



Upcoming
Chapter Events

On Demand Webinar
Available Until Jan 15

[Life After SGR Repeal:
Volume to Value](#)

Tuesday, Mar 29 | Chicago
[Cardiology FIT Poster
Presentation](#)

Friday, May 6 | Oak Brook
SAVE THE DATE:
Annual Symposium

Saturday, Nov 5 | Lombard
SAVE THE DATE:
CV Team Symposium

Upcoming
ACC Events

Jan. 16 – 20 | Snowmass
[CV Conference at
Snowmass, CO](#)

Feb. 14 – 19 | Big Sky, MT
[38th Annual Cardiology
at Big Sky, MT](#)

Feb. 18 – 20 | Las Vegas
[2016 CV Summit:
Solutions for Thriving in
a Time of Change](#)

April 2-4 | Chicago
[ACC.16](#)



Jay Alexander, MD, FACC
IL-ACC Governor

Dear Colleagues:

Once again the Holidays are upon us -- please accept my best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and a joyous, healthy New Year!

On behalf of the Illinois Chapter, I would like to congratulate Dr. Kenneth Brin, MD, PHD, FACC, and Director of Cardiology for Midwest Heart Specialists, on his designation to **Master of the American College of Cardiology (M.A.C.C.)**. I hope you will join me in congratulating Dr. Brin on this well-deserved honor during the annual Convocation being held Monday, April 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm during ACC.16 in Chicago.

We have several councilor positions opening up in March. If you are interested in running for a position or nominating another IL-ACC member, please email me at jalexandermd@gmail.com or Nancy Mueller at nmueller@cardiacmgmt.com.

The Chapter hosted a recent Webinar by Cathie Biga, President and CEO of Cardiovascular Management of Illinois, entitled *Life After the SGR Repeal -- Volume to Value: A View From the Trenches*. **The webinar recording will be available to Illinois Chapter Members until January 15** via the [chapter's member portal](#).

As we look forward to 2016, I would like to encourage you to put the following IL-ACC events on your calendar (visit ilacc.org for more details):

[Cardiology Training \(FIT\) Poster Presentation](#)
Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

[Chapter Annual Symposium](#)
Save the Date: Friday, May 6, 2016

[Cardiovascular Team Symposium](#)
Save the Date: Saturday, November 6, 2016

TOP ADVOCACY & HEALTH POLICY

JACC Leadership Page: A Micro View of MACRA, How the ACC and NCDR Will Help Members Navigate Radical Changes Ahead

In a recent Leadership Page published in the [Journal of the American College of Cardiology](#), **Kim Allan Williams Sr., MD, FACC**, president of the ACC, along with **Paul N. Casale, MD, MPH, FACC**, a member of the ACC Board of Trustees, and **William J. Oetgen, MD, MBA, FACC**, executive vice president of Science, Education and Quality for the ACC, discuss the *Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015* (MACRA), which was signed into law on April 16, and is the result of more than a decade of collaboration between medical societies to repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate formula. They examine ways in which the College, particularly through the NCDR, will prepare members for MACRA. "The time is now for all ACC members to be certain that they are participants in at least one of the NCDR registry programs and to become familiar with their NCDR data," they write. [Read more. A MACRA issue brief is also available on ACC.org.](#)

The 2016 Cardiovascular Summit: Solutions for Thriving in a Time of Change, Feb. 18 – 20 in Las Vegas, NV, will provide an important forum for continued discussions on MACRA and new payment models. [Register on ACC.org](#)

EDUCATION AND CAREER GROWTH

ABIM MOC Deadline Approaching

For the majority of American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) diplomates, the two-year deadline to earn Maintenance of Certification (MOC) points is Dec. 31. In order to be classified as "Participating in MOC," diplomates must earn some MOC points prior to this date. For information about your personal MOC status please [visit ABIM's website](#). ACC members have access to wide-array of ABIM-approved [resources and educational activities](#) to help earn MOC points in time for the deadline, as well as throughout the year. ACC tools include [ACC's MOC Collection](#) with modules in general cardiology/prevention, imaging, interventional cardiology, electrophysiology, valvular heart disease and more; [ACC's Patient Safety MOC Module](#); [ACC Journal Club](#); [ACCSAP® 8](#); [CathSAP® 4](#); and [EchoSAP® 7](#). Learn more about ABIM's MOC program in the [MOC Information Hub on ACC.org](#).

Happy Holidays!

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TOP SCIENCE & QUALITY NEWS

LBCTs for ACC.16 Due Jan. 7, 2016

The ACC is now accepting Late-Breaking Clinical Trial submissions for consideration for presentation at ACC.16. Submissions will be accepted in any of the following categories:

- Major Study
- Smaller Study/Randomized Clinical Trial
- Multi-center Observational Study or Registry
- Secondary Analysis of Major Clinical Trial
- Other

ACC.16 will feature 5 LBCT sessions, including 3 sessions which will be co-sponsored by the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (JACC), the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) and the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM). Each accepted submission will be considered for *JACC Rapid Review* and publication in *JACC*, *JAMA* and *NEJM*. **The deadline for submissions is Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. ET.** For additional information please read the full

[Submission Instructions](#) and
[Policies and Procedures](#)

prior to submitting your Late-Breaking Clinical Trial.

