2009 Membership Rosters

For the third year in a row, your California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology has set a national standard!

Our 2009 printed Membership Roster books — a whopping 384 pages - were shipped May 8th.

All 3,075 members of record are included in the directory and were sent a copy. If you haven’t seen yours yet, ask your staff! (Since these were shipped bulk, your copy may not arrive until the week of June 1st.)

We are proud of the additions and improvements we made this year, and know that you and your staff will find these books quite useful.

Be sure to hang on to this copy as the next copy isn’t scheduled for publication until Spring 2011!!!!

Has Your Copy Arrived Yet?

What’s The Scoop On Maintenance of Certification?

Approximately 49.9% of our membership needs to participate in recertification over the next few years.

The ACC (and our chapter) is working with the ABIM to offer training modules to make the process easier for you.

Our first CA ACC course is scheduled for Thursday October 1st in Beverly Hills (during our annual meeting) and will focus on Interventional Cardiology.

Other modules available include: Cardiovascular Disease, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology, Interventional Cardiology, and Critical Care Medicine (all 2007, 2008, and 2009 updates).

In just two hours, you can receive ten points towards the required 100 credits (in five different disciplines) you need.

If you want to be added to our list of interested parties, just e-mail us at administrator@caacc.org or give us a call to let us know what module you need most!

Get Connected: 20th Annual Meeting October 1-2, 2009!

Is this historical event on your calendar yet?

You should have received a SPECIAL invitation from President Itchhaporia via e-mail in late May.

In addition to the world-class quality education, we will be recognizing many members with awards, and have incredible entertainment for your enjoyment!

There’s never been a better time to take a break, recharge your batteries, and come meet your fellow members!
Patients Have Questions? CardioSmart Has Answers!

CardioSmart is the ACC’s online resource for patients designed to help them work with their physicians to understand and manage their CV health. Send your patients to www.cardiosmart.org for the latest cardiovascular news, as well as tools and strategies for prevention, control, and management of their health!

Looking For Technology Tips?

The ACC has another online resource just for you: members!

Access the Electronic Health Records (HER) Toolkit at www.acc.org/practicemgt/healthcaretechnology

You can view Informatics reports, Health Information Technology (HIT) Data, Federal mandates, and e-Prescribing, amongst others.

California Chapter, American College of Cardiology
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1731 Howe Avenue #247
Sacramento CA 95825

Are You Reading A Hard Copy??

Seventy-five percent of our membership chooses to keep their e-addresses on file with us.

This allows us to send the most up-to-date information about educational events, patient events, and issues that affect your practice. If you received this newsletter in hard copy through the US postal service, that means we do NOT have a correct e-address on file for you! (Neither does the American College of Cardiology.)

It that is okay with you, great! If you want more information and service from your CA ACC, please call 1-877-460-5880 or e-mail us at administrator@caacc.org and give us your preferred e-address.

You will begin to receive information the following week.

Third Annual Lobby Day Hosts Belshe

CA ACC held our 3rd Annual Legislative Day March 3, 2009.

We were honored to have Kimberly Belshe, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS), come speak to our members about the state of maintaining access to essential health and human services within California this year, given the budget challenges.

After Secretary Belshe’s visit, participants met with more than a dozen lawmakers, establishing valuable relationships. Our 4th Annual event is scheduled for March 6, 2010.

President’s Message

Dear Fellow CA ACC Member:

There has been a changing of the guard at ACC! During the Annual Scientific Session in Orlando in March, Dr Alfred Bove became President of the College. In California, Dr George Smith and I have taken over the Northern and Southern California Governorships, respectively, for the next three years. I am looking forward to my role as President of the CA ACC for the next eighteen months.

In Orlando, we heard a lot of talk about health care reform, as well as learning about the latest cardiovascular developments. We heard cardiologists debate issues including the expanding access to health care coverage, physician payment reform, evidence based medicine, and health information technology. In addition, we heard the latest clinical data, saw breakthrough technology, and received over 30 hours of CME. Mark your calendar for Atlanta March 28-31 2010!

Dr. Bove declared 2009 the “Year of the Patient”. He described a goal of expanding the delivery of patient–entered cardiovascular care across the USA. Supporting the “Year of the Patient” initiative, the ACC’s Quality First Campaign will set a new standard for health system reform, centered on patient value, continuous quality, access to quality care, outcomes improvement and decreasing the number of patient readmissions with cardiovascular diagnoses.

We will be facing challenges never before seen by U.S. physicians as our healthcare system is restructured. Our Chapter leaders want to actively engage all our members in this debate. We need a strong, unified voice to protect our ability to care for our patients.

Toward that end, the CA ACC has set goals for 2009. We will:
- Continue to support patient centered events; including collaboration with the American Heart Association “Mission Lifeline” and STEMI projects.
- Ask our membership to give to our CARDIO PAC, monies used to further our legislative goals.
- Increase our membership. We are presently 3,075 strong but know that there are colleagues who are being left behind.

