Welcome to the Winter 2018 newsletter for the Wisconsin Chapter of the ACC. In this newsletter, you can read about some of the ACC’s National Initiatives, which are focused on helping you and your patients. In Fall 2017, Wisconsin-ACC sent a delegation to Capitol Hill to advocate for legislative reforms that would help you and your patients, and these were successfully included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. Meanwhile, many of your colleagues are hard at work, planning what looks to be a stellar Annual Meeting to be held May 19-20 in Lake Geneva. Last year’s meeting was a huge hit, with many nationally renowned speakers discussing interesting topics with the attendees. If you are interested in getting more involved with the ACC, or with grass roots advocacy for your patients, or simply want to be a part of the growing community of ACC Cardiologists, feel free to contact me. See you in the Spring!

CMS Releases Final Coverage Policy for ICD Implantation

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released its final policy decision updating the national coverage determination (NCD) governing implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) implantation for Medicare fee-for-service patients. The NCD will continue to govern patient criteria and covered indications for CMS reimbursement of ICD implantation. The new NCD requires a shared decision-making encounter using a tool, updates clinical indications, and incorporates several exemptions for waiting periods. In a notable change from the draft NCD CMS Proposed Decision Memo released last November, the shared decision-making encounter does not need to be completed by an independent clinician. The NCD also ends the requirement for data collection for evidence development, which sites have satisfied through participation in ACCs ICD Registry. However, enrollment in the ICD Registry will continue to provide evidence of compliance with CMS reimbursement criteria. The changes are effective immediately, though contractors must wait for further technical instructions from CMS before updating claims processing software. ACC staff are reviewing the final decision to identify any additional topics of interest to members. Read more CMS Final Coverage Policy for ICD Implantation - ACC.org 02-15-18 Article. Additionally, more information will be forthcoming in the Advocate newsletter and on ACC.org in the coming weeks.

ACC Defines New Core Values

The College recently unveiled its new Core Values as part of the work toward developing the ACC’s 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, and ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC, shared them in a perspective piece on ACC.org. The three core values – patient-centered, teamwork and collaboration, and professionalism and excellence – are the result of months of work in a collaborative effort by both members and staff. “On behalf of the BOT, we believe that these Core Values, taken together with our strong
Mission and Vision, appropriately represent where the College is headed over the next five years, and into the future,” writes Walsh. Read more on ACC.org.

New ACC Video Showcases Stories of Leadership in Cardiology
Leaders from across the cardiovascular care team share their paths to leadership in a new ACC video. The video captures stories from a diverse array of ACC members, including ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC, and Vice President C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC, as well as up-and-coming leaders, including Board of Governors member Laxmi Mehta, MD, FACC; and Travis Batts, MD, FACC, from ACC’s Leadership Academy Cohort II. The stories these leaders share illustrate the importance of seeking opportunities to lead under ACC’s new governance structure, which supports centralized authority and decentralized decision-making, finding mentors and providing mentorship, and maintaining a focus on the College’s mission to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health. Watch the video here.

February Issue of Cardiology: Interventions
Looks at Inflammation for the Cardiologist; Trends in Cardiovascular Medicine for 2018; ACC.18 Sneak Peek, and More
The cover story in the latest issue of Cardiology: Interventions examines the emerging role of inflammation in cardiovascular disease including findings from the CANTOS trial. Read more on this topic from Editor-in-Chief Peter C. Block, MD, FACC. Learn what leading experts think will most impact cardiovascular medicine in this new year. And learn about catheter-directed management in pulmonary embolism in the FIT perspective by Brett Carroll, MD. The ACC.18 Sneak Peek will help you start planning your best meeting now. Get the full issue at ACC.org/CardiologyInterventions.

January Issue of Cardiology: Digital Health Solutions in Cardiovascular Medicine, Leadership Forum, Physician Assistant Workforce Survey, and More
The cover story in the January issue of Cardiology highlights the potential for digital health solutions in cardiovascular medicine and how the ACC’s Innovation Strategy is optimizing this impact. Leadership Forum brings us three stories: the debut of the “Healthy Leadership Forum” designed by Julie M. Clary, MD, MBA, FACC; longevity secrets from John Day, MD, FACC; and how Travis Batts, MD, FACC, views service through leadership to help patients and meet ACC’s mission. Learn about the evolution of the physician assistant workforce in cardiology based on results from a survey by the ACC’s PA Work Group. Get the full issue at ACC.org/Cardiology.

