



A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

President's Message *Paul N. Casale, MD, FACC*



Paul N. Casale, MD, FACC

As I begin my term as president of the Pennsylvania Chapter, I would first like to express my gratitude to Dan Edmundowicz for his leadership over the past 18 months. During Dan's term as president, the

Pennsylvania Chapter received the "Chapter Recognition Award" from the ACC in recognition of the Chapter's work in the areas of education, quality and communication. During his tenure we have seen the successful launch of the newly formatted annual meeting first held at Nemaocolin in 2007 and then this past month in Hershey. The most recent meeting in Hershey brought together an outstanding group of speakers, highlighting some of the clinical and research leaders from within our state. We also were provided an insightful talk by Dr. Valentin Fuster entitled "21st Century Challenge – From Treatment to Prevention of Cardiovascular Health: View from the Economists and the Epidemiologists." On the final day of the conference we had a special presentation by Dr. Alfred Bove, President-Elect of the ACC on the quality initiatives that are underway at the ACC and his vision for his year as president which he has termed the "Year of the Patient." During the conference there were sessions for the fellows in training and the cardiac care associates. Those who attended had universally positive comments about the annual meeting. Congratulations to Dr. Michael Rossi, Program Chair and the entire planning committee for a very successful conference. I encourage all of our members to attend the next annual meeting which is scheduled for October 2-4, 2009 at the Skytop Lodge in Skytop, PA. Mark your calendars!

Over the past two months, I have had the opportunity to attend the Board of Governors meeting, the ACC Legislative Conference and the ACC Medical Directors Institute Meeting. At the Board of Governors meeting in September, discussion focused on ACC's initiatives in promoting quality cardiovascular care. With a new administration coming to Washington, D.C., health care reform is high on the agenda and our patients want physicians to be involved in the process. The ACC has a long history of developing practice standards and promoting high quality cardiovascular care, and it is vital that we have the support and involvement at the grassroots level for these quality initiatives to succeed. As many of you are aware, the ACC has launched the Quality First program in its ongoing efforts in the area of continuous quality improvement and its commitment to translating science into practice. I encourage everyone to become involved by going to the website qualityfirst.acc.org and sign up to be a Quality First Ambassador.

At the Board of Governors meeting, the CardioSmart website (www.cardiosmart.org) was highlighted as an educational tool for your patients. The site includes valuable information which is easy to understand on common questions your patients have about their cardiac condition and it also has a forum for patients to share their experiences. Please check out the website and see if you think this would be a helpful resource for your patients. Other topics at the meeting were advocacy issues at the national and state level and initiatives at the College for the fellows in training and efforts to encourage cardiac care associates (CCA) to become members of the ACC. The Pennsylvania Chapter has been a leader in encouraging CCA membership throughout the state and in integrating the CCAs into the executive council. The Chapter will be holding our first conference for CCA's in May of next year at Hershey. Please encourage the CCAs in your area to attend.

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American College
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Strategic Plan 2009-2012 Pennsylvania Chapter

Paul N. Casale, MD, FACC

Prior to the start of the Annual Chapter meeting on October 31st, the Executive Council, (which includes fellows in training and cardiac care associates) and a group of past presidents of the Chapter spent several hours in a strategic planning session. The session was moderated by Helen Smith, Associate Director of Chapter Affairs at the American College of Cardiology. During the session, we reviewed the results of a recent survey sent to all of the members of the Pennsylvania Chapter asking their opinion on the role of the Chapter. We discussed the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the Chapter and we were challenged to describe a “perfect chapter.” Everyone was very engaged in the discussion and at the end of the meeting we identified three broad areas of work for the Chapter.

The first area of work is to increase our activity on member engagement. Pennsylvania is a large state which makes member communication very challenging. One of the roles of the District Councilors is to interact with our members locally, and we need volunteers from each practice to serve as representatives to bring forward their concerns to the Councilors. To improve communication within the state, we are planning to print a membership directory which will be distributed to all members. There are 268 cardiology fellows in Pennsylvania, but only a handful actively participate in Chapter activities. The fellows represent our future and it is vital that the Chapter provide them with relevant activities so they become more involved with the Chapter. Finally, the annual meeting has been very well received over the past two years, but only a minority of members takes advantage of this opportunity. We need to look for ways to enhance this meeting so that more of our members find it to be relevant to their needs.

