



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 Lobby Day Fly In !

- WHO?** 40 CA ACC members
- WHERE?** Converged upon the capitol offices in Sacramento
- WHEN?** All day May 21st
- WHAT:** Educating lawmakers about 6 different Senate and Assembly bills that impact us and our patients
- RESULT?** Meetings held with more than 12 Representatives, 9 Senators, and about 10 Assembly members.
- Next?** Keep up with the bills' status! Visit the "advocacy" portion at www.caacc.org for hot links to bills and status.

Do You e-Prescribe?

One element of the current Senate Medicare bill is requiring physicians to prescribe electronically. The base legislation is called the "Medicare Electronic Medication and Safety Protection (E-MEDS) Act of 2007" (S. 2408).

- Carrot: Provide a one-time bonus of \$2,000 if purchased sometime in 2008 – 2009; \$1,500 if purchased in 2010 – 2011; or \$1,000 if purchased in 2012 or later. The incentive is to convert sooner;
- Carrot: Provide an ongoing payment of "1 percent of allowed charges" for the use of electronic prescriptions. There's no indication for how long this payment would continue, only that it is for a period specified by the Secretary;
- Stick: Failure to use electronic prescribing by Jan. 1, 2011, will result in a 10 percent reduction for each occasion where a prescription is ordered.

The ACC has proposed improvements to the bill based on e-prescribing principles developed by the Informatics Committee. Among the recommendations:

- Create a date-certain (with exceptions) for physician e-prescribing adherence.
- Develop a reasonable time period for the development and implementation of e-prescribing standards.
- Develop a reasonable transition phase-in for physician compliance. For example, once all standards have been finalized, a 36-month transition period should be permitted to test the interoperability of those standards.
- The phase-in should be completed by no later than Dec. 31, 2012.
- There should be one-time and ongoing incentive payments for physician use of e-prescribing. Physicians should not be penalized for the non-use of e-prescribing.
- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) prohibition on the physician e-prescribing of controlled substances should be lifted.
- Congress should take measures to protect patients from the data mining of prescription drug information.

Recent News:

- **Condolences** to the family of Dr. Samuel Meerbaum, who passed away in April at the age of 88. Dr. Meerbaum was born May 1, 1919 and practiced in Woodland Hills. He specialized in Research and Physiology. Dr. Meerbaum will be missed by all who knew him.
- **Print Rosters** are in production!! Paid members should receive their copy in July.
- 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. You can also update YOUR information so it is always current!! Our site is updated daily, so save www.caacc.org as a favorite and check back often.
- **Congratulations** To Dr. Bairey-Merz! C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD, FACC, FAHA – Director, Women’s Heart Health Center, Women’s Guild Endowed Chair in Women’s Health, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center was awarded the Women Heart’s 8th Annual Wenger Award June 9th. Other awardees included: The Honorable Lois Capps – Member, U.S. House of Representatives, Elizabeth G. Nabel, MD – Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and Cheerios.



President’s Message:

May 21, 2008 was a banner day for CAACC!

We had a phenomenally successful annual meeting in Sacramento, CA with a full day of activities beginning in the morning with committee meetings. The **Government Relations** Committee remains the largest and most active as it serves as our primary activity of Advocacy and was extremely active in coordinating much of the activity for the afternoon part of the meeting. The **Communications and Media Relations** Committees decided to merge their committees and activities and set lofty goals to enhance both internal communications as well as external communications strategies. They concluded that most of the cardiologists just don’t know enough about the crucial work of the chapter to their practice and careers.

The **Fellows In Training** committee had developed a full program to be presented concurrently with our September “Controversies” annual meeting in Los Angeles. The **Cardiac Care Associates** met to discuss the very successful inaugural First Annual meeting of the Northern CA CCA CME Event with plans for next year. The Southern CA CCA meeting is now fully integrated with the annual meeting. The CCA proposed a motion that was seconded and carried by the council to set the chapter dues for CCA members at \$25.00 annually (in addition to national dues of \$125.00). The **CMA delegates** met to set policy and requested a formal pre meeting to prepare for the CMA House of Delegates in October and the CMA Council on Legislation meeting in February. The **Membership Benefits** committee led by Dipti Itchhaporia, Governor-Elect of Southern CA and incoming President met to discuss the benefits of membership and will work with the Communications committee to conduct a survey to find out what members want from CA ACC and get the word out about the benefits of membership. The **Nominations and Awards** committee had previously performed their work to have a slate of new district councilors. Dr. Davidson had also chaired a task force to work on a rational and workable redistricting plan for the chapter. He presented the work involved with the concept. The council would receive the final draft in the mail and vote. The Council and attendees at this leadership meeting were then updated about the activities at National ACC that impact us at the chapter level including the request for **mandatory chapter dues** made to the Board of Trustees from the Board of Governors. This will be a huge boost to our budget as well as freeing up time and confusion in always trying to determine who is and who isn’t a current chapter member.

Attendees then had a real treat as we heard from **Assemblyman Dave Jones** (D-Sacramento) who was deep in the trenches dealing with the horrific state budget deficit. Everyone was then oriented on the issues that we were to lobby our legislators for in collaboration with the Western States Affiliate of the American Heart Association in our second Annual Joint CAACC/AHA-WSA Lobby Day to advocate for the menu labeling bill as well as increasing the tobacco tax with a percentage of the revenues from the tax for tobacco cessation programs or education.

The energy and enthusiasm of the crowd were truly contagious and energizing. We all had great legislative meetings and a wonderful time. We will be doing this again early next year so keep your eyes open for the Save the Date email blast and set the date aside on your calendars as soon as it is determined.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon L. Fung".

Gordon L. Fung, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.C.

President, Northern Governor UCSF Medical Center

