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Dear WA ACC Members,

I hope all of you enjoyed this great summer with your family and friends. I wanted to share major progress made by ACC on ABIM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements and updates on our state advocacy efforts.

MOC Update

After several long, grueling years of back and forth, the ACC has signed an agreement with the ABIM to create an alternative pathway for recertification. Instead of a 10-year exam requirement, the ACC will create a 5-year self-assessment program (SAP) that can be used to meet MOC. You will be able to take this program from your home and a single module will be offered annually during the 5-year period. The first SAP for general cardiology will be rolled out next year. Interventional and electrophysiology SAPs will follow. This is a major victory for the ACC and our members. Some details, including cost of the SAP, have not been announced. Here are your options for recertification in more detail (thanks to John Heilman, South Dakota ACC Governor):

• Take the 10-year recertification exam in cardiology or sub-specialty area (this is the current ABIM pathway for MOC).

• Take the “knowledge check-in” exams every two years through the ABIM (fulfills MOC).

• Collaborative Maintenance Pathway (new agreement between the ACC and ABIM) utilizing ACC SAP products. 150 CME and Part II MOC points over 5 years. This will involve 650 practice questions and periodic exam questions (the latter are ‘closed book” but can be done from home without traveling to a testing center). ACCSAP-CMP (general cardiology) will be ready in late 2019. EPSAP-CMP and CathSAP-CMP should be ready in 2020. ABIM will continue to list you as board certified and participating in MOC.

• ACCSAP-C3PO. A tract for those who do not want to deal with ABIM or MOC. Will use ACC SAP products. Open book. No testing other than practice questions. It will be available for general cardiology, Cath, and EP. 150 hours every 5 years. ACC will issue you a “Certificate of Cardiovascular Professional Optimization” for submission hospital credentials committees, your state licensing board, and insurers.

Advocacy:

I recently attended the ACC Legislative Conference in Washington, DC with immediate past-governor Tim Dewhurst, CV Team liaison Jennifer Beckman, FIT Jasleen Tiswana, and several WA ACC members including Gautham Nayak, Jim McRae, and Meghann Karch. It was the largest meeting ever with more than 450 attendees this year.
We discussed the new strategic plan being rolled out by the ACC. The ACC mission is “to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.” Its vision is to achieve “a world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes.” A great emphasis was placed on the fourth element of the quadruple aim: clinician well being and reducing administrative burden. The new plan is guided by four strategic goals:

- Increase relevance as the CV professional home
- Generate and deliver actionable knowledge
- Advance quality, equity, and value of CV care
- Ensure organizational growth and sustainability

**During our meetings with federal legislators, we discussed 3 major talking points:**

- Foster medical innovation and research through robust funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Exercise careful oversight of issues that contribute to administrative burden and detract from patient care, including undue limitation on access to medication and other necessary therapies, prior authorization and lack of electronic health record (EHR) interoperability. Ensure the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are interfacing with medical societies and physician practices to effectively minimize the adverse impact of these burdens on health care providers and patients.
- Thank members for their votes in favor of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which addressed top cardiovascular priorities, including supervision of cardiac rehabilitation by physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists beginning in 2024 (we lobbied for this bill the past few years and it finally passed last year); simplification of the Quality Payment Program (QPP); additional funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); authorization of increased funding for the NIH, the FDA and the CDC; and elimination of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

**The WA ACC received special recognition for successes in advocacy and CV Team growth.**

- **Sandeep Krishnan**, our former WAACC Advocacy Chair, received the national ACC advocacy award for his work with Representative Pramila Jayapal on her bill H.R. 3592 to promote funding for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States. This bill was sponsored by the ACC last year and was one of the talking points during our meetings with legislators this year.

- Under the leadership of CV Team liaison **Jennifer Beckman**, we received a top award for the achieving all of the ACC CV Team goals for 2017.
Our state advocacy efforts to reduce prior authorization requirements for cardiac imaging are moving forward. Jim McRae (our new advocacy chair) and I met with State Representatives Cindy Ryu and Vandana Slatter in August to discuss drafting a new bill to require insurers to use our ACC appropriate use criteria for cardiac imaging requests. Working with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, they plan to send a draft for us to review soon. Our intent is to drop this bill during the next legislative session in January.

We are in the early planning stages of our state lobby day for next year. We will have a joint advocacy day with the American Heart Association on January 29, 2019. I hope you will join me for this important effort. More details to follow soon.

WA ACC Annual Meeting- November 3rd, 2018

Our annual state chapter meeting will be held on November 3rd at the Bellevue Marriott Hotel. Our keynote speaker is ACC President-elect Dick Kovacs from Indiana University School of Medicine. Gautam Nayak and Tim Dewhurst have created an exciting agenda for the meeting. Please register for the meeting here:

Finally, I can’t believe it, but my term has passed the half way mark. The results of our WAACC governor election will be announced by the end of this year.

I wish everyone a great fall and hope to see you at the annual meeting next month.

Best wishes,

Eugene Yang, MD, FACC

Eugene
Addressing Prior Authorization Part of ACC Efforts to Reduce Administrative Burden

Mandated, payer-directed prior authorization for diagnostic imaging and medications continues to be a barrier to patient access in today’s cardiovascular practice landscape. The ACC’s efforts to drive prior authorization reform as part of its strategic focus to help reduce undue administrative burdens was a topic of discussion during the College’s recent Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. Learn more about ACC’s Prior Authorization Principles and take advantage of prior authorization reporting tools, which collect data from pre-authorization requestors on disputed prior authorization requests and denials, in order to help identify trends of inappropriate prior authorization decisions, at ACC’s online Prior Authorization hub. Read more about the Legislative Conference.
INFORMATIONAL

We held our first annual WA ACC CV Summit at the Willows Lodge in Woodinville on October 19-20th. We brought industry partners together with WA ACC members to discuss current challenges around access to treatment and barriers to obtain timely authorization.

We would like to thank our Emerald Sponsor:
UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV

3rd WA ACC 2018 ANNUAL MEETING
Location: Marriott Bellevue | Showcase your clinical cases and original research at our annual Washington American College of Cardiology chapter meeting! The presenting author must be listed as the first author in the list. **All abstracts must be submitted via email to waacc@aminc.org.**
[Agenda Here](#)  [Register here](#)

15th WASHINGTON ACC REGIONAL MEETING-WENATCHEE
Location: *Icicle Ridge Winery 8977 North Road Peshastin* | Time: 5:30-8:30 pm. For Information on sponsorship please contact *Annie Skoglund* or *Gautam Nayak* [Click Here](#) to view full agenda.