

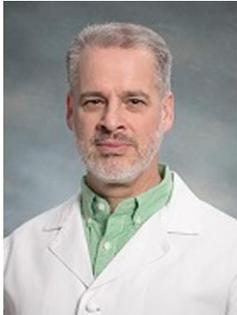


Pennsylvania  
CHAPTER

# Heart of the Matter

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

## A Message from Your PaACC President



**Vincent Figueredo, MD, FACC:** There is a lot going on at the ACC, both at the national level, and here in Pennsylvania.

On the chapter level, our FIT members of the PaACC Executive Council initiated the Humans of Cardiology project. Already successful, they have expanded Humans of Cardiology to include all PaACC members. You can find past stories and submit your own, anonymously if you prefer, on the [website](#). We are also expanding our social media presence to reach more members.

Nationally, the College is currently focusing on four initiatives which the Pennsylvania ACC chapter supports:

**Diversity and Inclusion:** We are taking this seriously in the Pennsylvania Chapter. Our PaACC Women in Cardiology (WIC) held a meeting at the national ACC Scientific Sessions in Orlando recently. We are proud to be practicing diversity and inclusion by have our incoming western governor, Dr. Katie Berlacher, a new head of WIC, Dr. Ritu Thamman, and a new FIT representative, Dr. Aditi Kalla, joining our executive team.

The ACC's official hashtag content related to diversity and inclusion in cardiology is #TheFaceOfCardiology. Be sure to tag any photos, articles, commentary, etc. that relates back to diversity and inclusion in cardiology with that specific hashtag.

**Prior Authorization Reform:** This is a giant topic for the PaACC. Our advocacy team, incoming eastern governor, Dr. Andy Waxler, and Dr. Bill van Decker, have been doggedly leading the charge on a prior auth bill in the PA House. We are building a national database to demonstrate the problems with the current approval/denial system. We need PA represented. You too can help, by recording denials on the [ACC PARTool site](#). I have my group participating.

**Support of the CV Enterprise:** Nonclinical competencies and the business of medicine are a growing area of interest for the College. The College is working on innovative solutions to our members' needs. More to come on videos and materials that help us navigate the new value-based healthcare landscape. The PaACC will keep you apprised as educational materials come available from the College.

**MOC/SAP:** Quoting the new president of the ACC Board of Governors, Dr. Andy Miller: "MOC: those three letters raise more ire in our members than any other topic. We now have an answer, three more letters: SAP (Self-Assessment Program). While there is still a long path here, there is hope that our four-

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year voyage has an end in the future. More to come in late May.”

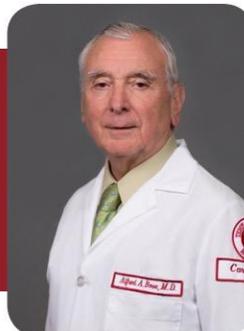
I thought I would end reminding all of the Mission and Vision of the College:

**ACC Mission:** To transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health

**ACC Vision:** A world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes

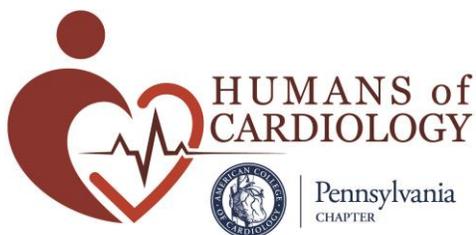
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The PaACC wants to congratulate  
*Alfred Bove, MD, MACC*  
ON HIS RETIREMENT!



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## Humans of Cardiology is Now Open to All PaACC Members!



Originally created for FITs, Humans of Cardiology is an opportunity for PaACC members to share motivating stories about their personal and professional lives and was inspired by the wildly popular Humans of New York series. These stories will showcase the compassion shown, as well as the hardships and triumphs members go through, as medical professionals. Our goal is to connect our members via these posts and reveal the uniqueness of our field through testimonials from our community. Submit a Humans of Cardiology story now to be featured in

an upcoming post!

To view past issues, [visit the Humans of Cardiology page](#) of our website.

To submit your own story, [fill out this form](#).

