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Caring For California Fall 2008

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.



We are pleased to announce our partnership with "medreviews medical education."
[Click here](#) to be directed to Medreviews.com.

CA ACC Annual Meeting

Over 515 professionals attended our Annual Meeting September 4th and 5th. With satellite courses for Cardiac Care Associates, Women in Cardiology and Fellows in Training, there was something for everyone.

Congratulations to our members who received awards during our leadership recognition dinner:

- Cardiac Care Associate of the Year – Frances Saldivar, NP
- Future Leader Award – Ramin Manshadi, MD, FACC
- Cardiologist of the Year – Lawrence L. Laslett, MD, FACC
- Distinguished Service Award – Robert M. Davidson, MD, FACC

California Chapter Member Roster Books are for sale!

All Chapter Members who paid chapter dues by May 12th should have received their copy. If you'd like to purchase one, please contact us at 877.460.5880 or by FAX 253-265-3043. Books are \$25.00/each plus shipping and handling - Limited Quantities.

HHS Proposes ICD-10 Implementation in 2011

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has proposed a new rule that would mandate the use of the International Classification of Diseases Version 10 (ICD-10) on all health care transactions starting on Oct.

1, 2011. This would replace the 13,000 existing ICD-9 diagnosis codes with more than 68,000 ICD-10 diagnosis codes. ICD-10 codes are a different format, and thus would **require all codes to be reformatted**. The proposed rule **does not** include a transition period during which both sets of codes may be used.

Although use of the ICD-10 classification system could result in more precise descriptions of diseases that would improve public health reporting and pay-for-performance reporting, it might also result in significant costs and administrative problems for hospitals and offices. The ACC is currently examining the proposed rule and considering a response that will attempt to examine the cost/benefit analysis prepared by HHS. The proposed rule can be found in the *Federal Register*.



WE BELIEVE
standing strong
requires balance.

As a physician, you should have the time and flexibility you need to take your own advice about living a healthy, happy life. You should be able to get plenty of rest, exercise regularly, eat well, hydrate frequently and, in our medical opinion, laugh often. That's why The Permanente Medical Group, Inc. provides its physicians with balanced scheduling options, comprehensive administrative support, state-of-the-art resources and more. Enjoy the life you live. Stand strong with Kaiser.

CARDIOLOGISTS

- Modesto - Interventional Cardiologist; Invasive Cardiologist
- Redwood City - Non Invasive or Invasive Cardiologist
- Sacramento - Experienced Interventional Cardiologist
- South Bay - Interventional/General Cardiologist. Desirable qualifications: MRI, CT Angio and Peripheral Vascular.
- South Sacramento - Invasive Cardiologist. Required qualifications: pacemaker skills and training in the 64 CT Image Scanner.
- Stockton - Interventional Cardiologist
- Vacaville - Non Invasive Cardiologist. Desirable qualifications: pacemaker skills.

You may e-mail your CV and cover letter to: Katherine.Eide@kp.org or call (800) 777-4912 for more information. EEO/AA/M/F/D/V EMPLOYER.

 **KAISER PERMANENTE**
<http://physiciancareers.kp.org/nca1>

Participate in an Online Survey on 2007 PQRI

Did you participate in the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)? If so, the American Medical Association (AMA) needs your help! Please respond to this brief confidential online survey <http://survey.confirmit.com/wix1/p709681010.aspx> which will take only 10 – 15 minutes of your time. Information gathered from the survey process will allow the AMA and other medical specialty and state organizations to effectively advocate for changes in the PQRI. Click on the link above to complete the survey.



Strong Chapters Equal Strong ACC

by Jane Schauer, MD, FACC

While the American College of Cardiology (ACC) works hard and effectively to provide education, quality initiatives and advocacy for all its members, to paraphrase a famous line from former Speaker of the House “Tip” O’Neill Jr. – “All health care is local.”



The California Chapter, along with the ACC's other 48 Chapters, is a critical link to other cardiovascular specialists in California. We provide critical local education, quality and advocacy opportunities and play a key role when it comes to networking, leadership building and mentoring.

Given the invaluable roles all Chapters play, the ACC Board of Trustees recently approved the implementation of mandatory Chapter dues for active physician members. The goal is to provide Chapters with the resources necessary to develop innovative education and advocacy programs and enhance the benefits of Chapter membership.

