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Dear WA ACC Members,

I hope all of you enjoyed the great summer and spent time with your loved ones and family.

Last month, I attended the ACC Legislative Conference in Washington, DC with fellow WA ACC members Sandeep Krishnan, Emily Liebeskind, Neal Perlmutter, and Sandy Perlmutter. The meeting was attended by more than 400 people and was highlighted by a reception and dinner featuring Nicole Wallace, chief political analyst for MSNBC and NBC News. She shared insights about her time working as the White House Communications Director for former President George W. Bush and her assessment of the current political climate in Washington, DC.

The meeting focused on member engagement and the importance of advocacy to improve cardiovascular care for our patients. For our meetings with members of Congress, we were asked to discuss three salient issues:

• Ease administrative burdens on clinicians by exercising oversight of Quality Payment Program (QPP) implementation, streamlining electronic health record (EHR) requirements, and facilitating smooth transition to alternative payment models.

• Foster innovation and research through increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

• Cosponsor H.R. 1155/S.1361, a bill that would expand access to cardiac rehabilitation by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

We met with Pramila Jayapal, the first Indian-American Congresswoman, who represents Washington’s 7th district. She was extremely engaged and interested in promoting cardiovascular health. This meeting was followed by visits with Congressman Adam Smith (WA 9th district) and a senior staff member for Senator Patty Murray. It was clear to us that all of our politicians are highly invested in health care and want to improve quality and access for our patients.

When I attended the meeting last year, we came away with great contacts, but no tangible results. This year, we were able to achieve a number of successes:

• Co-sponsorship of H.R. 1155 by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal

• ACCPAC support for Congresswoman Jayapal

• ACC Health Affairs Committee support for Congresswoman Jayapal’s bill, H.R. 3592, which provides funding for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States
In addition to these great achievements for WA ACC on the national stage, our advocacy chair, Sandeep Krishnan, introduced a resolution to the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) entitled Reducing Unnecessary Burdens on Clinicians by Requiring Insurance Companies to Use AUC Before Rejecting Claims for Medical Imaging (RUBRIC Act) that was co-sponsored by our chapter. This bill is aimed at requiring insurers to use our ACC AUC to guide approval for diagnostic cardiac imaging. I am pleased to report that it was passed by the WSMA and we are now focused on getting this bill introduced in Olympia.

I encourage all of you to become engaged in advocacy through the ACC. You can learn more about advocacy during our Annual Chapter meeting November 3-4th at the Motif Hotel. Please click here to register

We will be sponsoring our first “Cardiology at the Capitol” lobby day on February 6, 2018. We will rent a bus to bring members from Seattle to Olympia and offer free blood pressure screenings to our state legislators and their staff. Please mark this date on your calendars now and join me for this exciting event. More details to follow soon…

Finally, I hope that members will join me in Washington DC next year for the ACC Legislative Conference to be held September 30th-October 2nd 2018. We are working on making chapter funds available to support members who wish to attend the meeting.

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

Best wishes,

Eugene Yang, MD, FACC
ACC Leadership Tackles Prior Authorization

For years, prior authorization has impeded patient access and burdened cardiovascular practice management. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, chair of the Board of Governors, and Robert A. Shor, MD, FACC, chair of ACC’s Membership Committee, recently co-authored a piece in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* breaking down prior authorization burdens and offering action items for reducing physician pressure. “This is one piece in the puzzle to find an answer to prior authorization challenges. However, to be successful on a larger scale for the entire medical community, insurers, physicians, care team members, practice administrators, and lawmakers need to work together to find a solution that ultimately saves time, saves money, and—most importantly—saves lives,” write Wilson and Shor. Read the full article [here](#). The ACC has developed a **Prior Authorization Reporting Tool (PARTool)** to help your practice with data collection and support the ACC’s efforts at the state and national level to address prior authorization issues. With this data, the ACC hopes persuade payers and state insurance commissioners to minimize, or even eliminate, some of their prior authorization requirements. Access your ACC’s **PARTool here**. Go to [ACC.org/PARTool](#) to learn more.
Shared Decision Making Infographic Now Available