Another area of work that the Chapter has identified is patient education. The Chapter would like to increase its activities in promoting a healthy lifestyle for Pennsylvanians through a cardiovascular health awareness campaign. The final area of work is in the area of health care system reform. As you are aware there are efforts at both the state and national level to expand health care coverage and to change the reimbursement system. The Chapter can

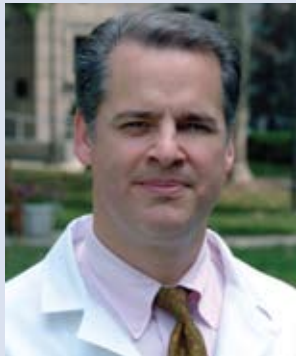


help prepare our members for these changes, assess the cardiovascular workforce needs to provide care for all Pennsylvanians, and engage our members in cardiovascular quality improvement projects. One example is the Improving Continuous Cardiac Care (IC3) registry that the ACC has developed to enhance the treatment, education and outcomes of our patients. The Chapter can be a resource for members who participate in this registry.

This brief summary does not touch on all of the topics discussed at the strategic planning meeting and some of the goals will evolve over time, but it is clear that in order for the Chapter to be successful in implementing its strategic plan, we need many volunteers from around the state to become involved. You will be hearing more from me about the strategic initiatives in the future, and if you are interested in participating in the development and implementation of any of these activities, please contact me or any member of the Executive Council.

Education/Quality of Care/ Guidelines Committee Report

Vince Figueredo, MD, FACC



Vince Figueredo, MD, FACC

The electrophysiology for the cardiology fellow conference and Bedford Springs on May 31, 2008 was a great success. Sixty two FIT's attended and gave the conference excellent ratings. Our hope is to continue this conference biannually in the future. We are under way preparing a conference for PA Cardiac Care Associates to be held at Hershey Lodge on May 1, 2009. Speakers have been selected, a save-the-date postcard has been mailed to PA CCA's, and sponsorship is being pursued. We've added two FIT's and an FIT-elect to the executive council and the educational/quality of care/guidelines committee. Their involvement has already proven beneficial with nine FIT's attending the annual Pennsylvania ACC chapter meeting from the FIT committee members respective institutions. A fellowship program director's breakfast was held at the Pennsylvania

chapter meeting to discuss how to get fellows more involved in the PaACC Chapter. Phone calls and letters to program directors will be made over the next year to discuss improving FIT attendance at the PA chapter meeting as well as increasing their involvement in the PA chapter.

CCA National Liaison Report

Tina Davis, CRNP, Tmdavis.ddc@comcast.net



Tina Davis, CRNP

Proud, challenged and energized are just a few of the emotions I am experiencing this fall as a result of changes for CCAs on the local and national level in 2008.

Proud: I am proud to be a part of a national and local organization that recognizes CCAs as an integral part of the ACC. This year we have seen some paramount changes for increasing CCA involvement in the ACC. The first category where change has been implemented is elections. 2008 is the first year CCAs were given the opportunity to nominate and elect state CCA liaisons. In addition, locally we were given the ability to vote for our state's governor. Sponsorship for CCA membership has changed as well. The decision was made to modify the sponsorship requirements allowing CCAs to recruit and sponsor other CCAs for membership. Therefore, it is no longer necessary to have FACC sponsorship although we are very

appreciative of FACC'S support thus far. On the national level, CCAs now have representation on the Board of Governors as an "Ex Officio" board member. Furthermore, in October of this year, national offered a new CCA program entitled the "Foundation for Practice Excellence". Also, you will find more assistance on the national website for pertaining to CE/CME resource toolkits for ACCF accreditation, available at http://www.acc.org/education/cme_ce_training, and online career opportunities at <http://www.healthcareers.com>. Finally, returning to the local scene, I am proud that our national president-elect is our own Pennsylvania representative, the distinguished Dr. Alfred Bove.

