News You Can Use

Tools that are available for you to use from JACC.org

2017 Awards

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## NEWSLETTER

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» Upcoming Events p.12
Being the President of the California Chapter of the ACC continues to be full of adventure.

The summer started out gloriously with our Technology fair in June, which was chronicled in my last newsletter. This has been so successful that there will soon be a national ACC counterpart conference soon. Plan on attending the 3rd annual event in Santa Monica on June 9, 2018.

I have been fortunate to do the “circuit,” which has resulted in flying to Vancouver, Canada for the International Academy of Cardiology, to Washington D.C. for the ACC Legislative Conference, to Newport Beach for the Hoag 8th Annual Cardiology Update: The Heart of New Developments, to Wailea for the Seventeenth Annual Maui Cardiovascular Symposium, and most recently to Beverly Hills for Controversies and Advances in Treatment of Heart Disease. I even drove to Napa pre-fir for the Napa Valley Cardiology Conference.

All of these are partner meetings with the Chapter, and one of the perks of participating on the Board as a Councilor, is that tuition is waived. I was able to spend time with other Chapter Governors and next year’s ACC President, Mike Valentine. The Hoag meeting in Newport Beach was the host of the Official Annual Chapter meeting, where we welcomed new Board members, shared experiences about our multiple successful activities, on Advocacy, on the part of the Cardiovascular team, and for Early career physicians and Fellows in Training. We even viewed a mindfulness video prepared by the Media Relations committee.

Nationally, the Board of Governors did visits on Capitol Hill, and our California delegation steered clear of the controversy regarding the Affordable Care Act failed repeal. We did deliver the message that the American College of Cardiology remains strongly in support of maintaining access to medical care, and that all legislative efforts need to commit to that principle before we can weigh in with our support.

My personal high point was meeting American civil rights icon John Lewis, D-Ga., who received an award from the ACC for being an advocate for access to health care. Another perk of being involved with the ACC.

Which leads to another initiative at the national ACC level. The College has chosen to address the issue of diversity in Cardiology. I understand that the pace of change in a profession that is so training intensive, that requires so much investment of one’s time, is often slow. Even so, experience has taught us that diversity in the professional workforce contributes to better patient satisfaction, patient compliance and patient access. And recognizing that there are barriers and addressing them is necessary if we are to remain relevant. We in cardiology are influential in the medical community, by history, and by the wondrous advances in the care that we can provide. We must continue to try to represent the communities we are part of by being inclusive, on both the provider and on the leadership level. We just recently had our first African American president, Dr. Kim Williams, and Dr. Minnow Walsh is only our third woman president of an organization that has 68 years of history.

We are a richly diverse state, and we should be leaders in this effort. We need to remember how important it will be to our future, as our practices fundamentally change, to be inclusive in incorporating everyone who can contribute to our mission to provide better care, better outcomes and reasonable cost.

Sincerely,

Garwood Gee, MD, FACC
ACC Leadership Tackles Prior Authorization

For years, prior authorization has impeded patient access and burdened cardiovascular practice management. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, chair of the Board of Governors, and Robert A. Shor, MD, FACC, chair of ACC’s Membership Committee, recently co-authored a piece in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology breaking down prior authorization burdens and offering action items for reducing physician pressure. “This is one piece in the puzzle to find an answer to prior authorization challenges. However, to be successful on a larger scale for the entire medical community, insurers, physicians, care team members, practice administrators, and lawmakers need to work together to find a solution that ultimately saves time, saves money, and—most importantly—saves lives,” write Wilson and Shor. Read the full article here. The ACC has developed a Prior Authorization Reporting Tool (PARTool) to help your practice with data collection and support the ACC’s efforts at the state and national level to address prior authorization issues. With this data, the ACC hopes persuade payers and state insurance commissioners to minimize, or even eliminate, some of their prior authorization requirements. Access your ACC’s PARTool here. Go to ACC.org/PARTool to learn more.
Shared Decision Making Infographic Now Available

ACC’s CardioSmart recently launched a new Decision Aids section to help patients understand what decision aids are, how to use them and where to find them. This section highlights several resources, including a new infographic on Shared Decision Making to guide patients through the process of making a decision when they need to weight in treatment options or the path forward is unclear. Just like the other CardioSmart infographic posters, this infographic can be downloaded for free and used as point-of-care graphics for your waiting and exam rooms. For more tools and resources on this subject, visit CardioSmart.org/Decisions.

