Caring for California

California CHAPTER

Summer 2015

Congratulations to President Norman Lepor, MD, FACC !

Dr. Lepor had the honor of being published in the NEJM (May 2015).
See the article here.

CA ACC PAC Progress Report

Chapter contribution to date

Join ACC | PAC

Total Contribution: $13,577.84
Average contribution: $246.87
Participation Rate: 2%
To become a member of ACCPAC
click here

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Fairmont Kea Lani
Wailea, Maui, Hawaii

Register HERE

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President's Corner

Norman Lepor, MD, FACC
President/ Governor

Dear FACC'ers and our Valued CV Team Members:

Time flies when you are busy. It is hard to believe that I am already four months into my term as your California Chapter President, but I feel comforted by the fact that we have gotten off to a good start.

I am grateful to our leadership team, including my Co-Governor Garwood Gee. Thanks also to Dipti Itchhaporia, Bill Bommer, John Gordon, and especially our CEO, Lianna Collinge for their support and guidance.

One of the commitments I made before beginning my term was to boost the value of being an FACC and keep the California Chapter leading innovation by developing programs that are value enhancing.

On the political side of things, it is a #1 priority for me to increase the impact of our state Political Action Committee (CARDIO PAC). So much goes on in Sacramento that affects health care delivery - be it in private practice, staff, academic setting, or fellows who will be impacted the most! We need to have better funding. Issues including office based complex imaging, scope of practice, funding of Medical need to be influenced by our membership on an ongoing basis.
I ask that every member of the CA ACC give - and give generously - and give today.

We all appreciate and learn from case reports, so here is one for you. I reached out by phone to a colleague and friend, Dr. Brij Bhambi at Central Cardiology in Bakersfield. I asked him to support the CARDIO PAC as generously as he could. Within twenty-four hours, a check was made out to the CA ACC PAC in the amount of $5500 representing a $500 donation from every cardiologist in his group. Those cardiologists understood that they were making an important investment in themselves and I hope you do too. I have asked your CA ACC Board of Directors to be an example of giving and have everyone make a contribution to the PAC.

We are super excited by the CalValve project that will combine patient and physician educational components as well as a patient referral network for participating FACC's. Our first phase involves aortic stenosis, for which we have more than 110 volunteer physicians participating. We hope to announce an expansion of this program soon. I hope all who are interested will participate.

We are grateful to actor and philanthropist, William Shatner for starring in a video we wrote and produced describing the value and virtue of FACC. We want our medical colleagues and lay public to appreciate this more and seek out an FACC. The video has been so well received that ACC National is using it in CardioSmart television.

Thank you for your membership.

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Excellence in Cardiology Fellowship Award

We congratulate the following physicians who were recently awarded the first Excellence in Cardiology Fellowship Award in recognition and appreciation for their work in clinical care, teaching, research, leadership, and academic achievement.

Dr. Abhimanyu, Uberoi, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Dr. Gentian Lluri, UCLA Medical Center
Dr. Shipra Hingorany, Los Angeles County-Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Dr. Keith Thompson, Kaiser Permanente Southern California (Los Angeles)
Dr. Luke S. Oakley, Naval Medical Center (San Diego)
Dr. Gulnar Pothiawala Odera, California Pacific Medical Center
Dr. Christianne Haeffle, Stanford University
Dr. Evan Muse, Scripps Clinic/Scripps Green Hospital
Dr. Sanket Dhruva, University of California (Davis) Health System
Dr. Hambik Tankazyan, Loma Linda University
Dr. Nirmal Sunkara, University of California (Irvine)
Dr. Lawrence Ang, University of California (San Diego)
Dr. Richard G. Kiel, University of California, (San Francisco)/Fresno
Dr. Sarah Elsayed, University of Southern California/LAC+USC Medical Center

2015 Legislative Conference Registration Now Open

October 18-20 2015
Washington, DC
Don't miss this unique opportunity
to hear directly from the experts!

Check out all the details for the 2015 Legislative Conference,

You're also invited to join your colleagues for a special *ACC Political Action Committee-sponsored reception and dinner featuring Pulitzer Prize–Winning syndicated columnist, political commentator and psychiatrist Charles Krauthammer, MD.* Register now!

ABIM Eliminates 'Double Jeopardy' MOC Requirement

In response to input provided by the ACC and other cardiology specialty societies (SCAI, HRS and HFSA) around the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM's) new requirements for Maintenance of Certification (MOC), the ABIM today announced it is eliminating the requirement to maintain underlying certification in a foundational discipline in order to remain certified in a subspecialty.

The ABIM Council unanimously passed the proposal to eliminate this "double jeopardy" provision, noting it was clearly an important topic to the internal medicine community. According to the ABIM, it will begin implementing the new requirement in the coming months, with the change to be fully effective as of Jan. 1, 2016.

The change does not affect the requirement for initial certification. This announcement reflects the engagement and collaboration of ACC leaders, as well as the broader internal medicine community, on behalf of their members over the past year and a half. Eliminating the double jeopardy faced by interventional, electrophysiology, adult congenital heart disease and advanced heart failure colleagues who initially had to pass both the general cardiology and sub-subspecialty boards is among the several changes strongly recommended by the College and the broader internal medicine community. Read more on the change and ACC's ongoing efforts around MOC.

MOC Process Changes from ABIM

An email from Richard J. Baron, MD, president and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) was released recently to the internal medicine community outlines changes to its controversial Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. In conversations with ACC leadership, Dr. Baron has expressed gratitude for the ACC's support as well as its frank and constructive criticism during the past year of transition. Learn more about the changes in a post by ACC President Patrick T. O'Gara, MD, FACC on the ACC in Touch Blog here. 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.