Challenged: Challenged is how I feel after attending the PaACC chapter conference at Hotel Hershey. The meeting started a day early for the leadership who attended a strategic planning session for the purpose of developing a 3-5 year proposal for our local chapter. Present and past councilors, CCAs and FITs attended the 5+ hour meeting to give direction in meeting the needs of our PaACC constituency and clients. Three initiatives were

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The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

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**The Pennsylvania
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Fellows Corner: PaACC and You, the Cardiology Fellow

Andrew M. Freeman, MD, PaACC FIT Executive Council Member

Andrew@DocAndrew.com



Andrew M. Freeman, MD

As you know, the PaACC just appointed three new fellows as PaACC fellows-in-training (FITs) to the executive council. The idea behind this decision was to ensure the fellows' collective voices were heard at the state

level. With the appointment of Dr. Daniel Duffy and me, as well as a fellow representative-elect, Dr. Oluseun Alli, our job is to make sure that PaACC represents your concerns, and adequately voices the issues relevant to fellows.

In May, we had a fellows-only event to help us pass the EP sections of the general cardiology boards in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania. We had almost 100 fellows from training programs all over the state in a gorgeous resort in central Pennsylvania. We hope to have at least an annual (or perhaps even more frequent) fellows' education/social event – and we hope to see you at the next one!

By the time you read this, PaACC's Annual Chapter Meeting in Hershey, PA will be over. This year, there will be an amazing panel of experts who will lecture including ACC President-Elect Dr. Fred Bove, ASNC President Dr. William Van Decker, Dr. Valentin Fuster, and many more world-famous cardiologists.

This year, there will even be a special focus on Fellows-In-Training. Mr. Vasilios Kalogredis, JD will be speaking about negotiating and understanding your employment contract. As you probably can guess, as the newbie out of training, there's a lot to be concerned about. One of those concerns is where you're going to work, and another will be the terms of your employment contract. Knowing what each of the clauses and stipulations mean is just one component of getting the best possible contract.

Mr. Kalogredis will help to make things clear – and perhaps a few tips from this session will help you avoid common pitfalls and dangerous contracts.

As your fellow representatives, we aim to get the events and people you want to see and hear. We want to be able to represent your issues – from training and education, financial, business, and social to the PaACC at large. Please send your comments and suggestions to us via email or via the web site below.

We keep an up-to-date web page containing all of the programming and educational updates for FITs at <http://www.pcacc.org/aboutus/aboutus2.html>

Be sure to check it out!

New ACC Registry Meets Requirements for PQRI

Paul N. Casale, MD, FACC

Over the past two months, I've been involved in an effort that will improve the way we practice cardiology by working with the American College of Cardiology Foundation to shape a national Quality Improvement (QI) initiative called the IC³Program[®] that's designed to help you thrive in a performance-based health care system. IC³ stands for "Improving Continuous Cardiac Care," which is something we all strive for in our daily practice.

Maybe you've heard about it. Now, I'm asking you to become a part of it.

The IC³ Program is designed to prepare clinicians to thrive in an outcomes-based reimbursement environment through the systematic practice, assessment and improvement of quality. *The IC³ Program makes it easier to apply the most current evidence-based care to your patients every time.* The program is adaptable and right-sized for your

practice with QI tools for all your team members, options for data collection that match your practice's readiness, and decision support at the point of care delivery. In addition, if you choose the optional registry component, you can use your data within your practice for internal QI and feedback to team members, and confidential benchmarking to other practices. You may also choose to submit data to external sources for pay-for-performance or PQRI participation in 2009.

There is no cost to your practice to participate in the IC³ Program due to generous sponsorship by the Bristol-Myers Squibb/Sanofi Pharmaceuticals Partnership. Participation is open to practices caring for patients with cardiovascular disease, including internal medicine, family practice, and multispecialty groups.

