

California
CHAPTER

Caring for California

Fall 2014



October 21-24, 2014

Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines

[View brochure and agenda](#)

October 24, 2014

CA ACC Chapter Awards Dinner

Dinner immediately follows the 25th Annual Cardiovascular Interventions Conference.

Time: 5 PM - 9PM

Location: Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines

10950 North Torrey Pines Road

La Jolla, CA 92037

Contact administrator@caacc.org

to reserve your seat.

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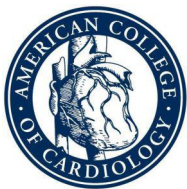
Has CMS initiated a RAC Audit of Your Data Since August 14, 2014?

If so, the ACC wants to know about it! Please email your name and the date the audit was initiated to Lisa Goldstein at LGoldstein@acc.org or call her in ACC Regulatory Affairs at 1-800-253.4636.



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ACC's MOC Hub

Fall 2014

State Advocacy in Action:

California Governor Jerry Brown has signed into law S.B. 906, a measure strongly supported by the ACC's California Chapter. The law creates the Elective Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) Program in the California Department of Public Health. It also authorizes certification of general acute care hospitals that provide urgent and emergent cardiac catheterization laboratory service. In order to be certified, a hospital must provide proof that it follows ACC, American Heart Association and Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions recommendations for performance of PCI without onsite cardiac surgery, and agree to participate in and provide timely data to the NCDR.



Senate Candidate Ted Lieu receives ACC PAC Donation from CA ACC Northern Governor-elect Norman Lopor, MD, FACC, October 3, 2014

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) implemented changes to its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program for board-certified internists on January 1, 2014. The ACC and other members of the internal medicine community received a letter from the ABIM Board of Directors responding to a number of the concerns previously outlined by ACC and other professional organizations regarding the revised requirements for the ABIM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program. In this letter ABIM committed to further changes in the MOC process to address these concerns — [read the ACC in Touch blog](#) to learn more.

The College is continuing our efforts to educate our members about the new requirements and provide them the tools and resources necessary to help them meet these requirements as efficiently as possible. The ACC has created an MOC Hub with details about ABIM's current MOC program to inform and help ACC members navigate the changes. [Learn more here.](#)

2014 Legislative Conference

Fellow-in-training Howard Julien, MD, and Nicolas W. Shammass, MD, FACC, [interviewed Sen. Charles Grassley \(R-IA\)](#) last week while on Capitol Hill during ACC's Legislative Conference. Grassley weighed in on funding for graduate medical education and research, practice stability, Sustainable Growth Rate repeal, and the In-Office Ancillary Services Exception, and encouraged cardiovascular professionals to engage with lawmakers year round. "We would profit considerably by having more doctors being politically active...in the process of government," said Grassley. Visit the [FITs on the Go video blog](#) for additional coverage of Legislative Conference.



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Chapter FITs Reflect on the 2014 Legislative Conference

Shenoy, Maithili, MD

The ACC Legislative Conference kick-started with great introductory lectures and panel discussions. I was impressed by the interdisciplinary nature of the conference. Being a first-timer, one question nagging me was: "What am I going to discuss with the Senator/Congressman?" But as the conference progressed, it became apparent to me that even as a trainee, I was very much a part of the system, reaping its benefits and experiencing its pitfalls. As personnel from Medicare, FDA, etc . . . filled us in on the latest, I could visualize similar scenarios in my own practice.

Sept 16, 2014 was my first time on the Hill. I had heard many recollections from those who had represented the ACC there in the past. Despite that the experience was more awe-inspiring than I ever imagined. Our team was comprised of Dr John Gordon, Dr Anthony Hilliard, Dr Tushar Tuliani and myself. The most touching moment for me was when Congressman Dana Rohrabacher's legislative assistant, Brian Alesi, concluded our meeting saying how much he enjoyed our conversation together. That's when I realized what all of us present in that room, had in common: the urge to help people and make a difference in whatever way: small or big. As Winston Churchill wisely once said, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." This was my chance to give back to the system by being the change.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude towards the California Chapter of the ACC for the Fellow-in-Training travel grant. Gestures like these restate the ACC's commitment towards our education. I look forward to attending next year and encourage my colleagues to avail of this opportunity.