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What You Need to Know About MACRA Legislation

The ACC has developed a detailed summary to help members navigate the recently passed Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), legislation that touches upon many areas across the health care spectrum. Most notably, MACRA permanently repeals the Sustainable Growth Rate formula and reauthorizes funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program for two years. Beginning July 1, clinicians will begin receiving a 0.5 percent increase to Medicare payments. This payment increase will continue annually until Dec. 31, 2018. Starting in 2019, clinicians will choose from one of two pathways: the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) or Alternative Payment Models. Eligible professionals who elect to participate in MIPS will receive annual payment increases or decreases based on their performance. MACRA also streamlines the three existing quality reporting programs – Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Meaningful Use and Value-Based Payment Modifier – into one system, eliminating three separate reporting deadlines. Read more about how provisions included in MACRA will impact you and your practice on ACC.org.

JACC Holds Impact Factor Ranking as #1 CV Journal in the World

For the second year in a row, the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) was listed as the #1 cardiovascular journal in the world. According to the 2014 Impact Factors for Journals, JACC holds the top position among all 123 cardiovascular journals in scientific impact with an impact factor of 16.503 in 2014, up from 15.343 in 2013. These 2014 Impact Factor results are based on citations from the 2013 calendar year, when Anthony DeMaria, MD, MACC, was JACC editor. The results also showed impact factor and ranking improvements for JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions and JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging. Among all other cardiovascular journals, the ACC publishes three of the top 10 in the world. Check out the JACC journals online.

ESR or CMR? Which One Better Predicts Response to Medical Therapy in Pericardial Constriction?

Jul 09, 2015 | Mario J. Garcia, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Article Review

Editors' Pick

A relatively common syndrome, constrictive pericarditis often represents a diagnostic and a therapeutic challenge. Pericardiectomy, the definitive treatment for most patients with this condition, carries significant morbidity and not infrequently... Click here to see full article

ACC's Quality Improvement Efforts Make Headlines

A recent New York Times article titled "A Sea Change in Treating Heart Attacks" highlights the 38 percent decrease in coronary heart disease deaths from 2003 to 2013, a result "spurred by better control of cholesterol and blood pressure, reduced smoking rates, improved medical treatments and faster care of people in the throes of a heart attack." The article chronicles how the ACC's Door to Balloon (D2B) initiative has helped more than 1,200 hospitals nationwide improve the timeliness of reperfusion therapy for patients with heart attacks by facilitating the adoption of evidence and guideline-based best practices. Thanks to the D2B initiative, "Now, nearly all hospitals treat at least half their patients in 61 minutes or less…" D2B is part of ACC's suite of quality initiatives, designed to support local efforts with structured quality improvement projects to achieve specific goals. Building on the D2B initiative's success, last year the ACC launched Surviving MI, a quality initiative to help hospitals reduce 30-day mortality rates for heart attack patients through organizational culture change and the creation of a hospital learning network. Learn more about D2B, Surviving MI and Hospital to Home, part of ACC's Quality Improvement for Institutions, at CVQuality.ACC.org.

CMS Releases Proposed 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Hospital Outpatient Rules

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the proposed 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, which addresses Medicare payment and quality provisions for physicians in 2016. Under the proposal, physicians will see a 0.5 percent payment increase on Jan. 1, 2016. Next year will be the first of several years of predictable payments resulting from the legislation that permanently repealed the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) this spring. CMS estimates that the physician rule will neither increase nor decrease payments to cardiologists from 2015 to 2016. This estimate is based on typical practice and can vary widely depending on the mix of services provided in a practice. The Physician Fee Schedule comes on the heels of the proposed 2016 Hospital Outpatient Rule released last week, which indicates a -0.1 percent payment update for hospitals. Shortly before the final rules are released, experts will discuss the proposed rules, ACC's comments, and other relevant regulatory items during a panel at the ACC's 2015 Legislative Conference, which will take place Oct. 18-20 in Washington, DC. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the hot button issues facing health care and ensure the voice of cardiology is heard on Capitol Hill. Read highlights from both rules on ACC.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

More details at www.caacc.org

August:

19th: Cardiovascular Grand Rounds: Atrial Fibrillation, John Muir Medical Center, Concord 7:30am
26th: Los Angeles Society of Echocardiography Presentation 6:00pm

September:

11th-12th: California Heart Rhythm Symposium 2015, Omni San Diego Hotel, San Diego
12th: 6th Annual Cardio Updates Meeting, Newport Beach, 8:00am
16th: Cardiovascular Grand Rounds: Peripheral Vascular Disease Lower Extremity, John Muir Medical Center, Concord, 7:30am
26th: 2nd Annual UCSD: Lead Management Update, La Jolla
30th-Oct 3rd: Advances in Cardiovascular Medicine 2015, Fairmont Kea Lani, Wailea, Maui, Hawaii

October:

1st-2nd: CDM 2015: Cardiovascular Disease Mgmt: A Case Based Approach, Phoenix, Arizona
9th-10th: Global User's Guide To Mechanical Circulatory Support Symposium, Los Angeles
17th: 7th Annual Orange County Symposium, Avenue of the Arts Wyndham Hotel, Costa Mesa, 7:00am
18th-20th: ACC's 2015 Legislative Conference Washington, D.C.
22nd-24th: 15th Annual Maui Cardiovascular Symposium, Fairmont Kea Lani, Wailea, Maui, Hawaii

November 19th-20th: Controversies and Advances in the Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease, Beverly Hills

December 18th-20th: 32nd Annual Advancees in Heart Disease, Palace Hotel, San Francisco

2016:

January 29th-30th: CMR for Cardiovascular Disease in Women CME Conference, Los Angeles

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