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PaACC Supports Adult Congenital Heart Association's Lobby Day in February 2009

For the third time, the ACC will be collaborating with the Adult Congenital Heart Association to host a Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Lobby Day. The event is scheduled for February 10, 2009, in Washington, DC. It is expected that nearly 30 ACC members will join forces with nearly 100 congenital heart disease patients and their family members to advocate for increased funding in research and education for congenital heart disease. Congenital heart disease is America's leading birth defect and nearly 2 million CHD patients have survived into adulthood. To support these efforts which will directly benefit quality and access of care of CHD patients, the Pennsylvania Chapter will provide a \$6,000 grant to support travel awards of ACC members and a reception at Heart House on February 9 to welcome participating ACC members, families and patients.

The CHD Lobby Day is an initiative under ACC's Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology Section, which has a membership of more than 1,200 congenital and pediatric cardiologists, surgeons and nurses. For more information on CHD Lobby Day or the ACPC Section, please contact Stephanie Mitchell, smitchel@acc.org.

The Adult Congenital Heart Association based in Philadelphia is a non-profit association which seeks to improve the quality of life and extend the lives of adults with congenital heart defects. Through education, outreach, advocacy and promotion of research, ACHA serves and supports the adults with congenital heart defects, their families, and the medical community.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Committees

Nominating Committee

Paul N. Casale, MD, FACC
Lancaster

Daniel Edmundowicz, MD, FACC
Pittsburgh

Steven M. Ettinger, MD, FACC
Hershey

A.J. Conrad Smith, MD, FACC
Pittsburgh

Samuel R. Ward, MD, FACC
Erie

Marc A. Tecce, MD, FACC
Philadelphia

Rene Alvarez, Jr., MD, FACC
Pittsburgh

2008 Chapter Meeting Planning Committee

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Andrew R. Waxler, MD, FACC – Finance
Sub-Chair
Reading

Samuel R. Ward, MD, FACC
Erie

Donna Petrucci, CRNP
Allentown

Marc A. Tecce, MD, FACC
Philadelphia

Rene Alvarez, Jr., MD, FACC
Pittsburgh

David L. Scher, MD, FACC
Harrisburg

Victor A. Ferrari, MD, FACC
Philadelphia

Paul N. Casale, MD, FACC
Lancaster

Daniel Edmundowicz, MD, FACC
Pittsburgh

**The Pennsylvania
Chapter of the
American College
of Cardiology**

Committees

Payer Relations Committee

Ancil A. Jones, MD, FACC – Chair
Chester

Dennis L. Morris, MD, FACC
Philadelphia

James C. Blankenship, MD, FACC
Danville

Bindukumar C. Kansupada, MD, FACC
Langhorne

Donald C. Durbeck, MD, FACC
Harrisburg

David L. Scher, MD, FACC
Harrisburg

Samuel R. Ward, MD, FACC
Erie

Highlights from the Meeting



Welcome Reception at Hersheypark

Chapter Awards:

2008 Distinguished Service Award



Daniel Edmundowicz, MD

Daniel Edmundowicz, MD, FACC was honored for exceptional dedication and service to the members, committees, council and staff of the Pennsylvania Chapter, American College of Cardiology during his term as Chapter

President, March 2007-September 2008. Congratulations and job well done Dr. Edmundowicz.

2008 Special Achievement Award



John U. Doherty, MD, FACC

John U. Doherty, MD, FACC was recognized for his exceptional and outstanding support of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology during his term as Annual Chapter Meeting Planning

Committee Chair. Under his direction the chapter successfully moved to a multiple day meeting in a family friendly location with highly regarded speakers and topics relevant to all types of chapter members. Congratulations to Dr. Doherty.

