CARDIOLOGY in California

Summer 2017

www.CAACC.org

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California CHAPTER

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GOVERNOR'S CORNER

GARWOOD GEE, MD, FACC

Recent events have made the last six months among the most unsettled for the US medical community that I can recall in the last three decades. We have not had the benefit of any guidance from Washington, D.C., regarding changes in the approach to alternative payment methods or how we enhance access to healthcare for Americans in any modification of the current ACA.

Although the State of California has been active in making coverage available, reducing the number of uninsured people from 6 million to 2 million, this experience hasn't been reproduced to this degree elsewhere in the nation. While California may be considered successful in this regard, there is still clamoring in our state legislature to do away with the entire infrastructure of health insurance. A proposal to proceed to a single payer state-run system was recently tabled as the dollars needed to spend tor this single payer system far exceed the political will to legislate its existence. I believe we have not heard the end of this story, even though there is no evidence that the state has the resources, nor the political will, to make a massive disruption like this a reality.

This highlights the problems that we face are unique beyond the national chaos, and why CA ACC matters. We matter not just because of our size (the largest ACC chapter in the country), but because we have made it our business to actively participate in the change process and impact decisions that affect our patients and our profession. We know that what transpires in California often has national implications.

With all that as a background, this actually gives us a challenge and a charge. What has been most exciting for me is that our leadership has invested so much energy into innovative projects on the state level, that have been successful and drawn attention from other state chapters and national ACC. We are proud of our home-grown efforts led by our California Chapter leaders and motivated members.

Included among these home-grown initiatives, our Technology committee, under the leadership of Drs. Seema Pursnani, Raj Khandwalla and Rigved Tadwalkar recently held a gloriously successful Second Annual Technology Fair in June, attended by over 150 people, including industry leaders along with the ACC Chief Technology Officer, two former ACC Presidents and several former CA ACC Governors. Great in its scope, spanning both clinical medicine and digital technology, I have heard nothing but great things about how exciting and eye opening an event that this was.

Our home-grown, state wide education initiative, Cal Valve recently underwent a planned sunset after a very successful year. We were able to reach out to cardiologists, non-cardiologists, care associates, and the lay public. The content for this educational program was home-grown and delivered by our Cal Valve expert members. Over 39 presentations were made around California and we were able to educate over 2,640 practitioners. The technology has been successful, and has become a part of our usual practice. We hope to have more state-wide educational initiatives to come.

Our Chapter history has been that of becoming the first state chapter to have an International partner. We became the first State Chapter to have a second international partnership, with the Israeli Heart Society. This partnership is envisioned to lead to meaningful bilateral exchanges between our two chapters. I am proud to announce that this fall, USC will have the first CA ACC International Research fellow in training.

GOVERNOR'S CORNER

GARWOOD GEE, MD, FACC

In April, we had a Board Meeting and Lobby day in Sacramento with 30 attendees, primarily our Board members. Largely free of a controversial topic on that day, we were updated about many things. Among them was the parallel processes of altering MOC requirements, and making sure that hospital privileges do not require MOC. We also are in the process of deciding how to purpose state specific ACC NCDR information.

Finally last month, the Political Action Committee and our leadership sprang into action. Senate Bill 790 tried to sneak through the California legislature. It proposed outlawing physician participation in industry sponsored Phase I, II and II clinical trials, participation on Scientific Advisory Boards and limit physician education access. This figures to be a difficult battle that has important implications for physicians and for our patients, and has potential nationwide implications.

So stay tuned. In my tenure on Board, never have so many members been involved in so many issues. This is your California ACC, and I am thrilled to be your Chapter President.

Sincerely,

Garwood Gee, MD, FACC

HOT NEWS WE CAN ALL USE!

The CA Senate and Assembly Health Committee have passed SB 790, which as currently drafted will make it illegal as of January 1 2018 to participate in industry sponsored Phase 1, 2, and 3 clinical trials, along with your participation on Scientific Advisory Boards, and could severely restrict your access to device and pharmaceutical sponsored educational activities.

Click HERE to read the committee analysis and

Click HERE to read the bill.

To see the recent hearing in the Assembly Health Committee
CLICK HERE

Use the Firefox browser to watch the video. This site does not support Google Chrome. The video on SB 790 starts at 4:08:40 and runs until 5:27.

Your Government Relations, Officers and Board members have testified and are working long and hard to hope that the Assembly won't pass it. We need YOU to contact YOUR Assembly members. Be on the lookout for an email from ACC national with a link to make it fast & easy.

You may also help by contributing to our local PAC by Clicking HERE!

