Cardiology in Colorado

Colorado CHAPTER

Summer 2015

2016 Annual Meeting Ready to Rock!

October 9th - 11th 2015

Click here for Agenda

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Colorado CHAPTER

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President's Corner

David A. Rosenbaum, MD, FACC
President/Governor

I hope this finds all of our Colorado ACC membership well, enjoying the beautiful Colorado summer. While summer fun is on our minds, I wanted to remind everyone that our annual chapter meeting is just around the corner!!

Please make sure you open the emails sent to you all regarding this outstanding event scheduled for October 9-11 at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Our planning committee has been working diligently over the summer to get this event finalized and I am certain you will all have a fabulous time when you attend! We are all looking forward to a great meeting with education, fellowship and fun for all. Plan on bringing your family as there will be much to enjoy at The Broadmoor.

As I finish my term as Governor of our ACC chapter in March 2016, I am happy that Dr. John Messenger from University of Colorado Hospital will take the helm and help our chapter continue to evolve. It has been an honor to serve these last two years. In the coming year, my goals for the chapter are to continue to grow our annual chapter meeting so that it becomes a destination event for our Colorado membership. Having meaningful content is crucial as our professional lives continue to have significant demands. Making sure that we include all members of the cardiovascular team I believe crucial to not only evolve our practices, but also maintain a robust chapter.

Meaningful education through the ACC is one of the best benefits of ACC membership. A final goal for me in this last year is to continue to see an outstanding Colorado turnout at the national ACC legislative conference in Washington D.C. This year the conference is held October 18-20. Last year we were one of the few chapters to have cardiologists, surgeons, advanced practice providers, fellows and nurses in attendance. Enjoy the remainder of your summer and I look forward to seeing you ***October 9-11 at The Broadmoor***.

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ABIM Eliminates 'Double Jeopardy' MOC Requirement

In response to input provided by the ACC and other cardiology specialty societies (SCAI, HRS and HFSA) around the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM's) new requirements for Maintenance of Certification (MOC), the ABIM today announced it is eliminating the requirement to maintain underlying certification in a foundational discipline in order to remain certified in a subspecialty.

The "double jeopardy" provision noting it was clearly an important topic to the internal medicine community. According to the ABIM, it will begin implementing the new requirement now, with the change to be fully effective as of Jan. 1, 2016. The change does not affect the requirement for initial certification. Eliminating the double jeopardy faced by interventional, electrophysiology, adult congenital heart disease and advanced heart failure colleagues who initially had to pass both the general cardiology and sub-subspecialty boards is among the several changes strongly recommended by the College and the broader internal medicine community. Read more on the change and ACC's ongoing efforts around MOC.

Congratulations to Past President Thomas Haffey, DO, FACC!

Dr. Haffey was awarded the 2015 NLA SW Chapter President's Award in June 2015!

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. Learn more here.

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What You Need to Know About MACRA Legislation

The ACC has developed a detailed summary to help members navigate the recently passed Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), legislation that touches upon many areas across the health care spectrum. Most notably, MACRA permanently repeals the Sustainable Growth Rate formula and reauthorizes funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program for two years. Beginning July 1, clinicians will begin receiving a 0.5 percent increase to Medicare payments. This payment increase will continue annually until Dec. 31, 2018. Starting in 2019, clinicians will choose from one of two pathways: the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) or Alternative Payment Models. Eligible professionals who elect to participate in MIPS will receive annual payment increases or decreases based on their performance. MACRA also streamlines the three existing quality reporting programs – Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Meaningful Use and Value-Based Payment Modifier – into one system, eliminating three separate reporting deadlines. Read more about how provisions included in MACRA will impact you and your practice on ACC.org

JACC Holds Impact Factor Ranking as #1 CV Journal in the World

For the second year in a row, the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) was listed as the #1 cardiovascular journal in the world. According to the 2014 Impact Factors for Journals, JACC holds the top position among all 123 cardiovascular journals in scientific impact with an impact factor of 16.503 in 2014, up from 15.343 in 2013. These 2014 Impact Factor results are based on citations from the 2013 calendar year, when Anthony DeMaria, MD, MACC, was JACC editor. The results also showed impact factor and ranking improvements for JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions and JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging. Among all other cardiovascular journals, the ACC publishes three of the top 10 in the world. Check out the JACC Journals online.

ESR or CMR? Which One Better Predicts Response to Medical Therapy in Pericardial Constriction?

Jul 09, 2015 | Mario J. Garcia, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Article Review

Editors' Pick

A relatively common syndrome, constrictive pericarditis often represents a diagnostic and a therapeutic challenge. Pericardiectomy, the definitive treatment for most patients with this condition, carries significant morbidity and not infrequently... Click here to see full article.

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ACC's Quality Improvement Efforts Make Headlines

A recent New York times article titled "A Sea Change in Treating Heart Attacks" highlights the 38 percent decrease in coronary heart disease deaths from 2003 to 2013, a result "spurred by better control of cholesterol and blood pressure, reduced smoking rates, improved medical treatments — and faster care of people in the throes of a heart attack." The article chronicles how the ACC's Door to Balloon (D2B) initiative has helped more than 1,200 hospitals nationwide improve the timeliness of reperfusion therapy for patients with heart attacks by facilitating the adoption of evidence and guideline-based best practices. Thanks to the D2B initiative, "Now, nearly all hospitals treat at least half their patients in 61 minutes or less…" D2B is part of ACC's suite of quality initiatives, designed to support local efforts with structured quality improvement projects to achieve specific goals. Building on the D2B initiative's success, last year the ACC launched Surviving MI, a quality initiative to help hospitals reduce 30-day mortality rates for heart attack patients through organizational culture change and the creation of a hospital learning network. Learn more about D2B, Surviving MI and Hospital to Home, part of ACC's Quality Improvement for Institutions, at CVQuality.ACC.org

CMS Releases Proposed 2016 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Hospital Outpatient Rules

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the proposed 2016 medicare Physician Fee Schedule, which addresses Medicare payment and quality provisions for physicians in 2016. Under the proposal, physicians will see a 0.5 percent payment increase on Jan. 1, 2016. Next year will be the first of several years of predictable payments resulting from the legislation that permanently repealed the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) this spring. CMS estimates that the physician rule will neither increase nor decrease payments to cardiologists from 2015 to 2016. This estimate is based on typical practice and can vary widely depending on the mix of services provided in a practice. The Physician Fee Schedule comes on the heels of the proposed 2016 Hospital Outpatient Rule released last week, which indicates a -0.1 percent payment update for hospitals. Shortly before the final rules are released, experts will discuss the proposed rules, ACC's comments, and other relevant regulatory items during a panel at the ACC's 2015 Legislative Conference, which will take place Oct. 18-20 in Washington, DC. Don't miss this oppourtunity to learn about the hot button issues facing health care and ensure the voice of cardiology is heard on Capitol Hill.
Read highlights from both rules on ACC.org.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

More details at www.coloradoacc.org.

September 19, 2015
PCNA Fall Learning Series, Denver, 7:30 am

October 9-11, 2015
Colorado ACC Annual Meeting, The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs

October 18-20, 2015
ACC's 2015 Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

October 22 - 24, 2015
15th Annual Maui Cardiovascular Symposium, Maui, Hawaii

December 10-12, 2015
Colorado Heart Failure Summit: Moving Mountains Together
The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs

Stay In Touch with the ACC via Social Media

Stay in touch with the ACC and the latest clinical and advocacy news through ACC in Touch. 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 profile dedicated to advocacy-related news (@Cardiology). CardioSmart, the 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.