2008 Annual Chapter in Hershey

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Committees

Educational/Quality of Care/ Guidelines Committee

Vincent Figueredo, MD, FACC – Chair
Philadelphia

Tina M. Davis, CRNP
Lancaster

Daniel Edmundowicz, MD, FACC
Pittsburgh

Paul N. Casale, MD, FACC
Lancaster

Gary S. Ledley, MD, FACC
Philadelphia

Agustus Beck, MD
Philadelphia

Jamshid Shirani, MD, FACC, FAHA
Danville

Gregg Pressman, MD, FACC
Philadelphia

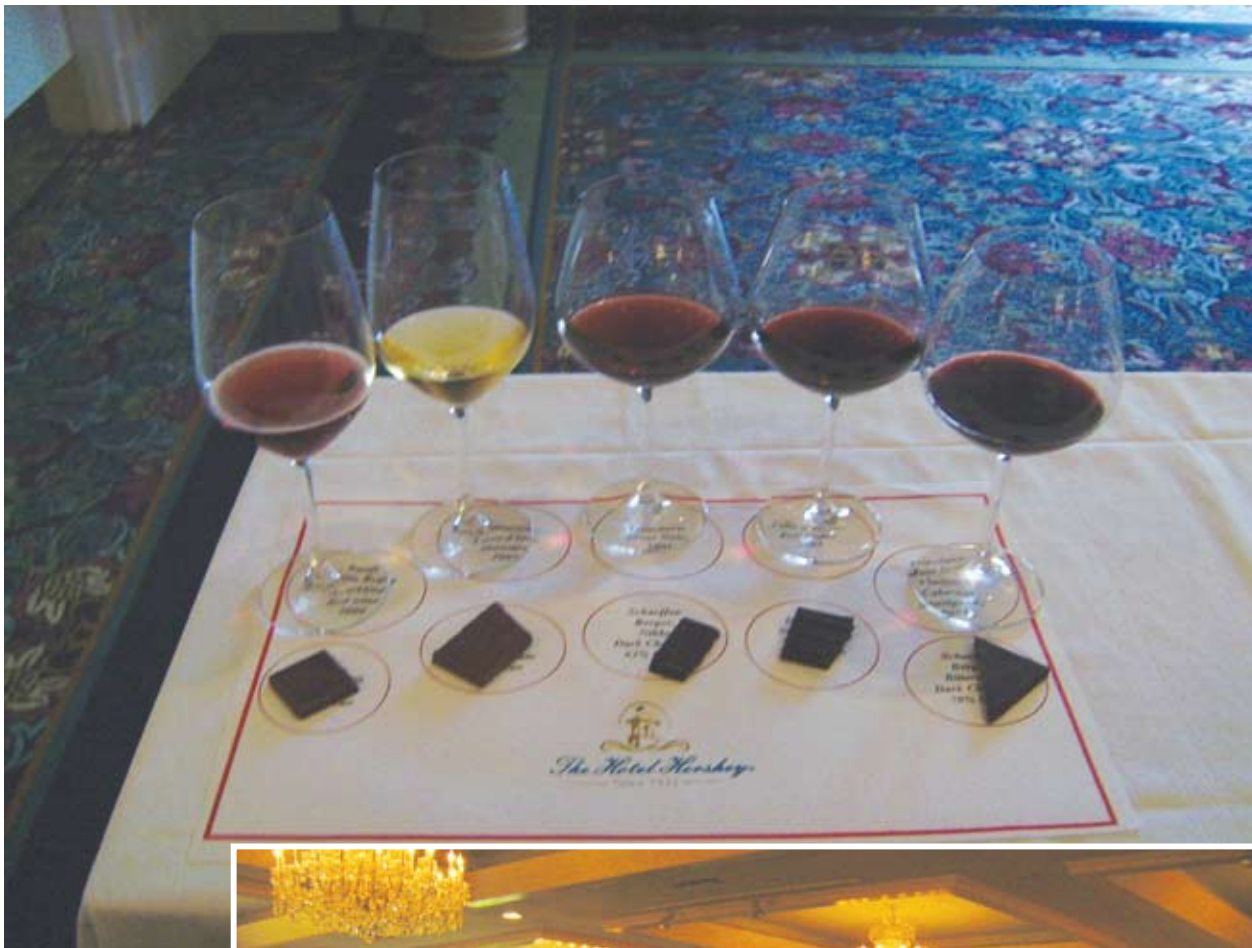
Larry Jacobs, MD, FACC
Allentown

Tammy P. Outly, CRNP
Pittsburgh

Andrew Freeman, MD
Philadelphia

Danielle Duffy, MD
Philadelphia

Oluseun Olukayode Alli, MD
Philadelphia



Wine and Chocolate Pairing — The heart healthy types of course!