ACC's CardioSmart recently launched a new Decision Aids section to help patients understand what decision aids are, how to use them and where to find them. This section highlights several resources, including a new infographic on Shared Decision Making to guide patients through the process of making a decision when they need to weight in treatment options or the path forward is unclear. Just like the other CardioSmart infographic posters, this infographic can be downloaded for free and used as point-of-care graphics for your waiting and exam rooms. For more tools and resources on this subject, visit CardioSmart.org/Decisions.

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-related news (@Cardiology), education (@ACCCCardioEd), and quality (@ACCCVQuality). CardioSmart, ACC's patient education and support program, also has patient-centered cardiovascular news available through Facebook, Twitter (@CardioSmart), and YouTube. For more information about ACC’s social media channels, visit ACC.org/ACCinTouch.

ACC Archived Webinars

Did you know that you can find archived webinars from throughout the years from the ACC on ACC.org? As a member, you have access to this wealth of information at www.acc.org/WebinarsOndemand. Questions? Contact ACC's Resource Center at Phone: 202-375-6000, ext. 5603 or 800-253-4636, ext. 5603 or resource@acc.org.
Thank you to the Washington State ACC chapter for the opportunity to attend the National ACC Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.! As a first time attendee, it was empowering to take issues we face in everyday clinical practice to our congress members on Capitol Hill and advocate for change. We had the opportunity to engage directly with Representatives Derek Kilmer, Adam Smith, and Pramila Jayapal about increasing NIH funding, expanding access to cardiac rehab, and easing administrative burdens on clinicians. As a testament to the importance of establishing these relationships, Congresswoman Jayapal cosponsored H.R. 1155 in support of expanding access to cardiac rehab only days after we met. Beyond meeting members of Congress, I had the privilege to meet other ACC members from across the country. It was inspiring to witness so many physicians and cardiovascular team members advocate together for important legislation. I am honored to have attended this conference and am excited to see what we can achieve together in the future.
Dear Colleagues,

The Cardiovascular team (CVT) has had a very productive summer!

We have developed a CVT committee with 6 members and are working to create bylaws as well as subcommittee structure in order to bring exceptional information, education and support to WA CVT members. We held our first networking event at Brave Horse Tavern in Seattle and offered a presentation by Stephanie Nolley, RN on pulmonary arterial hypertension. This was a fantastic event to meet new and existing CVT members from across many health care systems and specialties.

In September, an educational event was held in Spokane, WA at the Davenport Grand Hotel. This program provided members with an update in cardiac imaging by Gretchen James, PA as well as a discussion about CTO techniques by Dr. Dieter Lubbe. The event was well attended and we plan to offer another educational event in Spokane in 2018.

Looking towards the future, there is work being done to schedule a second networking event to take place this winter featuring an echo sonographer. More detailed information will be disseminated shortly.

I would be honored if you would join the WA chapter CVT membership. Please use the link below to complete your membership application and share this with any of your colleagues who might be interested.

Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions and let me know if you have interest in becoming a CVT leader within the WA chapter.

Thank you very much!

CLICK HERE to become a member.

Jennifer A. Beckman, MSN-FNP, ARNP, CHFN
CVT Liaison, WA Chapter of ACC
UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 2018
17th WOMEN IN CARDIOLOGY INAUGURAL MEETING
Location: To Be Determined.
More details and registration coming soon!

FEB 2018
6th 2018 WA ACC LOBBY DAY
Location: John O’Brien Building 504 15th Ave SW Olympia, WA 98504 Room B12. Stay tuned for more information at: WAACC.org/calendar

8th SAVE THE DATE! FELLOWS IN TRAINING NETWORKING EVENT
Stay tuned for more information at: WAACC.org/calendar