Stay In Touch With the ACC via Social Media

Stay in touch with the ACC and the latest clinical and advocacy news through ACCinTouch. ACCinTouch connects ACC members and those interested in cardiovascular news through popular social networking channels like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube. Join each of these networks to connect with ACC members and those interested in cardiology. In addition to the ACC’s main Twitter profile @ACCinTouch, the College also has a channel dedicated to advocacy-related news (@Cardiology), education (@ACCCardioEd), and quality (@ACCCVQuality). CardioSmart, ACC’s patient education and support program, also has patient-centered cardiovascular news available through Facebook, Twitter (@CardioSmart), and YouTube. For more information about ACC’s social media channels, visit ACC.org/ACCinTouch.

ACC Archived Webinars

Did you know that you can find archived webinars from throughout the years from the ACC on ACC.org? As a member, you have access to this wealth of information at www.acc.org/WebinarsOndemand. Questions? Contact ACC’s Resource Center at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603 or 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or resource@acc.org.
CVT ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING CVT EVENTS

February 23, 2018
CA ACC SoCal Cardiovascular Team Symposium

From the California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology.

Save the date. Details, registration and agenda coming soon.

Location:

Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa

900 Newport Center Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660
LEADERSHIP ALERT

INFORMATIONAL

CMS Officially Cancels EPM and Cardiac Rehab Incentive Payment Models

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a final rule officially canceling the Episode Payment Models (EPMs) for AMI and CABG and Cardiac Rehabilitation (CR) Incentive Payment Model and rescinding the regulations establishing these models, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

In releasing the final rule, CMS stressed that “value-based payment methodologies will play an essential role in lowering costs and improving quality of care, which will be necessary in order to maintain Medicare’s fiscal solvency” and reiterated its commitment to developing value-based models that would allow for Advanced APM participation in 2018 and beyond. “We believe that focusing on the development of different bundled payment models and engaging more providers in these models is the best way to drive health system change while minimizing provider burden and maintaining patient access to care,” the Agency stated.

Specifically, CMS acknowledged the comments it received on the proposed cancellation rule and noted agreement “with the premise cited by commenters that the CR Incentive Payment Model could provide an opportunity to collect evidence and may support provision of an under-utilized yet effective intervention.” However, the Agency went on to say: “Due to the manner in which the regulations guiding the cardiac EPMs were interwoven with those of the CR Incentive Payment Model, we do not believe it would be feasible to continue the mandatory CR Incentive Payment Model alone at this time since we are cancelling the EPMs and rescinding all of the associated regulations. However, as we stated in the proposed rule, as we further develop the Innovation Center’s portfolio of models, we may revisit the concept of a model with a focus on cardiac rehabilitation and, if we do, will consider stakeholder feedback.”

The ACC’s comments were among the 85 received by CMS. The College will continue to work with CMS to develop further opportunities for the cardiology community to participate in APM models. In a separate comment letter to CMS on the future direction of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), the College outlined support for increasing participation in APMs, physician specialty models and expanding the mandate of the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee to include APMs for Medicaid and CHIP. The letter also supports models that give flexibility in cost sharing for high value services, such as cardiac rehabilitation.
UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS

DEC

21st ROLE OF NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY, CARDIAC CT, AND CARDIAC MRI IN THE ERA OF VALUE-BASED IMAGING Location: 333 City Boulevard West, The City Tower, 4th Floor, Conf Room #403, Orange, CA 92868 | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

JAN

19th-21st ADVANCES IN CARDIAC IMAGING WITH NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY, CARDIAC CT, AND CARDIAC MR: 33RD ANNUAL CASE REVIEW WITH THE EXPERTS Location: Harvey Morse Conference Center | Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Los Angeles, CA | Click HERE to register | Read the brochure HERE | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

20th UC IRVINE CATH ESSENTIALS SYMPOSIUM Location: Doubletree Hotel, 100 The City Drive South, Orange, CA 92868 | To register CLICK HERE | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar

FEB

23rd CA ACC SOCAL CARDIOVASCULAR TEAM SYMPOSIUM Location: Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa | 900 Newport Center Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660 | CLICK HERE to register | Agenda CLICK HERE | Stay tuned at: CAACC.org/calendar
Congratulations to our 2017 Award Winners:
Eliott Rapaport Cardiologist of the Year
Karol Watson, MD, FACC
In recognition of her professionalism, national service, leadership, and fostering the future of Cardiology.
Congratulations to our 2017 Award Winners:

Future Leader of the Year
Jamal Rana, MD, FACC

Cardiac Care Associate of the Year
Mary Schoenbaum, NP, AACC

Advocate of the Year
Ramin Manshadi, MD, FACC

Educator of the Year
Matthew Budoff, MD, FACC