Governors Update
By Dr. Anthony DeFranco, MD, FACC
Governor, Wisconsin Chapter ACC

This is an exciting time for the ACC and for the Wisconsin Chapter in particular! On the national scene, ACC has played a vital role in the repeal of Sustainable Growth Rate and in encouraging the American Board of Internal Medicine to modify the MOC process.

After more than a year of hard work, ACC has unveiled its strategic plan under the leadership of the new CEO, with an emphasis on member engagement, advocacy, and the launch of a much more user-friendly website, www.acc.org. If you haven’t already, I urge you to explore the new website, particularly its logical divisions into clinical updates, perspectives and analysis, meeting coverage, and advocacy issues.

Although SMARTCare has consumed seemingly countless hours of Dr. Lewandowski’s and my time (I have the privilege of serving as the Implementation Chairman for Wisconsin), it hasn’t prevented the Chapter from moving forward with other initiatives:

- A Chapter-sponsored exchange program between the two Milwaukee-based fellowship training programs (Aurora fellows will travel to Froedtert to study cardiac MRI, and MCW fellows will travel to St. Luke’s to study TAVR)
- A monthly web-based statewide journal club featuring senior authors of recent major publications (this will soon be expanded so Chapter members can attend online)
- Partnering with the Romanian Cardiovascular Society as our “Sister Chapter” within ACC (our Chapter was instrumental in inviting the Romanian Society to affiliate with ACC). We anticipate future opportunities for clinical exchanges between our Chapter and our Romanian colleagues
- Partnered with the Illinois Chapter for a successful Fellows In Training Cardiology Poster Presentation in March and for the upcoming joint Wisconsin-Illinois Chapter Annual Meeting in Oak Brook, Illinois on May 29, 2015.
- Co-sponsored “Doctor Day” in Madison to advocate for issues important to Wisconsin cardiologists

Finally, one of the most important developments within the Chapter during the last half-year was our contracting with Cardiovascular Management of Illinois (CMI) with Nancy Mueller as our new Chapter Executive. Nancy brings years of experience as the Chapter Executive for Illinois. In addition, the Principal of CMI, Cathie Biga, should be well known to Chapter members from her work on many ACC committees, the Practice Summit held annually with the College, and her expertise in CV business and advocacy issues through her work with MedAxiom and the Cardiology Advocacy Alliance. Cathie’s expertise in these areas—and her willingness to serve as a resource and consultant to our members—along with Nancy’s vast experience with Chapter management, will continue to be a tremendous asset to the Chapter and our members.

A traditional Chinese proverb states, “May you live in interesting times!” These are certainly interesting times for the Chapter and its members, and I pledge to use this column to keep our members informed of happenings and events important to your practice and your patients.

Congratulations Newly Elected Councilors

Northeast District Councilor:
Dr. Vinay Thohan

West District Councilors:
Dr. John Braxton
Dr. Roxann Rokey

Southeast District Councilor:
Dr. Mike Cinquegrani

South District:
Dr. Mario Goessl

At-Large Councilors:
Dr. Edgar Massabni
Dr. Nicole Lohr

FIT Liaison:
Dr. Matt Kalscheur
Upcoming Events

Annual Symposium and Meeting: Hot Topics in Contemporary Cardiac Practice
May 29, 2015
The Hyatt Lodge
Oak Brook, Illinois

International Cardiovascular Nutrition Summit
May 29-31, 2015
Embassy Suites Chicago-O’Hare
Rosemont, Illinois

Cardiovascular Team Symposium
November 7, 2015
Lindner Conference Center
Lombard, Illinois

Best of ACC.15
June 12-13, 2015
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

SMARTCare Update
By Dr. Anthony DeFranco, MD, FACC
In the Wisconsin scene, after five years of preparation, SMARTCare is “up and running” at Froedtert/The Medical College of Wisconsin, and four other centers in the final stages of contracting with ACC to deploy SMARTCare in order to enroll patients by July 1:

- Columbia-St. Mary’s
- Mayo Clinic Eau Claire
- Aurora’s St. Luke’s
- Grafton Medical Centers

Under the leadership of our past Governor, Tom Lewandowski, as the National Project Director, SMARTCare is also enrolling patients at two sites in Florida with another 3 sites scheduled to come online by July 1.

At the annual Louis F. Bishop lecture at this year’s Scientific Sessions in San Diego, Ralph Brindis, MD FACC, former ACC President (2010-2011), titled his address, What Will a “Valuable” Cardiologist Have to do by 2020? – and his conclusion, not surprisingly, was “participate in SMARTCare-like initiatives. It should be very gratifying to all of the Chapter members that Wisconsin is leading the nation in one of the most important initiatives (and the largest grant) that the College is currently undertaking.

If you are practicing at a SMARTCare site, Tom and I will soon visit your campus to present the objectives, workflow, and benefits to physicians from participating in the project. For Chapter members practicing at a non-SMARTCare hospital, I urge you to visit the Chapter website to learn more about the project and its importance to the ACC and to the medical profession generally.

