The Heart of Washington WINTER 2008

Our mission: ***To improve Cardiovascular health for residents of Washington State through education, care, and advocacy.***

What Does Our Washington Membership Look Like?

Our membership has grown this year!! We now have 540 members, and consist of:

381 Full Fellows (71%) 72 Associate Fellows (13%) 63 Cardiac Care Associates (12%)
23 Fellows In Training (4%) 1 Master

Ages of the membership range from 27 to 89, with the average age 53 years old.
83% of the membership is male. ***Together we offer a wide range of experience and the common bond of concern for quality patient care.***

Electronic Prescribing Outreach Program

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, changes to the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), will require that all computer generated prescriptions for Part D patients comply with the NCPDP Script standard which means they must be transmitted electronically and not via fax. Over 100,000 prescribers use EMR, e-prescribing and lab order systems that could connect with pharmacy computers but don't. Even if practices think they're e-prescribing, they may be sending prescriptions to pharmacies by fax.

ACC is launching an outreach program in conjunction with number of medical specialty societies. Visit www.getrxconnected.com to complete a short assessment. Practices will then receive a free Practice Readiness Report that will confirm if your EMR, e-prescribing application or lab order system is able to connect to the pharmacy electronically. If you don't use this type of technology, you'll receive a free technology guide to help get started.

What's New?

- National Sections. ACC has added the "Women In Cardiology", "Interventional" and "Adult Congenital & Pediatric" Sections. For just $35 you'll receive special data and notifications for special programs. E-Mail sbailes@acc.org for more information
- Our first awesome Cardiac Care Associate educational symposium is being planned for Seattle September 20th! Mark your calendars!

State Advocacy Outlook

During the short session of 2008, there weren't any bills introduced into the Legislature that would directly impact your practice. Hence, the WA ACC decided against holding our Annual "Olympia Day". However, we are aware of several bills that will be dropped in the next session that if passed, will impact the majority of our members' practices.

We hope that you will consider participating in our 2009 Olympia Day – date will be determined when the Legislature set their schedule in late Fall.

See you in Olympia!!

Congress is poised to make decisions that will have a profound impact on the way we practice medicine. By actively cultivating relationships with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., cardiovascular specialists can influence members of Congress as they debate performance measurement, health information technology (HIT), and Medicare physician payment. Another issue of concern to Congress is payment for medical imaging services, and you are in a unique position to help us work with Congress on this issue.

The American College of Cardiology is currently looking for members who have a personal or professional relationship with Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA). Representative McDermott is a key player in regard to the medical imaging debate due to his appointment to the House Ways and Means Committee which has purview over payment for medical imaging services.

If you or one of your colleagues has a personal relationship with Representative McDermott, please contact Molly Nichelson at (202) 375-6470 or at mnichels@ acc.org. Thank you for your taking time out of your busy schedule to deliver cardiology's message to lawmakers!

Coming To Chicago?
You're Invited to the ACC All Chapter Reception 2008

We invite you to attend the reception in honor of you and your Chapter's important work, and bring all of ACC's great Chapters together in celebration!

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30, 2008 International Ballroom Chicago Hilton

The ACC and the Washington Chapter are honored to invite you to this reception, which is hosted by the ACC and supported by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. We look forward to seeing you at the ACC All Chapter Reception!

Boehringer Ingelheim