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Committees

Government Relations Committee

Steven M. Ettinger, MD, FACC – Chair
Hershey

Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, FACC
Erie

Paul Coady, MD, FACC
Wynnewood

Jonathan Gold, MD, FACC
Langhorne

Lee Konecke, MD, FACC
Blue Bell

Charles Laubach, Jr., MD, FACC
Danville

James Lynch, MD, FACC
West Reading

Gerald Naccarelli, MD, FACC
Hershey

Thomas Phiambolis, MD, FACC
Darby

Michael A. Rossi, MD, FACC
Allentown

Richard Schott, MD, FACC
Wallingford

Practice Administrators Welcomed as ACC Members

We are happy to announce that ACC has recently added a Practice Administrator membership type. These ACC members will also automatically be included as chapter members.

Practice Administrators were approved for the new membership type by the Credentialing and Membership Committee and ACC has exceeded a modest initial goal for 2008 with a current number of 62 such members.

Benefits for Practice Administrators include the following:

- Cardiovascular medicine's news and developments through online Cardiosource - the premier clinical resource in the field, the online Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Cardiology magazine, and a dedicated practice management website.
- ONLINE access to JACC, CRJ, Cardiosource. E-delivery of Advocacy Weekly, Lewin Report
- Cardiology Careers online in partnership with HealthCareers, the one-stop solution for all your practice's job recruitment needs.
- Practice guidelines and quality standards for cardiovascular medicine.

- Professional meeting discounts for ACC Annual Scientific Sessions, including the ACC practice management programs; and the Advanced Cardiology Leadership Workshop in partnership with MedAxiom.
- Workforce information on physician supply and demand, and team-based care.
- Advocacy and reimbursement news directly affecting cardiology practices.
- Leadership opportunities to bring practice administrator perspectives to ACC initiatives
- Online SharePoint Community for practice managers to engage colleagues in discussions pertinent to current practice-based management issues

As a joining incentive, new 2008 Practice Administrators have an extended initial membership term through the end of 2009.

If you have any questions about the Practice Administrators please contact Pat Miyamoto (pmiyamot@acc.org).

State Society Pledges to Keep Fighting for Mcare

Provided by the Pennsylvania Medical Society

The Pennsylvania Medical Society continues to work "tirelessly and aggressively" for Mcare relief, according to outgoing President Peter S. Lund, MD.

"We have worked so hard to make Pennsylvania a good place to practice medicine and to get medical care. We can't let that slip away," Dr. Lund said in his "State of the State" speech at the Society's House of Delegates meeting Oct. 25, 2008, in Hershey.

Dr. Lund added that retention and recruitment of young physicians will be more difficult without Mcare abatement, a "price our patients will pay."

The State Society's Board of Trustees has asked the state Insurance Commissioner to use the current Mcare Fund surplus to reduce physicians' 2009 Mcare assessments, which are set at 19 percent. The surplus exists because the 2008 assessment collected more revenue than was needed to pay the Fund's claims and expenses this year.

Mcare abatement has not extended for 2008 because Gov. Ed Rendell and Senate Republicans could not come to an agreement on the issue, which the governor had tied to expansion of health insurance coverage for the uninsured.

The Medical Society worked hard for Mcare relief but was caught in this political impasse because, Dr. Lund said, "The business of politics doesn't follow the logic of medicine."

"It was not as much about the details of a three-year versus a five-year deal; it was more about not being the first one to blink," he added.

Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates Summary

David Scher, MD, FACC represented cardiology at the October Pennsylvania Medical Society's House of Delegates meeting in Hershey.

A summary provided by the Pennsylvania Medical Society follows:

Medical liability, HIV testing, and emergency department overcrowding were among the issues debated by nearly 300 physicians and medical students at the Pennsylvania Medical Society's House of Delegates meeting.

