



## ***Caring For California* WINTER '08**

*Our mission: To be an advocate for accessible, highest quality, cost effective cardiovascular care for the people of California and to actively support the cardiac care team in their efforts to achieve these goals.*

### **Third Annual "Sacramento" Day To be Held May 21<sup>st</sup>**

Tired of the Assembly telling you how to run your practice and costing you money? Be sure to come join us as we discuss menu labeling and other nutritional bills; Medi-Cal cuts; imaging legislation; and transparency/outcome reporting legislation. This is a joint meeting the AHA Western States Affiliate.

It's Easy!

Come for a few hours anytime between 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. We'll set up appointments for you and educate you on taking points.

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch with CA ACC members at Spataro 1415 L Street / Legislative Speaker

Want to attend? E-mail [Lianna@caacc.org](mailto:Lianna@caacc.org) to **register** or request more information

### **Electronic Prescribing Outreach Program**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, changes to the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), will require that all computer generated prescriptions for Part D patients comply with the NCPDP Script standard which means they must be transmitted electronically and not via fax. Over 100,000 prescribers use EMR, e-prescribing and lab order systems that could connect with pharmacy computers but don't. Even if practices think they're e-prescribing, they may be sending prescriptions to pharmacies by fax.

ACC is launching an outreach program in conjunction with number of medical specialty societies. Visit [www.getrxconnected.com](http://www.getrxconnected.com) to complete a short assessment. Practices will then receive a free Practice Readiness Report that will confirm if your EMR, e-prescribing application or lab order system is able to connect to the pharmacy electronically. If you don't use this type of technology, you'll receive a free technology guide to help get started.

### **What's New?**

- Congratulations to Joseph Perloff, MD FACC, University of California! Joe has been awarded ACC's highest honor - winner of the ACC Lifetime Achievement Award!!
- CA ACC Print Rosters are in production!! You need to be **sure** you are a paid Chapter member AND that all your data is correct. Non-paid chapter members as of March 20<sup>th</sup> will NOT be included in the 2008 Directory, nor will they receive a copy.
- National Sections. ACC has added the "Women In Cardiology", "Interventional" and "Adult Congenital & Pediatric" Sections. For just \$35 you'll receive special data and notifications for special programs. E-Mail [sbailes@acc.org](mailto:sbailes@acc.org) for more information
- CA ACC has an interactive website, which allows you to find peers in any city or specialty you may need to refer to, and access useful practice tools. Our site is updated daily, so save **www.caacc.org** as a favorite and check back often.

## President's Message:

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This is a special time of year for the ACC and Chapter. During this election year everyone is focused on the candidates with their pronounced accomplishments, their vision, and promises. The candidates approach every election with the same trepidation of hoping that their record of accomplishments and their vision will win the day. They also hope that if you really believe in them that not only will you vote for them you'll convince your family, friends, and even acquaintances to vote for them.

Well for the ACC and Chapter our annual election season is called membership season and it is NOW. By now all of you have received your ballots – **your 2008 membership dues statements** for the ACC and the CAACC. We are waiting for your vote to become members to support our continued work on your behalf in the state of California and nationally through ACC. Fortunately, **none of your votes will be wasted** since neither of us – the ACC or CAACC – is dropping out of the race. **We know that no one is forcing you to become members so that every member does so because s/he believes in the mission and the value of the organization.** We also hope that you recognize that you have the power and the responsibility to make this organization the best organization that it can be to assist you in your cardiology practice. So Vote NOW and encourage all your colleagues to vote for the CAACC.

We in leadership – your elected governors, past governors, and governor-elects and district councilors - have created a phenomenal board that functions both as a brain trust and the working group of the organization. These past few months have demonstrated to me the integrity of the group to our mission “to contribute to the prevention of cardiovascular diseases, to ensure optimal quality care for the individuals with such diseases and to foster the highest professional ethical standards.” In January our chapter was awarded the second annual Venti Chapter award by the Board of Governors for the highest quality chapter in the large chapter category.

Drs. John Harold, Lawrence Laslett, and I were invited to participate in a **national summit on health care reform** convened by the ACC to get input and develop a plan to guide the process. Other participants were the president-elect of the AMA, the President of the ACP, the Director of AHRQ, and the past and current leadership of the CMS. Locally, we have been actively monitoring the HealthCare Reform efforts in California to provide input and review the plan so that there are no hidden or unintentional issues that would increase the bureaucratic burden to the practice of cardiology or medicine.

We are finalizing the latest CAACC directory of members for the benefit of our members and businesses and the public that look to the directory to guide them to quality practitioners and leaders in the field of cardiology. We are working on communications strategies with timely newsletters to keep the dialog moving in both directions. Keep in touch with the CAACC website which is now being updated regularly with our activities. In advocacy, we spotted a potential problem bill and were instrumental in bringing the parties together to discuss the issues and find common ground to support and create a more collegial working relationship. In education, we continue to partner with not only ACC CE activities in the state but also **dozens of outstanding programs** looking to partner with the CAACC. Our Cardiac Care Associates also have set up their own symposiums (April 26<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco and September 4<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles) that are sure to be outstanding.

So remember to vote for the CAACC in 2008 with your membership dues and tell a colleague.  
**And do it NOW.**

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