases. We all have our biases. If you ask anybody if they have biases, they will say no. But we all have biases and it is important to try and overcome your own personal biases in giving people the opportunity to work with you. Because it is going to be beneficial for both yourself and for the people and for the wider profession, in my view.

What would you single out as a career highlight?
I wouldn’t say there is any one career highlight, and I can’t think of a single career highlight. I have been very fortunate to have a career that I enjoy. To go to work every day. It has given me the opportunity to travel the world and to meet many amazing people and to make a genuine impact on people’s lives. Patient lives. To give you the feeling that you’ve actually made a difference. All of us have stories where we’ve actually made a difference to patients. I would say the highlight for me is the ability to make a difference and that there are many times that I feel I have made a difference. That’s the number one highlight. Number two highlight is doing something I enjoy and travel the world and meet amazing people and get paid for it.

If you had not chosen this career path, you would have become a…?
Watchmaker. I have a great passion for vintage watches and mechanical watches generally. So, if I didn’t choose this career path, I would be a watchmaker and when I retire, my ambition is to make my own watch.

What are your personal interests outside of work?
Vintage watches, travelling, history, running.

Your favourite quote?
It’s a Latin quotation “Citius, Altius, Fortius.” Higher, faster, stronger [faster, stronger, higher in translation order]. And that’s what I try to do always in my life. Always try to aim for higher, always try to excel at what I do and do it with strength.

Another quote I like is “Do unto others as you would have done unto you.” I think that’s a good one, a close second. That’s basically saying treat people as you would like to be treated. Whether it be juniors or seniors or people that work with you. If you’re fair with people, then I think
that is a good way to lead one's life.

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