CLICK HERE for talking points

OC Register, 6/26/17

Sacramento Bee, 6/26/17

Healdsburg Tribune, 6/23/17

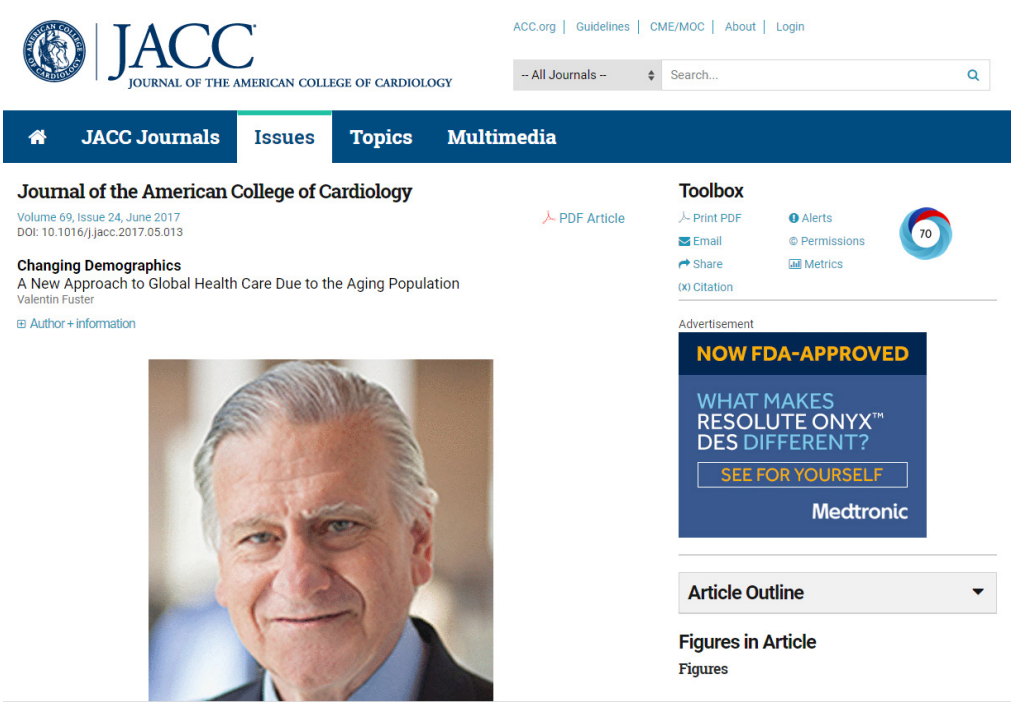
Fox and Hounds Daily, 6/23/17

NEWS YOU CAN USE

INFORMATIONAL

JACC Editor's Page: Global Health Care and the Aging Population

In a recent Editor's Page published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC), Editor-in-Chief **Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MACC**, discusses the health care challenges that will arise worldwide over the coming decades due to an aging population. Forward-thinking countries are developing strategies to combat this problem. While some counties are assessing technological solutions, other are looking to more human options, such as having those who are retired and still active act as caretakers. "From a health care perspective, there has never been more of a need to ensure an active population, regardless of age," he writes. "We must focus on health promotion across all age groups… As clinicians, we need to obsessively focus on the best methods to care for the elderly and the best methods for



Advocacy and Health Policy News

CMS Releases Proposed 2018 Medicare QPP Rule

On June 20, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed 2018 Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP) rule, addressing participation requirements for 2018 and future years under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and the Advanced Alternative Payment Model (Advanced APM) pathways created by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The ACC is reviewing the rule and will provide more details about member implications in the coming weeks. Read highlights from the rule on ACC.org. "Next year will be another transition year for clinicians adjusting to the Quality Payment Program," said ACC President **Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC**. "While the ACC will be reviewing the rule in detail, we were encouraged to see that CMS has listened to feedback from the public and recognizes a need to continue supporting clinicians in their transition to a value-based payment environment." To learn more about QPP and current requirements for the 2017 performance year, visit ACC's MACRA Information Hub. QPP will be a prominent topic of discussion at ACC's 2017 Legislative Conference this September. Click here to register.

CVT CORNER

MARY SCHOENBAUM, NP, ACNP, AACC

Exciting Upcoming Event

10th Annual Northern CA Cardiovascular Team (CVT) Symposium
Friday, September 29, 2017, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront
600 Airport Blvd, Burlingame, CA 94010

7.25 CEU credits (Including **2.0 Pharmacology** Hours) are available for this course. This activity is also eligible for **7.25 ACPE credit**! Click here to register. **Followed by a day of wine tasting per our CA CVT symposium tradition!** For more information, visit our website at www.caacc.org or contact administrator@caacc.org.