The House sets the Society's annual policy directions for political, medical practice, and patient care advocacy.

Delegates considered approximately 50 resolutions during the two-day meeting held Oct. 25 and Oct. 26, 2008, in Hershey. Some resolutions adopted by the House include:

- Opening the state's prescription drug database to access by physicians
- Eliminating written consent for HIV/AIDS testing while alerting the public to the serious threat of HIV and the need to broaden testing
- Prohibiting use of cell phones by drivers
- Pursuing reimbursement for extended physician visits with patients

- Increasing reimbursement for purchasing, administering, and storing vaccines
- Pursuing comparable reimbursement for psychiatrists
- Studying private insurers' fee schedules for physicians in nearby states to help the Society lobby for increased reimbursement in Pennsylvania
- Optimizing hospital and emergency department patient flow to alleviate overcrowding
- Ensuring that volunteer physicians have adequate medical liability insurance coverage

More than a dozen resolutions were sent to the Society's Board of Trustees for study, including two measures dealing with medical liability. The resolutions would examine how to improve the medical practice climate in Pennsylvania and the Society's support of phase out of the Mcare Fund.

Resolutions that were adopted at the meeting will be assigned to the Society's various councils, commissions, and committees for implementation during the coming year.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Committees

CCA Planning Committee

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Philadelphia

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www.pcacc.org

PaACC Chapter Membership Directory

Will your information be correct?

The Chapter plans to produce a printed membership directory in the first quarter of 2009. As a PaACC member, your information--name, practice address, phone number, fax, email and subspecialty will be downloaded from the College's ACC membership database. If you want to make sure we publish your most recent information, please go to the Chapter website sometime in December and follow the simple instructions for updating your ACC Member Profile. If you can't remember your ACC user name and password, they even have instructions on where to call to get started (ACC Resource Center at 800-253-4636, x5603, or email resource@acc.org).



Pennsylvania CHAPTER

SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE
ANNUAL CHAPTER
MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2009 –
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009
SKYTOP LODGE
SKYTOP, PA

Visit our website often
for meeting updates
www.pcacc.org

CCA National Liaison *continued from page 3*

set forth including enhancing membership involvement through communication and education, developing a patient campaign for promoting cardiovascular health and assisting ACC members in health care reform on a regional level. Again, it was both a pleasure and a challenge to be involved in a committee that included CCA liaisons in the strategic planning session and empowers us with the ability to promote CCA growth. The national initiatives are very similar and challenging in promoting CCA growth and involvement through more communication, committee participation and educational programs.

Energized: The Pa ACC chapter meeting left me energized on many levels. Overall, the educational presentations were comprehensive, providing sound information and recommendations on current healthcare issues and clinical practice. The CCA breakout sessions were equally informative and relevant to clinical practice. Joan Zhang presented on “Pulmonary Hypertension” and Joyce Ross educated on “Mixed Dyslipidemia.” The sessions were well attended and CCA members were provided a chance to network with other members. All that work still left time for play at the beautiful Hotel Hershey and Hersheypark. Families enjoyed the Friday evening reception with food, trick or treating for the young folks and amusement rides for all. Saturday included enjoying the facilities, indulging in a session on wine and chocolate pairing and finishing the night with a murder mystery dinner. There was plenty of time for networking with CCAs, FITs and FACCs. The experience left me energized and looking forward to recruiting peers to be involved in an organization that supports CCAs, encourages involvement at the local and national level and recognizes CCAs as an integral part of the initiatives for the future of the Pennsylvania and national chapter of ACC.

Now, I challenge you to become involved in an organization that will make you proud and energize you with the tools to promote your career as a CCA!

President's Message

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The Board of Governors meeting was followed by the Legislative Conference which is always an important opportunity to engage our congressional representatives on the concerns of the cardiology community as it relates to our current health care system. As you are aware, further cuts in Medicare reimbursement are looming and the issue of cardiovascular imaging continues to be in the forefront as it is considered by many to be a significant driver of increasing health care costs. The ACC Political Action Committee (PAC) continues to use the contributions of ACC members to address these issues with the legislators and I would encourage everyone to contribute to the ACC PAC. As President-Elect Obama plans for his inauguration, the ACC will continue to advocate for high quality cardiovascular care for all Americans.