ACC Announces Official Launch of LAAO Registry

The [LAAO Registry](#) will capture data on a new class of medical devices used in left atrial appendage occlusion (LAAO) procedures, which will help assess real-world procedural indications and outcomes as well as short- and long-term safety of procedures and devices for closing the left atrial appendage.

The registry will serve not only as the formal U.S. Food and Drug Administration-mandated post-approval study for the WATCHMAN device, but it is also expected to serve as a long-term clinical registry for all patients undergoing LAAO procedures, regardless of the device used. The addition of the LAAO Registry, brings [ACC's suite of NCDR hospital and outpatient registries](#) to nine. The NCDR's AFib Ablation Registry is expected to launch in 2016.

Additional Resources:

[LAAO Registry](#)
[Quality Improvement for Institutions](#)
[Expert Consensus on LAA Institutional and Operator Requirements Released](#)
[ACC Submits Comments to CMS on LAA Closure Coverage](#)

Advisory Group Report Provides Deep Dive on ACC Public Reporting Efforts

A recent ACC Advisory published in the [Journal of the American College of Cardiology](#) describes the public reporting efforts from the ACC and its partners, including the benefits, challenges and what to expect from the data. The ACC developed a public reporting pathway in an effort to allow individuals to obtain information about the care they are likely to receive at an institution. Hospitals across the U.S. are now voluntarily reporting their NCDR data on several measures related to percutaneous coronary intervention and implantable cardioverter defibrillator procedures through

[FindYourHeartaHome.org](#), powered by ACC's CardioSmart. In addition to enabling patients to identify the best institution for their needs, public reporting incentivizes clinicians and health care organizations to improve quality of care, the authors note. [Read more on ACC.org](#). Additionally, a recent [U.S. News and World Report article](#) called ACC's public reporting program an "initial step toward transformational transparency." Hospitals can opt in to publicly report at any point; hospitals that choose not to publicly report will be listed as "not participating" with ACC public reporting. [Learn more about participating in public reporting](#).

Focused Update of ACC/AHA Lipid Performance Measures Stress Shared Decision-Making

[Updated performance measures](#) for lipid management in secondary prevention were released Dec. 14 by the ACC and American Heart Association (AHA), and were published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. The updated measures place a greater emphasis on shared decision-making, and are based on the secondary prevention recommendations of the [2013 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Treatment of Blood Cholesterol to Reduce Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Risk in Adults](#). "These measures respect the wishes of patients regarding the use of statins and do not penalize physicians who may have a patient decline to take medications for personal reasons," says Joseph P. Drozda Jr., MD, FACC, chair of the writing committee. "Integrating patient values, preferences and personal context with evidence-based medicine and guidelines is novel and changes the focus from recommending and prescribing statins based on evidence to promoting choice by an informed patient." [Read more](#).

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TOP SCIENCE & QUALITY NEWS (continued)

Learn How to Enhance Quality Improvement at NCDR.16

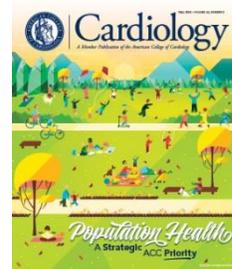
Practice quality improvement efforts, quality reporting and value-based reimbursement are here to stay, and will play a critical role in provider payment models moving forward. The ACC's [NCDR Annual Conference](#) (NCDR.16) held immediately prior to ACC's Annual Scientific Session in Chicago, IL, offers a unique opportunity for physicians and other cardiovascular professionals to learn more about the College's clinical registry programs and how they can be leveraged to meet growing quality improvement requirements. The two-day meeting, held March 31 – April 1, 2016, will offer registry-specific workshops on topics ranging from how to access and interpret outcome reports and dashboard data, to proper input of challenging data elements and understanding registry metrics. Inter-professional workshops will also cover topics such as how to build a quality improvement team and how to implement quality improvement programs. Over 1,000 registry professionals, quality experts, physicians and administrators from across the country are expected to attend. Learn more and register for NCDR.16 at [CVQuality.ACC.org/NCDRAnnualConference](#).

TVT Registry Report Shows Positive Outcomes For Evolving TAVR Procedure

Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) continues to evolve, and remains "safe and effective," according to an annual STS/ACC TVT Registry report published Nov. 30 in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC). The report provides an overview of current U.S. TAVR practice and trends, and includes the 26,414 TAVR procedures performed from Jan. 1, 2012 through Dec. 31, 2014 at 348 centers enrolled in the STS/ACC TVT Registry. Patients were elderly, with a mean age of 82 years, had multiple comorbidities, were highly symptomatic, were often frail, and had poor self-reported health status. [Read more.](#)

POPULATION HEALTH & PREVENTION:

Latest Cardiology Issue Explores Population Health



The [cover story](#) in the latest issue of *Cardiology* magazine explores population health, one of ACC's strategic priorities and the focus of a recent retreat at Heart House. Check out an [exclusive interview](#) with **Kim A. Eagle, MD, MACC**, editor of *ACC.org*. Learn more

about **Pamela Bowe Morris, MD, FACC's** [lifelong passion for fitness and health nutrition](#); explore [state level efforts](#) to improve cardiovascular health; and more. Get the full issue at [ACC.org/Cardiology](#).

CV TEAM SYMPOSIUM 2015 PICTURES