Legislative Conference, September 10-12 in Washington, DC
Don't miss the chance to hear from a wide range of policy experts and ACC leaders on important topics like Quality Payment Program, the legislative process, and how to effectively engage with Congress. This conference provides a unique opportunity to build relationships with members of Congress and educate them about significant progress the cardiovascular community is making to ensure quality and cost effective care. Click here to register

Save the date for ACC 18! Orlando, Florida
March 10-12, 2018
67th Annual Scientific Session and Expo

Special CV Team opportunities:

- **CV Team Lounge:** A venue for CV Team Members to network and connect with each other. Programming and special events take place in the lounge throughout the meeting. The lounge is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the meeting.

- **CV Team Section Committee Events:** Attendees are invite to attend to learn more about the important initiatives the committee pursues on behalf of the CV Team membership and opportunities to get involved.

- **CV Team Section Annual Meeting, Networking & Recognition Event:** Featuring a keynote speaker, recognition of the current year's class of Associates of the ACC (AACC) and member volunteers. The event is open to ACC CV Team Members and prospective members.

CVT CORNER

MARY SCHOENBAUM, NP, ACNP, AACC

- **CV Team Cases:** Moderated poster sessions highlighting collaboration with interdisciplinary colleagues and providing clinical pearls that can be immediately replicated in your practice.

- **67th Annual Convocation:** In addition to the recognition and induction of the new Fellows of the ACC (FACC), the ACC will award Associate of the ACC (AACC) designations to CV Team members who have achieved outstanding credentials, achievements and community contributions.

Join the Conversation With #ACCCVT
Interested in connecting with the ACC and other cardiovascular team members on Twitter? Use hashtag #ACCCVT in Cardiovascular Team-related tweets and don't forget to tag @ACCinTouch – ACC's main Twitter account. Learn more about ACC's social media channels on ACC.org/ACCinTouch.
Log onto ACC.org for CE opportunities as well.

AND Plan for the Annual CVT Southern CA Symposium in February, 2018 to celebrate Heart Month. Date and location to be announced. Keep your eyes open for that! More info to come in the next few months! Of course wine tasting will be part of the post symposium event…

Don't forget to look in the sky on August 21, 2017 for the Solar Eclipse! If you are in its path be sure to protect your eyes! An amazing event for the USA. For more info: eclipse2017.nasa.gov

Mary Schoenbaum, NP, ACNP, AACC
California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology
Southern: Co-Chair CVT Liaison

CVTANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING CVT EVENTS

CO ACC Cardiovascular Team Symposium

September 23, 2017

Agenda

Location: JW Marriott Denver Cherry Creek
150 Clayton Lane, Denver, CO 80206

Click to book your group rate for Colorado ACC CVT Symposium
You may also call: (866) 706-7814
Reserve a room at your discounted rate before August 23, 2017

REGISTER HERE!

7:15 AM - 8 AM: Registration and Continental Breakfast
8 AM - 5 PM: Program
5 PM - 6 PM: Wine & Cheese Reception

$50: Students
$75: ACC Member
$100: Non ACC Member

10th Annual Northern California Cardiovascular Team Symposium

September 29, 2017

Agenda

Fri, September 29, 2017
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM PDT

Location: Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront
600 Airport Blvd
Burlingame, CA 94010

REGISTER HERE!

LEADERSHIP ALERT

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam: Forrest Hood Adams, MD, MACC, distinguished pioneer in pediatric cardiology and the ACC's oldest-surviving past ACC president, passed away at his California home on July 14. He was 97 years old.

Born in 1919 in Minneapolis, MN, Adams was a descendant of U.S. presidents John Adams (1735-1826) and John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), who lived to the ages of 91 and 81, respectively. He attended both Johns Hopkins and the University of Minnesota, earning degrees specializing in pediatrics, infectious diseases and pediatric cardiology. From his research on fetal and neonatal cardiopulmonary function in health and disease to his implementation of the first heart catheterizations on newborns and infants, Adams' life and career in medicine were full of many firsts and renowned accomplishments.

Adams also contributed much to ACC's success over the years, serving as president from 1971–1972. He also served as chair of the ACC's Annual Scientific Program and of the ACC's Credentials Committee. Additionally, he aided in the development of ACC's first scientific journal, Cardiology, and became its first editor.