Two weeks ago, I attended the ACC Medical Directors Institute (MDI) meeting in Washington, D.C., chaired by Dr. Joseph Caccione, past president of our chapter. I had the privilege of serving as Co-Chair for the meeting. ACC started the MDI in 2002 to create a forum for collaboration among the various stakeholders involved in our health care delivery system. This year's meeting brought together ACC members, payers, patient advocacy groups, and leaders from governmental agencies and non-profit organizations interested in health

care delivery to focus on the topic of efficiency. Many organizations have raised concerns regarding inappropriate, wasteful or fragmented care and are looking for methods to measure physicians' ability to provide efficient care. The conference began with a keynote address by Dr. David Wennberg on "Unwarranted Variation in Cardiovascular Care" and was followed by a day and a half of active participation by all attendees to identify areas where the ACC can work with other organizations in developing the tools used for measuring efficiency. As Dr. Dan Edmundowicz mentioned in one of the previous Chapter newsletters, "the fact that we will be measured is no longer a matter of debate." The Pennsylvania Chapter will continue to engage the payers and other organizations on the issue of efficiency measurement and I invite any members who are interested in participating in these efforts to contact me.

As I begin my term as President of the Chapter, one of my goals is to build on the strong foundation of our ACC Chapter by increasing member participation. I recognize that we all lead very busy lives, with many demands on our time, but it is clear that the transformation of our healthcare system is an urgent priority and it is critical for physicians to be involved in the process. We will always advocate for providing the highest quality cardiovascular care for our patients. I encourage you to contact me or anyone on the Executive Council and get involved because our success depends on your participation.

New ACC Registry

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The one-page IC³ Program Participant Agreement is available from our website www.pcacc.org and can be completed by any member of your office staff who will then become the primary contact for all correspondence. We have also posted a sample copy of the Data Collection Form for the optional benchmarking program.

For practices ready to begin data collection, you'll need to complete a registry contract in order to preserve protected health information (HIPAA). For more information and to receive a copy of the full registry contract, please contact ACCF at 800-257-4737.

The IC³ Program is designed to assist your practice in consistently performing at the high level you seek and to prepare you

for reimbursement and recognition models that are based on that performance. I urge you to go to the IC³ Program Web site at www.improvingcardiacare.org and learn more about the program. Once you sign your Participant Agreement, the program staff will contact you to let you know about the resources and tools coming your way.

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology Foundation, I commend your dedication to improving patient care and look forward to working with you. And if you have any questions, please call me.

Websites Referenced In This Issue of Heat of the Matter

PaACC website	www.pcacc.org
Quality First Program website	www.qualityfirst.acc.org
CardioSmart website	www.cardiosmart.org
CE/CME resource toolkits for ACCF accreditation	www.acc.org/education/cme_ce_training
Online career opportunities	www.healthcareers.com
Programming and educational updates for FITs	www.pcacc.org/aboutus/aboutus2.html
IC ³ Program website	www.improvingcardiacare.org



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Save *the* Date

2009 PaACC Cardiac Care
Associates Educational Conference

May 1, 2009
Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania
www.pcacc.org



**Don't miss this opportunity for networking
and quality education on relevant topics.**



Make Your Reservations Early!

A limited block of rooms are being held at the Hershey Lodge. Call the hotel directly at (800) 533-3131, identify yourself as part of the PaACC CCA group.

Hotel Accommodations - Deadline March 29, 2009

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, April 30th
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Welcome Reception

Friday, May 1st
8:00 – 9:00 am
Registration & Breakfast
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
General Session*
*Lunch and Breaks provided

**And enjoy the many other activities
available in the Hershey area:**

- The Chocolate Spa
- Hershey Museum
- Chocolate World
- The Outlets at Hershey