Jay Alexander, MD, FACC
IL-ACC Governor

Annual Meeting and Symposium: Every year our annual meeting gets better and better! This year, I think the event, which was held in Lake Geneva on May 5-7, was superb! The feedback so far has been very positive. The nationally recognized speakers covered relevant and timely topics that laid an excellent platform for our practices to continue to thrive! Dr. Rob Califf’s Friday night’s Key Note talk was provocative and very well received and our Saturday night inaugural family event was a hit. We will begin planning for next year’s meeting in September. Any feedback from members would be greatly appreciated. You can email Nancy Mueller at nmueller@cardiacmgmt.com with your input.

We are in the planning stages for our CV Team Symposium on November 4th which will be held in Burr Ridge. Please share the “Save the Date” with your staff.

Our fall FIT event will be on October 17th at The Gage in Chicago. It is a free educational/networking event for our fellows in training. Please come and support our FIT’s and this fun and educational event.

OVERARCHING ACC NEWS

ACC and NCDR Committee Nominations Now Open
Nominations for spots on ACC’s major operating committees and NCDR subcommittees are open now until Friday, Sept. 22. ACC members are encouraged to review the open positions and may self-nominate or nominate a colleague on the Committee Nominations Portal. ACC’s ongoing governance transformation has allowed for an increase in open committee positions to expand member involvement and provide additional opportunities for members to impact the work of the College. Applicants will be notified of results in January 2018. For questions or additional information, email committees@acc.org. For NCDR Committees, contact ncdrcommittees@acc.org.

ACC BOT Recommends 2018 Slate of Officers and Trustees
The ACC Board of Trustees (BOT) recommended the College’s newest slate of officers and trustees during its August meeting, which took place from Aug. 3 – 5 in Minnesota. The ACC Nominating Committee, led by Immediate Past President Richard Chazal, MD, MACC, put forth the following candidates for BOT recommendation, using the College’s Leadership Competencies as guidance: C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC, to serve as president from 2018-2019; Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC, to serve as vice president from 2018-2019; Howard T. Walpole Jr., MD, MBA, FACC, to serve as treasurer from 2018-2021; Edward T.A. Fry, MD, FACC, and Daniel Jose Pineiro, MD, FACC, to serve as trustees from 2018-2021. "Each of these individuals is uniquely qualified to uphold the mission of the College and provide the strong leadership needed to guide the ACC toward the future," said Chazal. "Congratulations to all the new officers and trustees." Read more on ACC.org.

NCDR Clinical Quality Coach App Now Available
The ACC has recently launched the NCDR Clinical Quality Coach app to provide physicians with a convenient mobile solution for documenting and tracking clinical practice improvement activities. Download the app and find out more about ACC’s clinical apps at ACC.org/Apps.

JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging Call for Papers: Cardiovascular Imaging in Cardio-Oncology
In line with the promise to meticulously define the role of cardiac imaging in managing various cardiovascular diseases around the world, *JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging* will publish a themed issue focusing on imaging in cardio-oncology in early 2018. The issue will highlight current and future roles of cardiovascular imaging in understanding the effects of cancer on the heart, as well as diagnosing, monitoring and treating these conditions. The journal’s editors are seeking original research manuscripts addressing all forms of cardiovascular imaging as applied to the growing field of cardio-oncology, such as techniques, paradigms, pathophysiology, clinical care, diagnostic strategies, cost effectiveness and outcomes. Interested authors should submit their papers online at [JACCSubmit-Imaging.org](http://JACCSubmit-Imaging.org) by Nov. 1. On the submissions page, please select “Imaging in Cardio-Oncology” from the “Special Issues” pull-down menu. For more information, see “Author Instructions.” For questions, email jaccimg@acc.org.

First Data Standard Published For Pediatric and Congenital Cardiology

On July 14, the ACC and the American Heart Association (AHA) published the first extensive data dictionary for the outpatient domain of pediatric and congenital cardiology, the *2017 AHA/ACC Key Data Elements and Definitions for Ambulatory Electronic Health Records in Pediatric and Congenital Cardiology*, in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Due to a wide range of disease processes across a small set of patients in pediatric and congenital heart disease, the data dictionary is crucial to identify best practices, develop evidence-based guidelines and determine statistical significance in patient populations. The committee views this plan as a first step toward achieving electronic health records data exchange for the continuity of clinical care of the pediatric and congenital heart disease patient. Read more on ACC.org.

**TOP ADVOCACY & HEALTH POLICY**

**FDA Needs Your Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Expertise**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reached out through the Network of Experts with a request to speak with ACC members who have expertise in pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). The Network of Experts program allows the Agency to quickly reach out to outside experts with specific requests to supplement knowledge and expertise within the Centers. This request pertains to the use of medication therapies to treat PAH. This opportunity is open to all clinicians who have expertise in this topic and pass through FDA’s conflicts of interest screening. Willing experts should contact advodiv@acc.org for further information. The FDA will schedule a teleconference with interested individuals.

