



Colorado
CHAPTER

1685 South Colorado Blvd. Unit S-262
Denver, CO 80222
www.coloradoacc.org
Toll Free 1-877-460-5880
COACC@aminc.org

Uncertain Times

Joseph C. Cleveland, Jr., MD, FACC
Governor, Colorado ACC

“The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart”
- Benjamin Franklin

Composing a relevant and impactful message for our chapter during the pandemic of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is as challenging as the profound changes this pandemic has created. I am personally hard pressed, upon reflection, to believe that any individual or group of individuals could predict the disruption in our lives from COVID-19. For example, could I ever imagine that the 2020 ACC/World Congress of Cardiology meeting would not exist as our traditional in-person meeting in Chicago? Absolutely not. Nor would I propose that our heart teams (inclusive of all providers of cardiovascular care) would be shifting our clinical focus towards preparing for a surge of critically ill patients. Lastly, for those providers who have been infected with the coronavirus, the experience of being ill, the degree of this illness, and the 2-week self-isolation is different than almost any health issue one has faced. During these challenging times, I think it is appropriate to ask how is the ACC responding to COVID-19 and what resources are available to our membership to help guide us through this pandemic?

The ACC has organized a superb amount of information in its COVID-19 Hub. Highlights of materials/bodies with great resources contained within the COVID-19 Hub include:

- Guidance. There are several practical documents which describe deferring non-urgent testing and procedures.
- Webinars. Two excellent webinars are posted and available for view.
- Advocacy. Recently, ACC President Richard Kovacs met with President Trump and Vice President Pence. Dr. Kovacs emphasized the need for personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 Tests.
- MedAxiom. MedAxiom has outstanding practice-based information for telehealth visits, and maintaining the CV Service Line during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Board of Governors. The BOG will meet virtually on March 27, 2020. The dialogue via email between Governors is incredibly robust. The purpose of our communications is to maintain our bi-directional communication with our respective chapter members and ACC leadership. There are some great conversations/chats in the member hub section of acc.org from various governors.

If there is any silver lining in this dark cloud of COVID-19, it is that as cardiovascular professionals, we are well prepared to deliver outstanding care to critically ill patients during challenging times. We routinely manage patients with STEMI, cardiogenic shock, acute unstable heart rhythms, etc. in our daily practice. In brief, we got this, and collectively we will rise to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this time, we truly are dependent on our cardiovascular home, the ACC to help support us in our mission to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.

“Our mission is to ensure optimal Cardiovascular health for residents of Colorado through prevention, education, quality care, and advocacy.”