December Issue of Cardiology: ACC’s Education Enterprise, Lifestyle and Cardiovascular Health, Innovation Road Map, and More
The cover story in the December issue of Cardiology highlights the partnership of ACC members and staff in the ACC’s education enterprise of serving the lifelong learning of the cardiovascular community. Also in this issue, review some of the things we’ve learned this year about prevention of cardiovascular disease and read about the ACC’s Innovation strategy. Get the full issue at ACC.org/Cardiology.

February ACC.org Tip of the Month: Read Cardiology Magazine Online
Cardiology magazine is your one-stop source for cardiovascular research and ACC news and reading it online just got easier. The flagship member publication of your professional home, Cardiology is a can’t-miss monthly publication that combines clinical news, expert commentary, ACC updates and more into one source. Thanks to the enhanced Cardiology landing page on ACC.org, readers
Upcoming ACC Events

**FIT 2018 Poster Presentation**
April 5, 2018
Intercontinental Hotel
505 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL
Get More Information

**2018 Milwaukee Heart Failure Symposium & Chapter Meeting**
May 19 & 20, 2018
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, Lake Geneva, WI
Get More Information

**2018 Annual Meeting**
April 5, 2018
Intercontinental Hotel
Milwaukee, WI
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**ACC.18**
March 10-12, 2018
Orlando, FL
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JACC Leadership Page: Cardiovascular Health System Leadership

In a recent Leadership Page published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (JACC), Edward T.A. Fry, MD, FACC, ACC chair and incoming trustee and Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC, ACC president, discuss leadership in cardiovascular health care. They write that during this time of unprecedented, accelerating change, today's leaders must be “change managers” and visionaries while also possessing analytic expertise and emotional intelligence. Fry and Walsh discuss the rise of the dyad model of leadership—a partnership between a clinical and an administrative leader. Each partner brings a unique set of skills and background that complements the other. With the growing frequency of health care mergers, the future of the cardiovascular field depends on strong leadership. “Cardiac specialists must step up and lead care transformation to meet the goals of better outcomes, greater access, higher value, and optimal professional engagement,” Fry and Walsh write. “As members of the cardiac care team, we have the experience, skills, opportunities, resources, passion, and moral authority to do so successfully.” Read more.

Read the Most Talked About JACC Journal Articles from 2017

Research published in JACC Journals was among the most talked about in cardiology last year. Find out which articles published in JACC and the five JACC specialty journals received the most media and social media attention throughout the world in 2017. The JACC Journals team has compiled lists for each journal using data from Altmetric. View the top articles and their attention scores at JACC.org/MostTalkedAbout. Learn more about publishing in JACC Journals.

**TOP SCIENCE & QUALITY NEWS**

**JACC Editor's Page: High Blood Pressure Guidelines**

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 new ACC/American Heart Association guideline for high blood pressure that was published in November. Fuster highlights three takeaways from the guideline: (1) the importance of not unnecessarily treating patients; (2) the fact that a large percentage of Americans with high blood pressure levels are not being properly treated based on both the old and the new guidelines; and (3) that many Americans are not aware that they have high blood pressure, showing the importance of identifying patients who are hypertensive. “[B]lood pressure management presents the first real opportunity for personalized medicine within the cardiovascular field,” Fuster writes. “Caregivers should be discussing blood pressure with their patients to understand the appropriate level for each person. Furthermore, we need to prioritize those patients who have high blood pressure. The attention that the guideline has received may present just the opportunity to broach these conversations with each of our patients individually.” Read more. Visit the guideline hubs on OnlineJACC.org and ACC.org for additional commentary, tools and resources.