Tushar Tuliani, MD

I enjoyed my experience on the Hill. This being my first time, I was a bit nervous initially as I wasn't sure what to expect. But the speakers and team leaders walked us through the procedures, the agenda etc and made us feel comfortable fairly quickly. Upon our visit to the Hill, as a fellow in training I could lend a young trainee's perspective to the Senator/Congressmen. I shared with them my thoughts about the need for, and ways and means of securing the future via graduate medical education and research funds. This has to be the most unique conference I have attended. It gave me tremendous insight into logistic issues that exist in the world of health care, issues that we as trainees may fail to ordinarily recognize.

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Fellows-in-Training, *cont . . .*

Westerdahl, Daniel E, M.D.

Even in the midst of a busy cardiology fellowship, building a wonderful marriage, and finding out my newest title will be “Dad,” I found the opportunity to visit our nation’s capital at the ACC Legislative Conference the most important use of my last 72 hours. Why you might ask...? Simple, the things that mean so much to me (my family, my career, and my community) can be enormously impacted by my active participation in the political process. In comparison to how difficult it is to save a patient having a STEMI without being in a catheterization lab, we cannot save our healthcare system unless we stand in the political lab of Washington DC.

The ACC Legislative Conference opened with a highly engaging dinner featuring James Carville and Mary Matalin who discussed the differences between political parties and the political divide, predictions for the upcoming elections, and ways to bring the differing parties together to invoke lasting change. The following day, guest speakers and government agency representatives provided a window into the complex workings behind the scenes of our political process and healthcare policy development. I was personally inspired by questions and comments of passionate colleagues who are invested in the future of our profession and in securing optimal care for our patients. Lastly, the experience of the conference culminated as we met in the offices with the individuals whose political action forms the legislature that is ultimately signed into law.

The ACC Legislative Conference is a welcomed opportunity that impacts population level change through individual connections. It provides an opportunity for Congress to become aware of our meaningful suggestions and solutions to the problems our healthcare system faces. Through my participation in the ACC Legislative Conference, I was reminded of our responsibility to be involved in the process. It can be as simple as getting to know local representatives and ensuring they know the community they serve.

MARCH 14 – 16, 2015
SAN DIEGO
CALIFORNIA

Early Bird Registration
Ends Oct. 22!
Register Early and Save Up to \$200!

ACC.15
TCT@ACC-12



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ACC Offers Valuable Education Without Leaving Your OFFICE!

[Coding Changes, ICD-10 Implementaion
and Final Rule Details](#)

Webinars!

Did you know that you can find archived webinars from throughout the years from the ACC on CardioSource.org? As a member, you have access to this wealth of information here.

To access them, you must have a CardioSource.org log-in and use the confirmation code and webinar access link emailed to you once you. Questions? Contact ACC's Resource Center at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603, toll free to 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or via email to resource@acc.org

New 2014 Guidelines for Patients with NSTEMI-ACS

The ACC and AHA on Sept. 23 released the new 2014 Guideline for the Management of Patients With Non-ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes (NSTEMI-ACS). The guideline has a new name and new terminology that reflect current ways of thinking about this frequent and serious cardiac condition, and is the first full revision since the 2007 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Management of Patients with Unstable Angina and Non-ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (NSTEMI) and subsequent focused updates. [Click here to read more.](#)

Sunshine Act Update

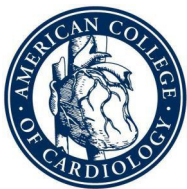
Reporting of Sunshine Act data from August 1 through December 31, 2013 went public September 30 2014.