One of the major challenges for the California Chapter today is to remain fiscally viable despite a political and economic climate that is making health care funding increasingly difficult to secure and/or narrowly limited in scope. Other similarly situated medical associations, such as the American College of Physicians, implemented mandatory dues and have seen an increase in Chapter membership and a greater sense of involvement from their members as a result. Enabling a baseline membership experience is extremely important to energizing grassroots Chapter work.

It is our hope that mandatory dues will lead to greater involvement and ownership in the great work that the California Chapter is already doing. The practice of cardiovascular medicine is increasingly affected by legislators and regulators at the state and national levels. Member involvement at every level is crucial for success, and Chapters are key to involvement at the local level. Without mandatory Chapter dues, we run the risk of limiting the education, advocacy and quality improvement programs that are necessary to ensuring the highest quality care for patients. We also run the risk of disengagement by members.

The ACC's annual dues statements will be arriving in mailboxes this month and will reflect the mandatory Chapter dues decision. In the coming months, you'll see a new look for the national Chapters Web site (www.acc.org/chapters). You'll also see an increased effort to keep you informed about Chapter opportunities and more information about how every member of the cardiovascular care team can benefit from Chapter involvement. Strong Chapters mean an even stronger ACC, and we are excited about the opportunities to make the ACC as strong as it can be.

ACC Chapters: Your Local Champions

The California Chapter provides a number of opportunities for cardiovascular specialists in California. Some opportunities include:

- Opening your practice to lawmakers as part of a "Cardiologist for a Day" program
- Taking part in a local lobby day
- Writing to your lawmakers or local papers about issues that affect your practice and patients
- Taking part in a quality improvement pilot
- Speaking at local or state events about health care reform, Medicare payment, etc.
- Taking part in educational programs such as the Chapter's annual meeting
- Getting involved in Chapter governance and committees

For more information visit www.caacc.org and/or contact Lianna@caacc.org.

A Message from our President

Gordon Fung, MD, FACC

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful and fun summer. This year's annual meeting of the California Chapter of the ACC was a truly smashing success. Two and one-half years ago the CA ACC Council decided to no longer produce its own annual meeting. Then newly minted president and southern CA Governor, Dr. John Harold proposed an

To top off the meeting, we were treated to great comedy from heart disease survivor Dana Carvey.

One of our newest district councilors commented that this was a great meeting with outstanding educational value and great discussion. At the successful conclusion of this event, the CA ACC had a spectacular reception and dinner with awards and our own comedian who lifted everyone's spirits and topped off the evening in grand style.

experimental model of pairing up with an existing successful course – “The Controversies of Cardiology Series” that would offer a high quality program with CME and discounted registration to the membership of the CA ACC members at one of the finest luxurious settings in the nation – the Beverly Hills Hotel. The program already had a powerhouse of course directors but added the current president of the CA ACC. The format included state of the art lectures as well as topical issues and debates by national experts on the hottest topics facing cardiology today. Each year there has been an outstanding national and international faculty and a joining of forces between the leaders of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and ACC. This year, the third year of collaboration with CA ACC, was the best yet with STS president, Randy Chitwood discussing the synergies of the two organizations and the need for more collaborations, and Jim Dove, immediate past president ACC, speaking on Health Care Reform, Alfred Bove, President-Elect, speaking on Exercise and the Heart especially the competitive athlete, and Ralph Brindis, Vice President of ACC and CEO of NCDR talking of lessons learned from the NCDR on the safety and outcomes of free-standing PCI programs without on-site surgery. The debates were of the highest caliber, engaging, and memorable. entertaining.

I spent a lot of time describing this event to you in hopes of having you put this event on your calendar for October 2009. If you missed this year, you have my deepest sympathies. Don't miss it next year!

Another awesome and unforgettable event for this summer was the annual ACC Legislative Conference 2008 in Washington, DC on September 15 -16. Over 30 CA ACC members were oriented to the latest in Federal legislative issues regarding health care reform and how to move the discussion forward with Quality as the driver of reform. For the seasoned legislative advocates among us, we were so glad that we didn't have to bring up the SGR again – except to give our thanks for Congress's support and offer them our help to come up with solutions soon before the next scheduled cut. We had several meetings with our representatives and senators.

In CA we have representatives that are the legislative leaders and movers in health care reform. So we were joined by Jack Lewin, MD, CEO of ACC who led the delegation with Representative Pete Stark, who personally spent over 50 minutes with us in earnest discussion on real financial support for EMR adoption. We met with legislative aides for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Diane Feinstein. Again, for those who missed it, look for and save the dates for next year's Legislative Conference. Many who went also had a great night of Texas Poker with the Winner of the tournament winning a 60" HD Plasma TV.



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