Cardiovascular Team Update
By Mia Stone, MS, BSN, RN, AACC, FACCA, CV Team Rep

The NCDR had over 1,200 attendees. It was a very engaged group and physician and administrator attendance seems to be on the rise. Next year will be in Chicago prior to ACC.16.

This year we will partner with the Illinois Chapter for our Annual Meeting which will be held in Oak Brook, Illinois on May 29th. We also have an opportunity to partner with them for their annual CV Team Program on November 7, 2015, in Lombard, Illinois.

One of our 2015 goals is to increase our Wisconsin CV Team membership. If each of you would talk to a non-member and tell them the benefits of being a member that would be a great start. If you need a synopsis of the benefits let me know or click here for the ACC membership website. In honor of Nurses Appreciation Month, for the month of May nurses can join the ACC for a special rate of $75 using code: ThnkNurses

Fellows-In-Training Poster Presentation
Six posters from Wisconsin were presented at the combined Illinois and Wisconsin Poster Presentation held in Chicago on March 2nd. Dr. Josh Meskin served as a judge. Forty posters were presented that evening with three poster winners. In addition, attending FIT’s were entered in a drawing for five Best of ACC.15 registrations.
GOAL STATEMENT

The rapidly changing healthcare environment often leaves the entire CV team struggling to find the most current and up to date information to manage their patients and practices. From new treatment guidelines to the multiple regulatory requirements, this educational conference will provide the CV team an opportunity to identify the most current available information for the clinical and business side of cardiology.

STATEMENT OF NEED

The overall goal of this activity is to improve patient care by increasing learner competence in understanding the newest treatments and guidelines in major cardiovascular diseases and understanding where healthcare is headed from the business side of cardiology.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This meeting is designed for Cardiologists, Cardiology Administrators, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists and any other interested specialties.

ACCREDITATION AND DESIGNATION

6.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ - Physicians

NOTE: Additional 1.0 CME credit for the 10:45 am program jointly provided by Potomac Center for Medical Education and Rockpointe

6.25 CNE Credits - Nurses

AGENDA:

7:00-7:25 am Registration, Exhibits, and Breakfast
7:25-7:30 am Welcome and Opening Remarks
7:30-8:15 am Keynote Speaker: Update On Structural Interventions: TAVR, MitralClip and More
Ted Feldman, MD, MScAI, FACC, FESC
8:15-8:45 am How To Set Up An Effective Structural Heart Clinic
Kristin Doster, BS, RDCS, FASE, CPAS
8:45-9:30 am Controversies in Dual Antiplatelet Therapy
Jorge F. Saucedo, MD, MBA, FACC
9:30-10:15 am Adult Congenital Heart Disease Update
Curt J. Daniels, MD, FACC
10:15-10:45 am Break/Exhibits
10:45-11:45 am Current Approaches and Future Directions in the Management of Patients with Resistant Heart Failure
Clyde W. Yancy, MD, MSc, FACC, FAHA, MACP
11:45-12:00 pm Mini Cardiovascular Summit
12:00-12:45 pm Lunch: Advocacy Speaker - TBD
12:45-1:30 pm Keynote Speaker: ACC Update
Kim Williams, Sr., MD, FACC, FAHA, FASNC, ACC President
1:30-2:00 pm Hospital Value & Quality Programs
Mia Stone, MS, BSN, RN, AACC, FACCA
2:00-3:00 pm Ambulatory Practice Value & Quality Programs
Cathleen Biga, RN, MSN
3:00-3:45 pm Team Based Care
Ginger Biesbrock, PA-C, MPH, MPAS, AACC
3:45-4:15 pm Governance of Your CV Service Line
Steve Brewer, MBA, CMPE, FACHE
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Ginger Biesbrock, PA-C, MPH, MPAS, AACC
3:45-4:15 pm Governance of Your CV Service Line
Steve Brewer, MBA, CMPE, FACHE
Kim Allan Williams, MD, FACC Becomes ACC President

Following the end of ACC.15, Patrick T. O’Gara, MD, MACC, immediate past president of the ACC, passed the presidential chain to Kim Allan Williams, Sr., MD, FACC, at the time honored Convocation Ceremony. Williams is currently the James B. Herrick Professor and chief of the division of cardiology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL. He is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases, nuclear medicine, nuclear cardiology and cardiovascular computed tomography. “Each president has the privilege of inheriting the foundation of past leaders,” Williams said. “Following on Pat’s year of building new leaders and ensuring continued focus on educational funding and research, I hope to focus on increasing our ongoing effectiveness as advocates for patient access to the best cardiovascular care, regardless of race, gender, income or geography.” Read More

Value to Volume (V2V)

By Cathie Biga, President & CEO, CMI

If you do not believe it is here … believe it. The recent HHS announcement, coupled with the current proposed permanent SGR fix is largely built on transitioning to a value based reimbursement. It is critical that EVERY physician understand the PQRS and Value Modifier programs. 2015 data collection in your office is a critical element as failure to successfully report in PQRS will result in penalties for every physician beginning with all Medicare services in 2017. Your 2015 data will also be used to determine your Value Modifier, and depending on the size of your group (including PA’s and NP’s) can result in as much as a 6% payment adjustment (note there is a PQRS component in this as well). Finally Meaningful Use (MU) has now entered the penalty phase!
- If you have NOT attested by October 1, 2015 you will face a 3% adjustment in 2017 – these penalties, again based on 2015 data – can add up to 9%.
- Failing to attest for MU in 2015 will also result in a 2% penalty starting January 1, 2016.