Be sure to search and [check YOUR data at www..cms.gov/openpayments/.](http://www.cms.gov/openpayments/)



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New Deadline for CMS Hardship Application

CMS has re-opened the window to apply to avoid 2015 payment adjustments. Medicare providers who are non-compliant in attaining meaningful use and would like to request an exemption from planned Medicare payment adjustments in 2015, must complete and submit an application form. CMS will review the applications and make a determination about each provider's eligibility for a hardship exception. **The NEW deadline is 11:59 PM EST November 30, 2014.**

Physicians who are eligible for the hardship exception are those who have never been a meaningful user to date. Please see the links below for the official message and application.

[Hardship Exception Extension Application](#)
[Hardship Exception Application Extension Message](#)
[You can find more information here.](#)

If a provider is eligible to participate in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program, they must demonstrate meaningful use to avoid a payment adjustment in either the Medicare EHR Incentive Program or in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, depending on their eligibility.

In 2009, Congress mandated payment adjustments be applied to Medicare eligible professionals who are not meaningful users of Certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technology under the Medicare EHR Incentive Programs. These payment adjustments are set to be implemented on January 1, 2015 for Medicare eligible professionals. Medicaid eligible professionals who can only participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and do not bill Medicare are not subject to these payment adjustments.



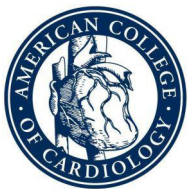
The Importance of Responding to Surveys

We all receive them. We usually delete them.

However: DID YOU KNOW that by NOT taking time to weigh in, our reimbursement rates and regulatory constraints are out of our control?

PLEASE be sure to review emails that we as a Chapter or ACC national sends you, and make them a priority.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out our website at
www.caacc.org for details on all events.

October:

- 16-18th: 14th Annual Maui Cardiovascular Symposium, Maui
- 21-24th: CA Chapter Annual Meeting: 25th Annual Cardiovascular Interventions, La Jolla
- 21st: ICD - 9 | CPT | HCPCS Reimbursement & Coding Wkshp, 9 am - 4 pm, Pasadena
- 22nd: ICD - 9 | CPT | HCPCS Reimbursement & Coding Wkshp, 9 am - 4 pm, Anaheim
- 23rd: ICD - 9 | CPT | HCPCS Reimbursement & Coding Wkshp, 9 am - 4 pm, Mission Valley
- 24th: CAACC Chapter Awards Dinner, 5 pm - 9pm, Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, La Jolla
- 28th: ICD - 9 | CPT | HCPCS Reimbursement & Coding Wkshp, 9 am - 4 pm, San Francisco
- 29th: ICD - 9 | CPT | HCPCS Reimbursement & Coding Wkshp, 9 am - 4 pm, Sacramento

November:

- 1st: The Changing Landscape of Healthcare: Delivering Quality Care, 8:30 am, Los Angeles
- 6-8th: Vascular Interpretation Preceptorship (VIP), San Francisco
- 8th: 6th Annual Orange County Symposium, Anaheim
- 8th: Cardiovascular Nursing Clinical Update, 8:30 am - 1 pm, Long Beach
- 20th: Cardiology Grand Rounds, 8 am, UC Irvine Medical Center
- 20-21st: Controversies & Advances in the Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease, Beverly Hills

December:

- 4th: Cardiology Grand Rounds, 8 am, UC Irvine Medical Center
- 4-6th: 4th Annual International Hawaii Symposium on Diagnostic and Therapeutic Modalities in Heart Failure, Kohala Coast, Island of Hawaii
- 5th: 2014 Arrhythmia Symposium at the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, Los Angeles
- 9th: Understanding the 2015 Peripheral Coding Process for Cardiology, 9 am, Anaheim
- 10th: Understanding the 2015 Peripheral Coding Process for Cardiology, 9 am, Pasadena
- 12-14th: 31st Annual Advances in Heart Disease, San Francisco

January:

- 23-25th: Advances in Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiac CT: 30th Annual Case Review with the Experts with 101 Evidence-Based Cases, Los Angeles

February:

- 4-6th: Structural Heart Intervention and Imaging 2015: A Practical Approach, San Diego

March:

- 1-6th: Interventional Cardiology 2015: 30th Annual International Symposium, Snowmass Village, CO
- 7th: 2015 Mid-Valley Cardiovascular Symposium, Modesto



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