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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.

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December Issue of Cardiology Magazine Focuses on Global Health

Over its 70-year history, the ACC has grown into a globally recognized organization with a reputation of being out in front on education, clinical guidelines and the latest research. The December issue of Cardiology provides a snapshot of the many ways the College and its members are working on the ground to achieve the ACC’s vision of a world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes. Among the highlights: learn more about the work of Madaktari Africa in Tanzania; find out how Women as One is addressing gender equity in cardiology; see where ACC leaders have been lending their voices and expertise to improve CV care; catch a recap of ACC International Conferences in Asia and the Middle East; get the details on ways the ACC is empowering heart failure nurses to change the global paradigm of care; and more. Read the newest issue.
New Issue of JACC: CardioOncology Highlights Latest Developments in Delivery of CV Care to Cancer Patients and Survivors

The highly anticipated second issue of JACC: CardioOncology features an impressive lineup of original research, reviews and case challenges on topics such as hypertension in cancer patients and survivors, ATTR amyloid, ischemia and bleeding in cancer patients undergoing PCI, cardiovascular prevention strategies in breast cancer and more. The issue features a State-of-the-Art Review on proceedings from the Global Cardio-Oncology Summit in Brazil, with 11 accompanying expert interview videos. In her Editor’s Page, The Impact of Mentorship, Editor-in-Chief Bonnie Ky, MD, MSCE, FACC, shares the role mentorship played in her own career. Read the full issue now. An online open access publication, the journal publishes quarterly at JACC.org/CardioOncology with contents open to the public. Don’t miss out on future content! Subscribe to Journal editorial alerts to receive new issue Table of Contents emails and notices about special content published between issues. Also, don’t miss Dr. Ky's interview with Clyde W. Yancy, MD, MACC, discussing the importance of mentorship in cardio-oncology.

JACC Leadership Page: Improving Patient Access to Medication

In a new Leadership Page published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, George A. Stouffer, MD, FACC, William B. Abernethy, MD, FACC, James P. Zidar, MD, FACC and B. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, discuss a collaboration between the North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (NCCACC) and the ACC Prevention Section in partnership with the North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NCAFCC) which was designed to improve the cardiovascular health care of the most vulnerable patients in North Carolina by providing free lipid-lowering medications and clopidogrel. Over two years, there was an increase in patients receiving medications and significant decreases in total cholesterol and LDL levels in the clinics that provided free medications. Programs like this may improve adherence and medical costs and are also a way to reach society’s most vulnerable patients. Read more.
JACC: Heart Failure Publishes Special Issue on Heart Failure in the Elderly

The December issue of JACC: Heart Failure brings together the latest research on heart failure in the elderly. Examines differences in treatment effects, treatment options, epidemiology, pathophysiology, risk factors and outcomes that are significant in the elderly population, the issue aims to grow the body of literature surrounding this important and emerging theme. “By recognizing the impactful work in this issue of JACC: Heart Failure, we hope to stimulate more research in elderly heart failure patients,” said Editor-in-Chief Christopher M. O’Connor, MD, MACC. Highlights from the issue include Mineralocorticoid Receptor Antagonists in Elderly HF Patients: Individual Patient-Data Meta-Analysis of RALES, EMPHASIS-HF and TOPCAT; Influence of Age on Efficacy and Safety of Spironolactone in Heart Failure; Cognitive Decline Over Time in Patients with Systolic Heart Failure; and Impact of Age on Comorbidities and Outcomes in Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction. Read the entire issue at HeartFailure.OnlineJACC.org and sign up for Journal publication alerts.

Advocacy:

Bipartisan Legislation Would Expand Access to CV Rehab Services

A bipartisan Senate bill introduced last month – Increasing Access to Quality Cardiac Rehabilitation Care Act of 2019 – would expand access to cardiac rehabilitation (rehab) services by allowing nonphysician practitioners to order and/or refer cardiac rehab services. In addition, it would allow advanced practice clinicians to supervise cardiac rehab services starting in 2021. Read more.

Leadership and Membership:

Join ACC’s New Online Community: ACC Member Hub

Unlock the power of your ACC network with ACC Member Hub, designed to help you connect, collaborate and create. Ask questions, share your experiences and get advice from your peers in focused interest groups. Find a mentor who can help you advance your career and connect with colleagues who can provide feedback and help you move your projects, publications and ideas forward. Join your community online at MemberHub.ACC.org or download the mobile app available in your Apple or GooglePlay stores.

Sign Up For “Microvolunteer” Opportunities

There are a lot of big ways to get involved with the College – being on a Section Leadership Council, participating on a taskforce or committee, or serving as faculty for a live course. However, not everyone has the time for some of these larger-scale commitments. That’s why the ACC has launched a Microvolunteering Platform. Sign up to be among the first to learn about quick-hit opportunities to get engaged in areas such as Advocacy, Communications, Education, Networking and Science. Your involvement, at whatever level, makes the College stronger.

AACC Designees to be Honored at Convocation in Chicago

The AACC designation was created in 2009 to recognize #ACCCVT professionals who have dedicated themselves to providing the highest-level of #CVD care. Learn more and join us for Convocation at #ACC20 #WCCardio! Learn more about the AACC designation here.
Science, Quality and Education:

New Expert Consensus Document Provides Guidance For Transcatheter MV Interventions

An updated expert consensus systems of care document provides operator and institutional recommendations and requirements for transcatheter mitral valve (MV) interventions. The document was developed by the ACC, the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and published Dec. 16 in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. Specifically, the document focuses on the overarching goal of improving patient outcomes across all transcatheter MV sites and providing guidance regarding the use of data and analyses for program assessment. Read more.

New Performance and Quality Measures For High BP Released

A new, comprehensive measure set for the diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure (BP), was released Nov. 12 and published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. Developed by the ACC and the American Heart Association, the measure set is in accordance with the 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines. All told, the set includes 22 new measures: six performance measures; six process quality measures; and 10 structural quality measures. Learn more.
Digital ACC Resources:

New Practice Made Perfect Podcast Episode Discusses Population Health

The newest episode of ACC’s Practice Made Perfect podcast is now live. Evan D. Ownby, MD, FACC, hosts ACC CEO Tim Attebery, DSc, MBA, FACHE, and Thomas M. Maddox, MD, MSc, FACC, to discuss population health, the impact on patient care and measurable outcomes. Listen now. These new set of episodes, developed by ACC’s Cardiovascular Management Section, builds on the original series and is intended to help clinicians sharpen nonclinical competencies through expert conversations and interviews on a range of career and leadership development topics. Listen to previous Practice Made Perfect episodes and see the full collection of ACC podcasts.

ACC’s Official Social Media Policy and Hashtag Guide

ACC has released its official social media policy on ACC.org – along with a handy guide to ACC’s official hashtags. Access both here.

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; share via social media; email useful content; and much more! Download the app from the iTunes App Store or get it on Google Play today.

Stay in Touch With the ACC Via Social Media -- Now on Instagram

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 -- and now, Instagram! 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 and quality-related news (@Cardiology). CardioSmart, ACC’s patient education and support program, also has patient-centered cardiovascular news available through Twitter (@CardioSmart). For more information about ACC’s social media channels, visit 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 ACC.org/WebinarsOndemand. Questions? Contact ACC Member Care at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603 or 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or resource@acc.org.
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP

11th CVT SYMPOSIUM
Click Here to reserve your room today! Cutoff date for discounted rate: Aug 13th 2020 More details to come. Location: JW Marriot Denver Cherry Creek

DEC

11-12th ANNUAL MEETING
Click Here to reserve your room today! More details to come. Location: The Broadmoor Colorado Springs.