Upcoming Chapter Events

**Fall FIT Program:** Prep for Your Future in Cardiology
*October 17, 2017*  
The Gage, Chicago, IL

**CV Team Symposium**  
*November 4, 2017*  
Chicago Marriott Southwest at Burr Ridge, Burr Ridge, IL

**Annual Symposium & Chapter Meeting**  
2018, Date & Venue TBD

Upcoming ACC Events

**ACC Legislative Conference**  
*September 9-12, 2017*  
Washington, DC

**Cardiovascular Summit**  
*February 22-24, 2018*  
Las Vegas, NV

**ACC.18**  
*March 10-12, 2018*  
Orlando, FL

Governors Update

Joshua Liberman, MD, FACC  
WI- ACC Governor

**Annual Meeting and Symposium:** Every year our annual meeting gets better and better! This year, I think the event, which was held in Lake Geneva on May 5-7, 2017 was superb! Our participants must agree as the feedback so far has been very positive. The nationally recognized speakers covered relevant and timely topics that laid an excellent platform for our practices to continue to thrive! Dr. Rob Califf’s Friday night’s Key Note talk was provocative and very well received and our Saturday night inaugural family event was a hit – and I think will become a staple of future Annual Meetings. We will begin planning for next year’s meeting in September. Any feedback from members would be greatly appreciated. You can email Nancy Mueller at nmueller@cardiacmgmt.com with your input.

We are in the planning stages for our CV Team Symposium on November 4th which will be held in Burr Ridge. Please share the “Save the Date” with your staff.

Our fall FIT event will be on October 17th at The Gage in Chicago. It is a free educational/networking event for our fellows in training. Please come and support our FIT’s and this fun and educational event.

Overarching ACC News

ACC and NCDR Committee Nominations Now Open

Nominations for spots on ACC’s *major operating committees* and NCDR *subcommittees* are open now until Friday, Sept. 22. ACC members are encouraged to review the open positions and may self-nominate or nominate a colleague on the *Committee Nominations Portal*. ACC’s ongoing governance transformation has allowed for an increase in open committee positions to expand member involvement and provide additional opportunities for members to impact the work of the College. Applicants will be notified of results in January 2018. For questions or additional information, email committees@acc.org. For NCDR Committees, contact ncdrcommittees@acc.org.

ACC BOT Recommends 2018 Slate of Officers and Trustees

The ACC Board of Trustees (BOT) recommended the College’s newest slate of officers and trustees during its August meeting, which took place from Aug. 3 – 5 in Minnesota. The ACC Nominating Committee, led by Immediate Past President Richard Chazal, MD, MACC, put forth the following candidates for BOT recommendation, using the College’s *Leadership Competencies* as guidance: C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC, to serve as president from 2018-2019; Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC, to serve as vice president from 2018-2019; Howard T. Walpole Jr., MD, MBA, FACC, to serve as treasurer from 2018-2021; Edward T.A. Fry, MD, FACC, and Daniel Jose Pineiro, MD, FACC, to serve as trustees from 2018-2021. "Each of these individuals is uniquely qualified to uphold the mission of the College and provide the strong leadership needed to guide the ACC toward the future," said Chazal. "Congratulations to all the new officers and trustees." Read more on ACC.org.
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JACC Leadership Page: MACRA and Practice Transformation

In a recent Leadership Page published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (JACC), ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC, how MACRA will bring about change in how frequently stable cardiovascular patients...
are seen and by whom. MACRA established a framework for rewarding clinicians for value over volume, which will lead to a transformation in how practices function. While cardiologists will need to see sick patients rather than stable ones, it is important to explore and embrace new models of care so that patients do not feel abandoned. “With practice transformation, we will need to work smarter,” Walsh writes. “Systems of care that involve fewer in-person visits, but continue to keep our patients engaged will be necessary.” Read more.

**CMS Issues Proposed Rule Canceling EPMs, Cardiac Rehabilitation Incentive Model**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a proposed rule canceling its episode payment models (EPMs) and the cardiac rehabilitation incentive model, which were slated to start on Jan. 1, 2018. The agency also made significant changes to its joint replacement payment model.

Cancellation of the program will impact eligible clinicians, including physicians and non-physician practitioners, who were planning to use participation in the EPMs to qualify as participating in Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) outlined under the Quality Payment Program. “The ACC will continue to work with CMS on opportunities for clinicians to participate meaningfully in Advanced APMs,” said ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC. "As we move from volume-based care to value-based care, the path forward is challenging and we must work together to find solutions." ACC Advocacy staff and leaders are reviewing the update now and more information on the impacts to cardiovascular clinicians and next steps will be posted to ACC.org and included in the Advocate.

**CMS Releases Proposed 2018 Medicare PFS and Hospital OPPS Rules**

On July 13, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed 2018 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), addressing Medicare payment and quality provisions for physicians in 2018. Under the proposal, physicians will see a less than 0.1 percent conversion factor payment increase on Jan. 1, 2018. CMS estimates that the physician rule will decrease payments to cardiologists by 2 percent from 2017 to 2018. This estimate predicts a 1 percent reduction to changes in practice expense and a 1 percent reduction to changes in malpractice expense. It is based on the entire cardiology profession and can vary widely depending on the mix of services provided in a practice. The PFS proposed rule was released in tandem with the proposed 2018 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) rule. The outpatient rule indicates a 1.75 percent payment update for hospitals. Your ACC staff are reviewing the proposed rules to identify additional topics of interest to members. Read highlights from both proposed rules on ACC.org.

**ACC Holds AUC Summit**

The ACC held an appropriate use criteria (AUC) summit on Aug. 9 at its Heart House headquarters in Washington, DC. The summit provided an overview of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' forthcoming AUC program, with discussion among participants about where the program is headed and how the AUC community, including the ACC, can help. Experts discussed ways to collaborate around AUC development, implementation strategies and how to optimize electronic health records and clinical decision support mechanisms, in addition to addressing confusion around contradicting AUC recommendations. In his closing remarks, summit moderator Stephen F. Jencks, MD, MPH, said, "My takeaways from this summit can be broken down into three primary messages. Firstly, it's not easy for groups to rank their priorities for AUC implementation – all of their priorities are high. Secondly, most of the issues raised today could be categorized as either research or nomenclatural issues, and
thirdly, different groups have differing priorities regarding the implementation of this program, and they have considerable financial stake in those priorities. These groups must work out their priorities and issues internally before moving forward.” Read more on ACC.org. Find more information on the AUC program and ACC’s AUC Task Force here.

**TOP EDUCATION NEWS**

**ACC’s New Self-Assessment Program CathSAP 5 is Now Available**

CathSAP 5 – ACC’s brand new self-assessment program – is now available and has everything needed to perfect knowledge of interventional cardiology. Visit ACC.org to purchase the product and to learn more.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Submit Science for the Young Investigator Awards by Sept. 11

Scientific breakthroughs in the field of cardiology depend on the work that so many young scientific investigators are doing today. The Young Investigator Awards Competition was established to recognize and encourage these future cardiovascular leaders. Physicians, scientists, medical students and other health care providers currently in residency or fellowship programs, or who are no more than three years out of training, are invited to submit their science for an opportunity to present their work at ACC.18. PhD, PharmD and DNP candidates no more than three years out of training may also apply. Application deadline is Sept. 11, 2017. Read more on ACC.org.