**New Leadership Saves Lives Toolkit Available**

The ACC recently launched the Leadership Saves Lives (LSL) Toolkit, a companion initiative to Surviving MI. The toolkit includes
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practical tools and insights about how hospitals achieve culture change. LSL was created on a team-based leadership intervention in ten U.S. hospitals to: promote uptake of evidence-based strategies associated with better 30-day risk standardized mortality rates for patients with acute myocardial infarction, drive improvements in five domains of organizational culture and reduce RSMR. Find out more and download the toolkit at CVQuality.ACC.org.

ManageMR App and Toolkit Now Available

The ACC recently launched the ManageMR app to offer clinicians personalized referral and treatment advice for diagnosed mitral regurgitation patients by verifying the severity and etiology of the MR. Clinicians can enter patient parameters from an Echo assessment and review customized advice on: probable severity and etiology of a patient’s MR; need for referral; and feasibility of mitral valve repair vs. replacement for the patient. This app is part of ACC’s ManageMR Toolkit created to guide clinicians from assessment to referral of diagnosed MR patients. Download the ManageMR App for free and learn more about ACC’s mobile resources at ACC.org/Apps.

TOP ADVOCACY & HEALTH POLICY

**ACC Launches New Advocacy Action Alert System**
Your ACC has launched a new grassroots Advocacy Action Alert system, VoterVoice. Sharing your opinion with legislators and decision makers has never been easier!

**How It Works:** ACC Advocacy will post announcements about essential legislation at the state and federal level and share these Action Alerts with members via email. With just a few easy clicks, ACC members can contact their legislators or regulators via email, phone or Twitter to share their support or opposition to policies impacting cardiology and patient care. This system offers many exciting benefits, including the ability for ACC members to share Action Alert links directly with other members.

**Take Action:** Watch for important Action Alert emails from ACC staff or chapter executives, and visit ACC.org/AdvocacyAction today!

Questions? Email advocacyleg@acc.org.

**DIGITAL ACC RESOURCES**

**ACC Weekly Podcast on Not-to-Miss CV Topics Now Available on Google Play, iTunes**
ACC members and clinicians have a new way to gain unique insights and expert commentary on some of the top content posted to ACC.org each week. In his Eye View podcast, ACC.org Editor-in-Chief Kim Eagle, MD, MACC, discusses the hottest cardiovascular topics, ranging from new clinical guidelines to practice-changing research and innovative quality initiatives and tools. “Our talented team of web editors and ACC staff is dedicated to curating the most valuable content for members and the cardiovascular community,” said Eagle. “The podcast provides an efficient way to obtain weekly highlights in an exciting new format.” Listen now on ACC.org, Google Play, or iTunes.

**Get Easy Access to JACC Content on Your Phone or Tablet Via the JACC Journals App**
Use the JACC Journals App to access the latest research and clinical practice updates from the top-ranked family of JACC Journals. This single app puts all of your favorite content at your fingertips – and is accessible across all iOS and Android devices. The app lets you browse new issues, link to featured articles, and interact with figures, tables and multimedia content. The “My Reading List” feature allows you to save articles for offline reading.
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**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](https://www.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](https://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](mailto:resource@acc.org).

**Download ACC’s Advocacy Action Mobile App**
Be sure to download the [ACC Advocacy Action mobile app](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/acc-advocacy-action/id402287730) to get easy access to ACC’s advocacy priorities and timely talking points to share during congressional visits. The app was designed to help members engage with lawmakers and influence health policy.


**SAVE THE DATES!**
**UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS**

**2018 Cardiology Fellows-In-Training Poster Presentation and Reception**
Thursday, April 5, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Intercontinental Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

**CLICK HERE FOR FIT EVENT FLYER**

**CLICK HERE FOR FIT REGISTRATION**

**4th Annual Milwaukee Heart Failure Symposium**
Saturday, May 5
Intercontinental Hotel
Downtown Milwaukee, WI

**CLICK HERE FOR BROCHURE**

**2018 Annual Meeting & Symposium**
Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa
Lake Geneva, WI

![SAVE THE DATE](https://www.acc.org/events/meetings/2018-symposium-save-the-date.jpg)

**SAVE THE DATE**
May 19 - 20, 2018
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa