A Quality CREDQ
The ACCF is helping form a coalition of national leading cardiovascular organizations with the goal of measurably reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the management of cardiovascular disease. CREDQ: The Coalition to Reduce Racial & Ethnic Disparities in (CV) Outcomes would target health care professionals responsible for CV care with education designed to close persisting performance gaps. CREDQ’s goal is to integrate quality improvement measures with education. CREDQ would ideally reach across all specialties and research venues.

Twinning
The California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology is pleased to announce our ground-breaking partnership with the British Cardiovascular Society (BCS)!

This is the first national ACC program called “twinning” designed to cross pollinate education and contacts throughout the world of cardiology.

If you would like to receive data on the various programs and symposia that the BCS is sharing with CA ACC members, please let us know at administrator@caacc.org

New ACC Member Category - Practice Administrators!
The ACC has created a new member category for your Practice Administrators. For the low annual membership cost of $250, your administrators will receive:

- News directly affecting practice and the latest in cardiovascular medicine
- Key resources, guidelines, and standards in cardiology
- Leadership, networking and professional education opportunities
- Participation and information on leading care initiatives
- Advocacy on issues directly affecting cardiovascular practice and patient care

**Spread the word and encourage your Practice Administrators to be even better informed to better serve your patients!**

2009 Membership Rosters
We are in the preliminary data review process for our third annual roster books. Since ACC national has mandated mandatory chapter dues to retain FACC status, ALL of our 3,100+ membership will be included in this year’s book.

Most members will be receiving telephone calls, e-mails, or faxes requesting your confirmation of data. Advertising opportunities are available for ANY interested firms.

MedReviews
The first issue of “Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine” as the official journal of the CA ACC were distributed this month (See President’s message, below).

CA ACC will have several dedicated pages each quarterly issue, which we hope you will be on the lookout for. If you would like to receive the journal, please visit:

http://www.medreviews.com/
President’s Message
Gordon L Fung, MD, FACC

By the time you read this I hope everyone has had a wonderful and peaceful holiday season and is looking forward to a prosperous 2009. One of the things that I’ve been very thankful for is our very efficient, productive and most importantly, organized and pleasant Executive Director, Lianna Collinge. We just completed the Chapter Recognition Award application for 2009 and the number of innovative projects where CAACC is at the forefront and leading the way are legion and growing. This creates much more activity at the leadership level but your new Governors-Elect, Dr. Dipti Itchaporia, and Dr. George Smith have already begun in the transition with our weekly leadership teleconferences. I also want to thank this leadership group, which is quite an active and engaged group of leaders - making my job so much easier with their involvement.

The first success that I wanted to mention was due to the hard work and intervention by our Imaging committee headed by Dr. Gregory Thomas. He and his committee just reported that Palmetto has just approved reimbursement for Coronary artery Calcium screening for the second time (the first time with the previous administration) after presenting the data to Palmetto and their local Director, Dr. Arthur Lurvey who made a presentation at our annual meeting in Beverly Hills Hotel. As many of you know there is significant variability in the payments of Coronary Artery Calcium Screening across the country dependant on the local carriers’ decisions to support this. Having Dr. Thomas’s team of really committed and convincing volunteers on the side of the CAACC bring crucial benefits to our membership.

The next project that has come to fruition is our partnership with Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine (RICM). One of our CAACC members, Dr. Norman Lepor, also wears the hat of Editor-in-Chief of the RICM that has put together an editorial board of national superstars in Cardiology. We have established a relationship that offers the CAACC its own journal with a section devoted to the happenings at CAACC. The first edition is coming to you soon and we have an article on how the relationship between these two innovative organizations evolved, our communications plan developed by Dr. Timothy Denton, and a presentation that was given to Stockton, CA community (of medical professionals, city leaders, sports leaders, and state legislative leaders) by our own media Co-Chair, Dr. Ramin Manshadi.

The latest high profile project on our plate is the pilot project “Twinning” an international cardiology society with a chapter. Our own, Dr. John G. Harold, Immediate Past President, CAACC and current Southern CA Governor of ACC and Chair-Elect of the BOG, also sits on the International Committee. John noticed that when the ACC National Scientific Sessions take place there is a representative of each of the international societies on the dais of the Convocation. But the guests were really quite lonely without a designated host within the United States. He presented an opportunity to the National ACC to form a relationship between the CAACC and the British Cardiovascular Society where we would have exchanges to expand our annual meetings, offer expertise in training with imaging or some aspect of cardiology that the twin organization has identified of need. We have met face-to-face and over emails for the past month and the project is really taking shape. This will allow opportunities for CAACC members to attend BCS meetings at the discounted rate as well as vice versa.

Finally, with the support and urging of CAACC and the Board of Governors, the ACC Board of Trustees has approved mandatory dues for all chapter members. This had been discussed for many years and through many administrations. However, given the benefits of Chapters to members and the ACC this is an important step to support this crucial portion of the organization.

So you can see that there are many things to be thankful for this year. I look forward to a more engaged and exciting 2009.
CHAPTER EVENTS (PARTIAL)

January 24th
“Cardiovascular Implantable . . . Lead Management” Summit
Hyatt Regency, Sacramento
8:00am – 1:00pm

March 3:
4th Annual Sacramento Lobby Day & Council meeting
Sheraton, Sacramento
7:30 – 4:30 PM

March 28:
i2 Summit 2009
Orlando, Florida

March 29:
All Chapter Reception
ACC Scientific Session
Orlando FL
5:30 PM

September 14-15:
Annual Legislative Summit
Washington DC Adjourn
4:00 PM

October 1:
20th Annual Meeting, & CCA Symposia
Beverly Hills Hotel

October 2:
20th Annual Meeting Beverly Hills Hotel
Leadership Luncheon in Polo Lounge (invitation)
Leadership & Awards Dinner
Sunset Ballroom
6:30pm

October 3:
FITS Symposium & Council / Committee meetings
Beverly Hills-Hotel
Rodeo Room
7:30 AM-1:30 PM

PARTNER PROGRAMS (Partial)

January 30th - February 1st:
Advances in Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiac CT: 23rd Annual Case Review with the Experts
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Harvey Morse Conference Center

February 7th
Early Detection and Management of Cardiovascular Disease
The Ritz Carlton, Laguna Niguel

February 14th
Stress and the Effect on Your Heart
Beverly Wiltshire Hotel, Beverly Hills
10:30am – 12noon

February 21st
Sudden Death in the Pediatric Athlete Conference
Beckman Academy at UC Irvine

February 28th
Heart Failure 2009 – An Update on Theory

May 13
3rd Annual Women and Ischemic Heart Disease Symposium

May 29-30
ACHD; Applying the new ACC/AHA Guidelines

Explore Compelling Options for Smarter Healthcare

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2009, TEPR+ is the premier health IT conference for clinicians, healthcare executives, and HIM and HIT professionals seeking the most innovative, cutting-edge and practical solutions for today's health IT issues. TEPR+ will be held three months earlier than its traditional May date:

TEPR+ 2009 Palm Springs, CA Convention Center
Pre-Conference - Sunday February 1, 2009
Main Conference - Monday, February 2 to Thursday, February 5, 2009

To register, visit:
http://www.medrecinst.com/TEPR/TEPR.php
Get Details!!

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has established the Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition, of which ACC is a member.

To increase awareness about childhood influenza vaccination, the Coalition hopes that you will visit the Coalition website. You can easily find information in one central place through the Coalition's website.
http://www.preventchildhoodinfluenza.org/ad/.

Worried About CA Legislation Impacting Your Patients and Practice?

You don’t want to miss our THIRD Annual “Sacramento Day”!

Join more than 75 concerned Cardiologists and leaders in Sacramento Tuesday March 3rd, from 8:00 AM through 1:30 PM as we get educated about bills that have been proposed, visit lawmakers, and recap over lunch (We’re buying!!).

More details will follow through e-mail and be posted on our website as the Assembly reviews them.

If you want to be sure you know what is happening in a timely manner, let us know at administrator@caacc.org and you will be updated regularly.

Chapter Awards Program

California ACC has always recognized the “Cardiologist of the Year”, and other outstanding contributors. What is new, however, is that our awards program has gone Association wide!

Beginning in Fall 2008, we solicited votes from all 3,100 members in several different areas. These included Cardiologist of the Year, Future Leader, Cardiac Care Associate of the Year, and Distinguished Member awards.

This process will continue and receive even more promotion in 2009. Our newest category of award? “Website of the Year”! We hope that you will participate, either by nominating your website or co-workers, and by voting when ballots are sent out this Fall.

2009: The Year of the Patient

The American College of Cardiology and the California Chapter of the ACC have both designated 2009 as the Year of the Patient. What does this mean?

It means that in addition to offering first-class education to you, representing your interests to the State and Federal Governments, and assisting your staff with reimbursement, and a myriad of other tasks, we want to help you educate patients!

CA ACC has already begin offering patient education programs (See President’s message, column 2) and during the first quarter of 2009 will partner on another six-eight courses in various regions, on various topics, and targeted towards different populations. If you are interested in taking a step forward to educate your patients and would like assistance, let us know! CA ACC is here for you AND your patients’ well-being!