"Dr. Forrest Adams had an enormous impact on my own alma mater, the University of Minnesota as well as on the ACC," said ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC. "As we work on changes in ACC governance and our five-year Strategic Plan, we are reminded that many pivotal College initiatives were started by or contributed to by Dr. Adams. His legacy is enduring."

Adams is survived by his wife, Joan, and eight children. Read more about Adams in a feature article about his life and accomplishments, originally published in the December 2014 issue of Cardiology.

CMS RELEASES PROPOSED 2018 MEDICARE QPP RULE

INFORMATIONAL

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has just released the proposed 2018 Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP) rule, addressing participation requirements for 2018 and future years under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and the Advanced Alternative Payment Model (Advanced APM) pathways created by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). Under the proposal, CMS will continue to treat the 2018 performance year as another transition year of QPP and maintain program flexibility.

Based on 2018 performance, clinicians and groups will be eligible to receive up to +/- 5 percent in bonuses or penalties on Medicare Part B services provided in 2020 under MIPS. Qualifying participants in an Advanced APM will be eligible to receive a five percent lump sum bonus.

Highlights of the proposed rule include:

MIPS Weighting For 2018 Performance Year/2020 Payment Year

- Maintain 60 percent weight for Quality
- Maintain 15 percent weight for Improvement Activities
- Maintain 25 percent weight for Advancing Care Information; clinicians can use 2014 or 2015 certi fied electronic health record technology (CEHRT), with a bonus for using 2015 CEHRT
- Maintain zero weight for Cost; however, CMS seeks comments on introducing this category at 10 percent. CMS continues to develop and test episode-based measures which will be introduced over time.
- Increasing the low-volume threshold to less than or equal to $90,000 in Medicare Part B allowed charges or less than or equal to 200 Part B patients to allow more small practices to qualify for MIPS exemption.
- Implementation of virtual groups, allowing small groups and solo practitioners under two or more taxpayer identification numbers to participate in MIPS as a single group for both 2018 and 2019. Technical assistance will be made available to these practices.
- Implementation of facility-based measures in MIPS to allow clinicians to be assessed based on their facility's performance.
- Continued recognition of qualified clinical data registries such as the NCDR PINNACLE Registry and the Diabetes Collaborative Registry as MIPS data reporting options.

Advanced APM

- Maintenance of the nominal risk and qualifying participant thresholds for the Advanced APM pathway
- Implementation of the 'All-Payer Combination Option' for the Advanced APM pathway starting in the 2019 performance year

- CMS seeks comments on broadening the definition of Physician-Focused Payment Models to include Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program beneficiaries.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS

SEP

9th 4TH ANNUAL LEAD MANAGEMENT UPDATE
Location: Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa | 9700 N Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, CA | Click HERE for more information | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

12th STANFORD FRONTIERS IN CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCE WEEKLY MEETING
Location: LKSC, LK130, Li Ka Shing Learning and Knowledge Center (Please check as location may change) | 291 Campus Drive, Stanford, CA 94305 | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

15th-16th 8TH ANNUAL CARDIOLOGY UPDATE: THE HEART OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS & 28TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA ACC Presented by the Jeffry Carlton Heart and Vascular Institute | Click HERE to register | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

15th CA ACC WOMEN IN CARDIOLOGY: CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND THE ART OF NEGOTIATION Location: Balboa Bay Resort | 1221 Coast Highway, Newport Beach, CA 92663 | Click HERE to register | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

16th MID-VALLEY CARDIOVASCULAR SYMPOSIUM Location: Modesto Centre Plaza | 1000 L St., Modesto, CA 95354 | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

22nd-24th 34TH ADVANCED ECHO CONFERENCE
Location: Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa, Fashion Island | 900 Newport Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 | Click HERE to register | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

29th 10TH ANNUAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CARDIOVASCULAR TEAM SYMPOSIUM
Location: Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront | 600 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010 | Click HERE to register | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

OCT

5th-6th CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE MANAGEMENT: A CASE-BASED APPROACH
Location: Loews Coronado Bay Resort | 4000 Coronado bay Road, Coronado, California 92118 | Click HERE to register | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

21st 9TH ANNUAL ORANGE COUNTY SYMPOSIUM ON CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PREVENTION Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel | 100 The City Drive South, Orange County, CA 92868 | Click HERE to register | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to CA ACC Board of Director Member
William Averill, MD, FACC

Congrats to Bill Averill on being installed as the 146th President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association on June 29, 2017.

Dr. Averill is also a CA ACC Councilor for District 11 and serves as Co-Chair for the CA ACC Government Relations Committee.

California CHAPTER

http://www.caacc.org/

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