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Day at The Capitol with FITs

ACC President Dick Kovacs & Eugene Yang, MD, FACC
Dear WA ACC Members:

I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather we have had this Spring with your family and friends. I am looking forward to a beautiful summer in our Evergreen State. This year celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Washington ACC Chapter!

Our state chapter has been very active this year. I want to highlight some of the things we have been doing.

Introductions and Acknowledgements:

This winter we held elections for new Councilors for the WA ACC Chapter. I would like to thank outgoing board members Zachary Goldberger and Gary Weeks and introduce you to three new councilors (2019-2021): James Emery, Sameer Gafoor, and Adam Noyes.

New section leadership include Early Career Co-chairs Richard Cheng, Gary Huang, and Adam Noyes. New FIT Co-Chairs are Andrew Harris and Logan Vincent. I would like to acknowledge Alec Moorman for his service as Early Career Chair. Thank you to Jill Steiner and Billy Chen for serving as FIT co-chairs.

Advocacy:

On January 29th, we held a joint lobby day with the American Heart Association. Our talking points focused on two bills; Tobacco 21 and Access to Healthy Foods for SNAP Participants. As many of you know, the T21 bill passed and was signed by Governor Inslee and takes effect January 1st, 2020.

We were able to successfully introduce HB 1933 (https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1933&Initiative=false&Year=2019), a bill that requires state insurance agencies to use our ACC/AHA appropriate use criteria for coverage determination of cardiac diagnostic imaging procedures. It was sponsored by Reps. Vandana Slatter (48th District) and Cindy Ryu (32nd District). While it did not make it out of committee for public review, we plan to continue our fight to reform prior authorization (PA) in Washington state and will reintroduce the bill next year. I want to thank our ACC advocacy chair, Jim McRae, for his commitment to this cause.

At the national level, the ACC met with American Imaging Management (AIM), a radiology benefits manager (RBM) used by many insurers in our state, to discuss results from the ACC PARTool resource established by former Board of Governors Chair Bob Shor. They reviewed survey results from two practices and found that between 36 and 52 percent of studies required PA and that peer-to-peer review occurred in 5.5 to 6.7 percent of these cases.

To strengthen our position on PA, we need to collect more data to support state and national efforts to fight insurers. Please use the PARTool and enter information when you experience roadblocks for your patients: https://www.acc.org/tools-and-practice-support/advocacy-at-the-acc/prior-authorization

Education:

On November 3rd, we held our annual chapter meeting at the Marriott Bellevue. It was highlighted by a keynote speech by ACC President Dick Kovacs who shared the new ACC 2019-2023 strategic plan (https://www.acc.org).
A key focus of the plan is an emphasis on diversity and inclusion, specifically to recruit more women and underrepresented minorities into our specialty (https://www.acc.org/about-acc/diversity-and-inclusion).

We held several section chapter events this winter. In January, the first CV Team event was held in Seattle and results of the VEST trial were discussed by Byron Lee from UCSF, a principal investigator for the study. In February, we held our second annual Women in Cardiology (WIC) event at BaBar in University Village and our Early Career (EC)/Fellows in Training (FIT) networking program at Wild Ginger in Seattle. I want to recognize WIC Chair Rachael Wyman, WIC FIT co-chairs Vidang Nguyen and Katie Dawson, EC Chair Alec Moorman, and FIT Co-chairs Andrew Harris and Logan Vincent for organizing their respective events.

National:

ACC.19 was held in New Orleans on March 16-18th. Key highlights from the meeting include the publication of the new 2019 ACC/AHA Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease Guideline and results of the PARTNER 3 low-risk TAVR trial.

During the BOG meeting, we discussed the successful implementation of the ACC Collaborative Maintenance Pathway (CMP) in partnership with the ABIM for Maintenance of Certification (MOC). While a few kinks are still being worked out, this new pathway is the result of grassroots efforts by many ACC members who pushed for MOC reform. Please find additional details about the new pathway being implemented this year here: https://www.acc.org/education-and-meetings/maintenance-of-certification-information-hub

Upcoming Events/Save the Dates:

On June 13th, we will hold our first Early Career networking event at Churchill’s Steakhouse in Spokane. Our FIT networking event will be held on August 15th at Din Tai Fung in University Village. Our annual eastern Washington meeting will be held on September 25th at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane. Additional section meetings for WIC, CV Team, EC, and EP are in the works, so stay tuned for announcements.