Don’t miss our 20th Annual meeting (in conjunction with “Controversies & Advances in the Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease”) held in Beverly Hills Oct. 1-2, 2009. Our next Legislative conference will be in Palo Alto March 6, 2010.

I encourage you to visit www.CAACC.org to view our educational opportunities and activities. You may want to let your local Councilor, our CEO Lianna Collinge, N. Governor George Smith or myself know your needs and concerns. We encourage you to be an active member of the CA ACC!

Warmest Regards-

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office: (949) 548-6634
fax: (949) 548-1431

Caring For California 2
ACC Stands Out At The National Coalition For Healthcare Reform

On April 21, 2009 in Sacramento, the ACC was one of the key participants in a panel presentation put together by the National Coalition for Health Care Reform and its Impact on California. The NCHCR has been convening these sessions in key areas of the United States and California was a critical area because we have 10% of the nation’s population and are the 6th largest economy in the world. Represented were many of the key stakeholders in California including Senior Health Consultant to the Governor, Director of CalPERS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, Blue Shield, academicians specializing in Health Disparities, the American College of Cardiology and many others. I was privileged to represent the ACC and California Chapter, ACC. Panelists were categorized into four groups: the first 2-3 groups were there to define the complex Health Care problems facing California especially given its size and diversity with such a large pool of uninsured and under-insured. Problems of access and workforce capacity as well as appropriate workforce (e.g., the primary care to specialty care imbalance in the USA) were major issues presented and discussed. The significant cost and variations in practice in various regions of the state; the significant diversity in the vast geography with seasonal workers and the lack of a plan to approach these issues were highlighted. Failed attempts at health care reform were reviewed and a very enlightening presentation described the ten largest economies in the world and their approach to health care delivery – of which California was the sixth.

The fourth group of presenters included the ACC, and was for groups that were working on solutions to talk about their experience and plans for the future. The ACC’s "Blueprint for Health Care Reform" which detailed six major principles of Health Care Reform, action steps, and plans in place to be instituted once funding is available were the highlights of the panel. Appropriate Use Criteria and the use of registries for Quality reporting and use for hospitals and practitioners to improve their processes and to minimize inappropriate use and practice variation are steps already taken by the ACC, and embraced by the membership. I presented the D2B project and how this has galvanized the quality improvement processes at many hospitals treating acute myocardial infarction. We discussed the Hospital to Home (H2H) project that is rolling out nationally to reduce hospital readmissions for heart failure patients.

ACC’s work in the electronic health record with the principles of interoperability and built-in up-to-date guidelines integrated into the ordering and delivery of health care at the point of care was noted.

The ACC stood out as being ahead of the curve in already taking action towards charting a course for quality-driven health care reform. Session conclusions were that we need to continue to be keeping our legislators focused on Health Care Reform this year. We need to keep testing practical ways to deliver uniform high quality health care and be able to monitor the measurable goals of the reform movement. We need to keep in mind the issues of reducing healthcare disparities of special populations, and developing principles of the electronic health record. The appropriate work force and accessibility, as well as payment reform, needs to be a major part of the solution with a focus on providing the highest quality care to all Americans.

CA Members Take National Awards

The ACC recognizes eleven outstanding physicians each year.

Recognition is bestowed during the Convocation ceremony held during the Annual Scientific Session.

This year, three of those eleven awards went to our members! The 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award was earned by James S. Forrester, Los Angeles.

The 2009 Distinguished Fellowship Award was earned by Elliot Rapaport, San Francisco. Finally, the 2009 Douglas Zipes Young Scientist/William Parmley Young Author Award went to Joseph Wu, Stanford.

Congratulations to each awardee – we are SO proud of you!!

Let The Twinning Begin!

British Cardiovascular Society

It is official!

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

Our official signing ceremony was held March 29, 2009 in Orlando. Check out a slideshow on our website at www.caacc.org – “BCS” tab under members section.

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
Membership Demographics, California:

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<td>Later Career (20+ years)</td>
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WHAT? CA ACC Has A Political Action Committee? WHY?

Yes! The CARDIO PAC arm of the CA ACC actively influences lawmakers within California on issues that affect our patients and our practices.

Our professional lobbyist and active Government Relations Committee acts on your behalf each week!

Why not join the CA ACC leadership, go online to www.caacc.org “advocacy” and send in a donation today?

Even $10 helps!!

Ask Your Practice Administrator To Join Us!

You may have already heard: The ACC has created a new member category for your Practice Administrators!

We are already welcoming these crucial individuals to our events and membership, where we hope that they will educate us about ways that we can improve services to our members, AND that they will learn from one another how to manage your practices most efficiently.

Suggest the value of membership – and recommend they visit http://www.acc.org/practicemgt/practice_management.htm

Our Executive Committee:

President/So. Governor
Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC

Vice President / No. Governor
George Smith, MD, FACC

Past President/Past No. Governor
Gordon Fung, MD, FACC

Past So. Governor
John G. Harold, MD, FACC

Treasurer
Rich Wong, MD, FACC

Chief Operating Officer
Lianna Collinge, CAE

Caring For California