With the release of Stage 3 rules, ACC continues to watch this closely and will respond with comments as to the complexity of implementing this in your practices.

ACC’s New Advocacy Action Mobile App

Be sure to download the new ACC Advocacy Action mobile app 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. Download it today on iTunes (iPhone, iPad) and Google Play (Android devices).

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. Read More

Catch Up on the Latest News From ACC.15

Miss out on the latest news on trials and sessions from ACC.15? Check out full coverage of the conference including news stories and trial summaries of the hottest trials on ACC.org/ACC15. Get video coverage of the conference, including FITs on the GO interviews with presenters of the Late-Breaking Clinical Trials. Also, check out ACC.15 wrap-ups of each day on the ACC in Touch Blog, with video highlights from Peter Block, MD, MACC, and Deepak Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC. Interested in the Future of Cardiology? Search #ACC15 and follow @ACCinTouch for recaps of the Future of Cardiovascular Medicine Track and more. Save the date for ACC.16 in Chicago, Illinois, April 2 – 4, 2016. Read More

ACC Names Final Round of Patient Navigator Program Hospitals

The final 20 hospitals have been named as participants in the ACC Patient Navigator Program, bringing the total number of participants to 35. The first of its kind in cardiology, the program supports national efforts to reduce unnecessary patient readmissions related to heart attacks and heart failure. Read More
ACC Takes Guidelines on the Go with New Guideline Clinical App

The ACC’s new Guideline Clinical App is the mobile home of clinical guideline content and tools for clinicians caring for patients with cardiovascular disease. To download the free App, search “ACC Guidelines” in the iTunes or Google Play app stores. Help the ACC find new and better ways to deliver guideline content to clinicians by sharing your feedback. Read More

ACC.org Has Arrived!

The ACC’s new website, ACC.org, is now live, offering enhanced features and design requested by ACC members. Nearly two years ago, the ACC embarked on the redesign of CardioSource.org, as part of its broader digital strategy. The goal: to leverage new technologies to ensure cardiovascular professionals and their patients have the tools and resources to communicate easily and effectively in today’s increasingly digital world. Today’s launch is the culmination of this effort. Based on the demands of ACC members, content organization and navigation are at the center of the new site. ACC.org is built upon intuitive navigation and improved search performance, which will help users easily navigate the large volume of complex ACC content contained in the site. Key highlights include mobile optimization, personalization options, streamlined navigation and improved search performance – all of which make the site easier to use whether in the office, at home or on the go. Get started with the ACC.org Quick Start Guide. Your former CardioSource username and password are the keys to logging in.

New NSTE-ACS Guideline

The ACC and AHA released the new 2014 Guideline for the Management of Patients With Non–ST-Elevation Acute Coronary Syndromes (NSTE-ACS). The guideline has a new name and new terminology that reflect current ways of thinking about this frequent and serious cardiac condition, and is the first full revision since the 2007 ACC/AHA Guideline or the Management of Patients with Unstable Angina and Non–ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (NSTEMI) and subsequent focused updates. Read More

Physicians Can Track Care with Confidential CathPCI Physician Dashboard

Did you know that ACC members affiliated with NCDR CathPCI Registry hospitals can use the CathPCI Registry Physician Dashboard to take advantage of registry data to track and improve the quality of care provided to patients? The free dashboard, which can be accessed securely via the ACC’s CardioSource.org website, allows physicians to privately view their registry data including appropriateness of percutaneous coronary interventions, volume of cases treated, observed and expected mortality, door-to-balloon times and vascular complications. It also allows comparisons to other CathPCI Registry physicians in aggregate. In addition to raising awareness of performance, the dashboard can also help physicians earn Maintenance of Certification Part IV credit. Read More

Interventional Specialty Designation

Just a reminder that the AMA now recognizes interventional cardiology as a unique and separate specialty. It is imperative that in order to take advantage of this that your billing information with Medicare is updated and current. It is also important to remember that Board Certification is required to be classified as a subspecialist on PECOS (the billing mechanism). This can also be accomplished by completing Medicare Form 8551. Read More

View CMS Article: Interventional Designation MM8812

EHR Incentive Program Changes In The Works

CMS recently announced that it intends to update the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs through the rulemaking process beginning this year. Feedback from health care organizations and stakeholders, including the ACC, was instrumental in CMS’ decision to consider shortening the 2015 reporting period to 90 days, realigning hospital reporting periods to the calendar year and modifying other aspects of the program. CMS noted that these proposed changes align with HHS’ commitment to fostering a health information technology infrastructure that elevates patient-centered care, improves health outcomes and supports the providers who care for patients. Reps. Renee Ellmers (R-NC) and Ron Kind (D-WI) deserve recognition for clearly listening to physician constituents and encouraging CMS to make this important change. This initiative is separate and distinct from the widely anticipated proposed Stage 3 rule that is also expected this spring. Read More