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## Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers Program at Big Sky 2018

Roy Sriwattanakomen, MD, Second Year Chief Cardiology Education Fellow at UPMC attended the 3T (Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers) Program at Big Sky Cardiovascular Update in Big Sky, Montana.

As we progress in our careers, the experience we gain as clinicians, and the support we receive from our institutions to conduct research, form the pillars of an academic career. Often lost in this training is the third pillar of the proverbial “triple threat”—the ability to teach effectively.

In February 2018, with the generous support of the PaACC and against the backdrop of Big Sky, Montana, I was immersed in a weeklong course that taught me the essential skills that would allow me to train the physicians of the future. The **Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers (3T)** course, constructed and led by a brilliant and tireless group of fellows and young attending cardiologists, **Shashank Sinha, Craig Alpert, Mike Cullen, and Marty Tam**, paired me with 15 other co-fellows in order to develop the skills for presenting educational content, speaking effectively, and providing feedback. Steeped in adult learning theory, but translated into activities such as microteaching, mentored case presentations and education seminars with preeminent faculty, the course developed my competence and confidence in imparting knowledge while also introducing me to a network of clinician-educators who have quickly

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become colleagues and friends.

The program was mentored by **Kim Eagle** and **Patrick O’Gara**. Witnessing the skill with which these legends in cardiology lectured reminded me that the process of becoming an outstanding teacher is an effortful one that requires not only a masterful knowledge base, but a constant awareness of the teacher-learner dynamic.

I would like to thank the PaACC organization for this invaluable experience and its commitment to medical education. Thinking back on my training thus far, those who have taught me the most and molded my own clinical competence have had an ability to translate critical knowledge and key concepts in a manner that has stuck with me throughout the years. Although some may be imbued with this gift, I believe it is something that can be taught as well. My hope is that future generations of clinical educators are able to replace rote powerpoint presentations and ineffective communication that leaves learners frustrated into engagement and retention. I am excited to use these skills throughout my career and to assist in the educational endeavors of the PaACC.

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## PaACC FIT Meeting Recap



The Western PA FIT Winter event was a huge success! Dr. Jeffrey Fowler from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center spoke to a group of 30 fellows from western Pennsylvania during dinner at Soba Restaurant in Pittsburgh that was only possible with the generous support of PaACC. Dr. Fowler delivered an excellent talk on mechanical circulatory support in cardiogenic shock and an update on current revascularization strategies for patients presenting with cardiogenic shock.

The event took place on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9pm. The PaACC sponsored meetings are unbiased educational venues that, besides the invaluable educational value, are the only chance for FITs from different training programs in Western PA to meet and socialize. The Western PA FIT Spring event will take place in May.

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## PaACC Women In Cardiology (WIC) Update

The PaACC is proud to celebrate 2018 being named the Year of the Woman by having an active WIC section.

Over 40 Women in Cardiology (WIC), Fellows-in-Training (FITs), medical and college students attended an event on February 22, 2018 at Phipps Conservatory. With a focus on women’s heart health, the dinner event included CME with 3 speakers, including PaACC WIC Representative, Ritu Thamman, FACC, FASE. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette [covered the event](#). The success of this WIC event has prompted planning a second event to be held in the Eastern part of PA in the fall 2018.

At ACC.18, fifteen female cardiologists from around Pennsylvania shared their stories at the PaACC WIC networking mixer in Orlando, Florida. FITs mingled with each other and conversed about topics ranging from interesting clinical cases to fellowship training opportunities to personal hobbies. Faculty from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh offered advice and mentorship support to FITs from across all institutions.

During the second half of the mixer, attendees discussed ways to become involved with the PaACC chapter and future directions for the WIC section. A few short-term goals for the section include holding

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a WIC professional development event in eastern Pennsylvania within the next 6 months and promoting educational and advocacy efforts for women in medicine among female and male cardiologists.

We welcome all feedback and is excited to engage with PaACC members from across Pennsylvania. Please send your thoughts about WIC section programming to Ritu Thamman ([RIT9@pitt.edu](mailto:RIT9@pitt.edu)), Nosheen Reza ([nosheen.reza@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:nosheen.reza@uphs.upenn.edu)), or the PaACC staff ([staff@pcacc.org](mailto:staff@pcacc.org)).