I am very excited to announce our annual chapter meeting to be held on October 26th at the Motif Hotel in Seattle. It will be highlighted by a keynote speech by Kim Williams, Chief of Cardiology at Rush Medical College and past president of the ACC. In addition, we will be inviting members of HOSA, a high school organization for students interested in health care careers, to the annual meeting to expose them to our profession. We will have a hands-on demonstration area for them to see some of the devices and gadgets we use. In addition, Microsoft will display some of the technology they have developed for health care applications. Please join us for this exciting meeting.

To register for all of these meetings, please click here: http://www.waacc.org/calendar/calendar.html

I hope everyone has a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting this fall. Please feel free to contact me anytime with additional questions: eyang01@uw.edu

Best wishes,

Eugene Yang, MD, FACC
Science and Quality:

CathPCI Registry Seeks Feedback on Diagnostic AUC Metrics

As part of ongoing efforts to collect meaningful data and improve patient care, the ACC is launching an open comment period for diagnostic-only appropriate use criteria (AUC) metrics. The AUC metrics were developed based on the 2013 Multimodality Appropriate Use Criteria For the Detection and Risk Assessment of Stable Ischemic Heart Disease, created by the ACC Appropriate Use Task Force. Please review the guideline document and the metrics before completing the survey. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete, including time to review the related documents, and will close on Friday, June 7.

New Scientific Statement Explores Home-Based Cardiac Rehab Strategy

Home-based cardiac rehabilitation (rehab) may be a “reasonable option” for some patients as an alternative to medical center cardiac rehab, according to a joint scientific statement from the ACC, the American Heart Association and the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation published May 13 in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. The statement presents a framework for home-based cardiac rehab programs and identifies the core components, efficacy, strengths, limitations, evidence gaps and research necessary to “guide the future delivery and potential reimbursement of home-based cardiac rehab in the U.S.” Read more on ACC.org.

Call for Nominations: ACC Vice President and Trustees

Submit your recommendations to ACC’s Nominating Committee for ACC Vice President and Trustees by July 1. Each of the five open Trustee positions will serve up to a three-year term. The Vice President serves a one-year term, and is thereafter eligible to assume the position of the President. To serve as Vice President, an individual must have first served at least one term on the Board of Trustees. To learn more about the nomination process, visit ACC.org.
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 MemberHubACC.org or download the mobile app available in your Apple or GooglePlay stores.

Digital ACC Resources

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.

Stay in Touch With the ACC Via Social Media
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. 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.
UPCOMING EVENTS

JUN

18th PCSK9 INHIBITORS: REVIEW OF CURRENT DATA AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Location: Daniel's Broiler 809 Fairview Place North Seattle, WA 98109 *Space is limited
Time: 6:00PM Registration Speaker: Eugene Yang, MD, FACC RSVP

28-29th 25TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO HEART FAILURE SYMPOSIUM: ADVANCES IN THE RECOGNITION & TREATMENT OF HEART FAILURE
From Complete Conference Management and endorsed by the California & Arizona Chapters of the American College of Cardiology. Location: Estancia La Jolla Hotel 9700 North Torrey Pines Road La Jolla, CA 92037 Click Here to view Website Registration coming soon!

AUG

15th WA ACC FELLOWS IN TRAINING NETWORKING EVENT
Time: 5:00pm – 9:00pm Location: Din Tai Fung University Village 2621 NE 46th St Seattle, WA 98105 More Details Coming Soon!

SEP

25th WA ACC ANNUAL SPOKANE DINNER PROGRAM
Time: 5:00pm – 9:00pm Location: Davenport Grand Hotel 333 West Spokane Falls Blvd Spokane, WA 99201 Registration Cost: WA ACC Members only $10! Non-Members are $25 Students Free 2 CE credits are available for Registered Nurses for this course. Agenda coming soon!

OCT

26th WA ACC 2019 ANNUAL MEETING
Location: The Motif Hotel 1415 Fifth Avenue Seattle WA 98101 Click Here for Directions
Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Agenda TBA Register Here