**JACC Leadership Page: MACRA and Practice Transformation**

In a recent Leadership Page published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC)*, ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC, how MACRA will bring about change in how frequently stable cardiovascular patients are seen and by whom. MACRA established a framework for rewarding clinicians for value over volume, which will lead to a transformation in how practices function. While cardiologists will need to see sick patients rather than stable ones, it is important to explore and embrace new models of care so that patients do not feel abandoned. “With practice transformation, we will need to work smarter,” Walsh writes. “Systems of care that involve fewer in-person visits, but continue to keep our patients engaged will be necessary.” Read more.
CMS Issues Proposed Rule Canceling EPMs, Cardiac Rehabilitation Incentive Model

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [issued a proposed rule](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/COVID-19/Medicare-COVID-19-Updates/Proposed-Final-Rules.html) canceling its episode payment models (EPMs) and the cardiac rehabilitation incentive model, which were slated to start on Jan. 1, 2018. The agency also made significant changes to its joint replacement payment model. Cancellation of the program will impact eligible clinicians, including physicians and non-physician practitioners, who were planning to use participation in the EPMs to qualify as participating in Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) outlined [under the Quality Payment Program](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/QualityPaymentProgram/). “The ACC will continue to work with CMS on opportunities for clinicians to participate meaningfully in Advanced APMs,” said ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC. "As we move from volume-based care to value-based care, the path forward is challenging and we must work together to find solutions.” ACC Advocacy staff and leaders are reviewing the update now and more information on the impacts to cardiovascular clinicians and next steps will be posted to [ACC.org](https://www.acc.org) and included in the Advocate.

CMS Releases Proposed 2018 Medicare PFS and Hospital OPPS Rules

On July 13, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [proposed 2018 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/COB/OPPS-Proposed-Rule/membership.aspx), addressing Medicare payment and quality provisions for physicians in 2018. Under the proposal, physicians will see a less than 0.1 percent conversion factor payment increase on Jan. 1, 2018. CMS estimates that the physician rule will decrease payments to cardiologists by 2 percent from 2017 to 2018. This estimate predicts a 1 percent reduction to changes in practice expense and a 1 percent reduction to changes in malpractice expense. It is based on the entire cardiology profession and can vary widely depending on the mix of services provided in a practice. The PFS proposed rule was released in tandem with the [proposed 2018 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) rule](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Outpatient-Review-Process/Outpatient-Prospective-Payment-System.html). The outpatient rule indicates a 1.75 percent payment update for hospitals. Your ACC staff are reviewing the proposed rules to identify additional topics of interest to members. [Read highlights from both proposed rules on ACC.org](https://www.acc.org).

ACC Holds AUC Summit

The ACC held an appropriate use criteria (AUC) summit on Aug. 9 at its Heart House headquarters in Washington, DC. The summit provided an overview of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' forthcoming AUC program, with discussion among participants about where the program is headed and how the AUC community, including the ACC, can help. Experts discussed ways to collaborate around AUC development, implementation strategies and how to optimize electronic health records and clinical decision support mechanisms, in addition to addressing confusion around contradicting AUC recommendations. In his closing remarks, summit moderator [Stephen F. Jencks, MD, MPH](https://www.acc.org/about-acc/leadership) said, "My takeaways from this summit can be broken down into three primary messages. Firstly, it's not easy for groups to rank their priorities for AUC implementation – all of their priorities are high. Secondly, most of the issues raised today could be categorized as either research or nomenclatural issues, and thirdly, different groups have differing priorities regarding the implementation of this program, and they have considerable financial stake in those priorities. These groups must work out their priorities and issues internally before moving forward." [Read more on ACC.org](https://www.acc.org). Find more information on the AUC program and ACC's AUC Task Force [here](https://www.acc.org).
**TOP EDUCATION NEWS**

**ACC’s New Self-Assessment Program**

*CathSAP 5 is Now Available*

*CathSAP 5 – ACC’s brand new self-assessment program – is now available and has everything needed to perfect knowledge of interventional cardiology. Visit ACC.org to purchase the product and to learn more.*

**MEMBERSHIP**

Submit Science for the Young Investigator Awards by Sept. 11

Scientific breakthroughs in the field of cardiology depend on the work that so many young scientific investigators are doing today. The Young Investigator Awards Competition was established to recognize and encourage these future cardiovascular leaders. Physicians, scientists, medical students and other health care providers currently in residency or fellowship programs, or who are no more than three years out of training, are invited to submit their science for an opportunity to present their work at ACC.18. PhD, PharmD and DNP candidates no more than three years out of training may also apply. Application deadline is Sept. 11, 2017. Read more on ACC.org.

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**Upcoming Chapter Events**

- **Fall FIT Program: Prep for Your Future in Cardiology**
  - October 17, 2017 The Gage, Chicago, IL

- **CV Team Symposium**
  - November 4, 2017 Chicago Marriott Southwest at Burr Ridge, Burr Ridge, IL

- **Annual Symposium & Chapter Meeting**
  - 2018, Date & Venue TBD

**Upcoming ACC Events**

- **ACC Legislative Conference**
  - September 9-12, 2017 Washington, DC

- **Cardiovascular Summit**
  - February 22-24, 2018 Las Vegas, NV

- **ACC.18**
  - March 10-12, 2018 Orlando, FL

**Quick Links**

- ACCinTouch
- ACC Advocacy Action
- ACC Archived Webinars
- ACC PAC
- CardioSource WorldNews
- JACC
- Update Member Profile