



Illinois CHAPTER

Illinois Chapter ACC

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www.ilacc.org

Winter 2018 Newsletter

Upcoming Chapter Events

[FIT 2018 Poster Presentation](#)

April 5, 2018

Intercontinental Hotel

505 N. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL

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[2018 Annual Symposium & Chapter Meeting](#)

May 19 & 20, 2018

Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

Lake Geneva, WI

Upcoming ACC Events

[ACC.18](#)

March 10-12, 2018

Orlando, FL

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Jay Alexander, MD, FACC
IL-ACC Governor

2018 Annual Symposium and Chapter Meeting May 19 & 20

This is my last newsletter as governor and at ACC 18, Dr. Frank Aguirre will

capably take the reins. I want to use this opportunity to give you my perspective as to why I have felt that the ACC, and specifically the Illinois chapter, is my professional home. I have had the fortune of being part of the ACC and the Illinois chapter since I became an FACC in 1982 some 36 years ago. In that time, what has become apparent to me is it has given me the opportunity to meet and in part be mentored by some very special physicians. We are fortunate in Illinois to have a rich history of leadership in the college and they have been so very accessible, available and eager to our membership. To me that was the most significant member value to being part of this organization. Though my interest and involvement in national ACC was in advocacy and the ACCPAC there are so many ways to be part of the ACC and be involved. Whether academic or employed or private practice cardiologist, a non-physician member of the CV team, a fellow in training or a new career Doc there is a place to get involved and make a difference.

It is not easy to be a healthcare professional and that's certainly true today. We try to balance professional life and family life, which has become increasingly more difficult as administrative burdens have created more pressure and more "burnout." Our hospitals, health systems and for that matter ourselves, have had to do more with less resources and it's become almost impossible to work to the

level of our expertise and degrees. We have all been frustrated by the avalanche of nonclinical responsibilities that have led to provider fatigue. This is the challenge ACC national is undertaking by changing their mission from the "triple aim" to the "quadruple aim" including the reduction of practice administrative burdens.

One of the greatest challenges of the past few years are the issues which relate to our certification, recertification and maintenance of our certification. It has been a lightning rod which has caused consternation and frustration on the part of ACC members across the country. Using patience and strong leadership, I believe the ACC has made progress with the ABIM and I hope in the next few months lifelong learning will be the vehicle for maintaining certification for general cardiologists as well as our cardiology specialists.

Our successes over the past couple years must include the switch in our annual symposium to a weekend event to help that family professional balance, and to make it a more informal way to learn. This year's event May 19 and 20 in Lake Geneva will include the ability to earn MOC and is highlighted by our dinner lecture Saturday night with our guest Captain James Lovell. Our CV team symposium remains a success and attracts our CV team members from all around our state. Our relationship with our fellows remain a huge priority and mentoring, especially when it comes to our collective experiences in entering practice are well received. Of course, we can't forget to give a big shout out to our FIT jeopardy teams and all of us at ACC 18 will be rooting for them. Early Career members and FIT members are our future and we need to make that relationship as strong as possible.

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It has been a pleasure to serve as governor and an honor to follow so many of my mentors who have served before me. I know we are in great hands as there is a nucleus of committed professionals to lead the Illinois chapter and I urge all of you to get involved. At the end of the day, we have the best trio that has done so much for our chapter and a special thanks to Greg Simpson, Cathie Biga (our resident ACC trustee, extraordinaire), and of course our Executive Director Nancy Mueller. So on this note, I say so long for now and hope to see you all at ACC18 and our symposium at Lake Geneva in May.

OVERARCHING ACC NEWS

CMS Releases Final Coverage Policy for ICD Implantation

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released its final policy decision [CMS NCD Decision Memo](#) updating the national coverage determination (NCD) governing implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) implantation for Medicare fee-for-service patients. The NCD will continue to govern patient criteria and covered indications for CMS reimbursement of ICD implantation. The new NCD requires a shared decision-making encounter using a tool, updates clinical indications, and incorporates several exemptions for waiting periods. In a notable change from the draft NCD [CMS Proposed Decision Memo](#) released last November, the shared decision-making encounter does not need to be completed by an independent clinician. The NCD also ends the requirement for data collection for evidence development, which sites have satisfied through participation in ACCs ICD Registry. However, enrollment in the ICD Registry will continue to provide evidence of compliance with CMS reimbursement criteria. The changes are effective immediately, though contractors must wait for further technical instructions from CMS

before updating claims processing software. ACC staff are reviewing the final decision to identify any additional topics of interest to members. Read more [CMS Final Coverage Policy for ICD Implantation - ACC.org 02-15-18 Article](#). Additionally, more information will be forthcoming in the Advocate newsletter and on ACC.org [www.acc.org](#) in the coming weeks.