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## PaACC is now on Instagram!

In the past few months, the PaACC has increased and improved their social media presence! Most notably, we created an Instagram page to highlight PaACC Member's attendance at PaACC and ACC events. We will also be using our Instagram page to push out educational infographics. If you are attending an event or seeing a great graphic that you think the other PaACC members should see, send it to [staff@pcacc.org](mailto:staff@pcacc.org)!

We also created a LinkedIn page and continue to use Twitter and Facebook.

Help us grow and follow us on social media!



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## Population Health Task Force Update

The PaACC has been active in the area of population health. Every day that we walk into our offices, we recognize only too well that, while our cardiovascular community has made great strides, heart disease continues to be the number one cause of death in the United States and in the world. With an aging population, increasing obesity, prevalent smoking, and poor dietary habits, there is an urgent need to shift the paradigm from treatment to prevention. But, to understand this more, we must first have a clear sense as to where the opportunities exist.

PaACC Population Health Task Force leader, Suresh Mulukutla, MD, FACC, [explains how the PaACC has been actively analyzing data](#) from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) with the help of a grant to the PaACC from the ACC.

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## CVT Liaison Update



Following her attendance at ACC.18, Christine Kindler, PA-C, [gives an update](#) on the CVT meetings at ACC.18 and updates on 2018 PaACC CVT membership and AACC credentialing.



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### **Meet Your Western CVT Liaison Elect – Karen A. Tarolli, MSN, ACNP-BC, CHFNI!**

Karen is an acute care nurse practitioner with 23 years of experience working with patient's diagnosed with heart failure. She is an active member in the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses serving both on the publication committee in the past, and currently serving on the research committee. She was a member of the first group of nurses who passed the certified heart failure nurse (CHFNI) certification exam in 2011. This certification demonstrates specialized knowledge and skill in the care of the heart failure patient across the continuum. This group of nurses certified in heart failure serve as a role model and demonstrate a professional commitment to ensuring evidence-based quality of care. She has several publications in heart failure, wrote a chapter in the study guide for those taking the CHFNI exam, and has written patient teaching education that can be accessed on the AAHFNI website. She was recruited to the VA from UPMC Health System, and is the nurse practitioner with the CHF/Advanced Heart Failure Management Service.

### **Meet Your Eastern CVT Liaison Elect – Elaine Strohl, PA-C, AACC!**

Elaine has been a physician assistant in cardiology since 2003. She became an Associate of the American College of Cardiology in 2011. She is employed by a private cardiology practice where she cares for both inpatients and outpatients.

She has been an active member of the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants. She served as a member of the Public Relations and Education Committee for over ten years. She was the Chairperson for the Annual Charity Sub-committee in 2014. In this role, she helped to raise over \$12,000 for Leg Up Farm, a unique facility in York, PA that provides services for children with special needs.

She has taught cardiology lectures at SALUS University. She has provided expert witness testimony in the field of cardiology. She has been a member of the American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Team (CVT) section since 2011. She has been a board-certified physician assistant in Pennsylvania since 2002.

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## **PaACC Partnered Events**

**To increase access to educational opportunities for our members, the PaACC invites CME accredited cardiovascular conferences in and around Pennsylvania to apply for partnership.**

Organizations planning and hosting cardiovascular focused meetings primarily attended by members of the cardiovascular care team will be given special consideration. PaACC accepts [Partnered Event applications](#) for both [simple and grant-in-aid partnerships](#) for PA cardiovascular conferences.

**Looking to attend a Partnered Event? [Check out the complete 2018 partnered meetings schedule](#) and watch your inbox in the coming months for registration information!**

### **CVI's 14th Annual Update in Nuclear Cardiology**

**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing

Sponsored by: Cardiovascular Institute of Philadelphia

**4th Annual Current Issues in Coronary and Structural Heart Disease**

**Friday, May 18, 2018**

Campus of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA

Sponsored by: Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University

**Lebanon Valley Cardiology Symposium 2018**

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**

HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, Lebanon, PA

Sponsored by: Wellspan Good Samaritan Hospital