ACC Defines New Core Values

The College recently unveiled its new Core Values as part of the work toward developing the ACC's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, and ACC President **Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC**, shared them in a [perspective piece on ACC.org](#). The three core values – patient-centered, teamwork and collaboration, and professionalism and excellence – are the result of months of work in a collaborative effort by both members and staff. “On behalf of the BOT, we believe that these Core Values, taken together with our strong Mission and Vision, appropriately represent where the College is headed over the next five years, and into the future,” writes Walsh. [Read more on ACC.org.](#)

New ACC Video Showcases Stories of Leadership in Cardiology

Leaders from across the cardiovascular care team share their paths to leadership in a [new ACC video](#). The video captures stories from a diverse array of ACC members, including ACC President **Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC**, and Vice President **C. Michael Valentine, MD, FACC**, as well as up-and-coming leaders, including Board of Governors member **Laxmi Mehta, MD, FACC**; and **Travis Batts, MD, FACC**, from ACC's Leadership Academy Cohort II. The stories these leaders share illustrate the importance of seeking opportunities to lead under ACC's new governance structure, which supports centralized authority and decentralized decision-making, finding mentors and providing mentorship, and maintaining a focus on the College's mission

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to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health. [Watch the video here.](#)

February Issue of *Cardiology: Interventions* Looks at Inflammation for the Cardiologist; Trends in Cardiovascular Medicine for 2018; ACC.18 Sneak Peek, and More

The [cover story](#) in the latest issue of *Cardiology: Interventions* examines the emerging role of inflammation in cardiovascular disease including findings from the CANTOS trial. [Read more on this topic](#) from Editor-in-Chief **Peter C. Block, MD, FACC**. Learn what leading experts think will [most impact cardiovascular medicine in this new year](#). And learn about [catheter-directed management in pulmonary embolism](#) in the FIT perspective by **Brett Carroll, MD**. The [ACC.18 Sneak Peek](#) will help you start planning your best meeting now. [Get the full issue at ACC.org/CardiologyInterventions.](#)

January Issue of *Cardiology: Digital Health Solutions in Cardiovascular Medicine, Leadership Forum, Physician Assistant Workforce Survey, and More*

The [cover story](#) in the January issue of *Cardiology* highlights the potential for digital health solutions in cardiovascular medicine and how the ACC's Innovation Strategy is optimizing this impact. [Leadership Forum](#) brings us three stories: the debut of the "Healthy Leadership Forum" designed by **Julie M. Clary, MD, MBA, FACC**; longevity secrets from **John Day, MD, FACC**, and how **Travis Batts, MD, FACC**, views service through leadership to help patients and meet ACC's mission. Learn about the evolution of the [physician assistant workforce](#) in cardiology based on results from a survey by the ACC's PA Work Group. [Get the full issue at ACC.org/Cardiology.](#)

December Issue of *Cardiology: ACC's Education Enterprise, Lifestyle and*

Cardiovascular Health, Innovation Road Map, and More

The [cover story](#) in the December issue of *Cardiology* highlights the partnership of ACC members and staff in the ACC's education enterprise of serving the lifelong learning of the cardiovascular community. Also in this issue, review some of the things we've learned this year about [prevention of cardiovascular disease](#) and read about the [ACC's Innovation strategy](#). [Get the full issue at ACC.org/Cardiology.](#)

February ACC.org Tip of the Month: Read *Cardiology* Magazine Online

Cardiology magazine is your one-stop source for cardiovascular research and ACC news and reading it online just got easier. The flagship member publication of your professional home, *Cardiology* is a can't-miss monthly publication that combines clinical news, expert commentary, ACC updates and more into one source. Thanks to the enhanced [Cardiology landing page on ACC.org](#), readers can quickly scroll through every article headline from the current issue without leaving the page. Links to the full catalog of back issues and social media sharing tools are also available. Bookmark [ACC.org/Cardiology](#) to catch up on this important member resource featuring the most relevant topics in cardiology and valued mainstays like *JACC in a Flash*, *Journal Wrap*, *Heart of Health Policy* and more.

JACC Leadership Page: Cardiovascular Health System Leadership

In a recent Leadership Page published in the [Journal of the American College of Cardiology \(JACC\)](#), **Edward T.A. Fry, MD, FACC**, ACC chair and incoming trustee and **Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC**, ACC president, discuss leadership in cardiovascular health care. They write that during this time of unprecedented, accelerating change, today's leaders must be "change managers" and visionaries while also possessing analytic expertise and emotional

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intelligence. Fry and Walsh discuss the rise of the dyad model of leadership—a partnership between a clinical and an administrative leader. Each partner brings a unique set of skills and background that complements the other. With the growing frequency of health care mergers, the future of the cardiovascular field depends on strong leadership. “[C]ardiac specialists must step up and lead care transformation to meet the goals of better outcomes, greater access, higher value, and optimal professional engagement,” Fry and Walsh write. “As members of the cardiac care team, we have the experience, skills, opportunities, resources, passion, and moral authority to do so successfully.” [Read more.](#)

Read the Most Talked About JACC Journal Articles from 2017

Research published in JACC Journals was among the [most talked about](#) in cardiology last year. Find out which articles published in JACC and the five JACC specialty journals received the most media and social media attention throughout the world in 2017. The JACC Journals team has compiled lists for each journal using data from Altmetric. View the top articles and their attention scores at [JACC.org/MostTalkedAbout](#). Learn more about [publishing in JACC Journals](#).

TOP SCIENCE & QUALITY NEWS

[JACC Editor’s Page: High Blood Pressure Guidelines](#)

In a recent Editor’s Page published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (JACC), Editor-in-Chief **Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MAAC**, discusses the new [ACC/American Heart Association guideline for high blood pressure](#) that was published in November. Fuster highlights three takeaways from the guideline: (1) the importance of not unnecessarily treating patients; (2) the fact that a large percentage of Americans with

high blood pressure levels are not being properly treated based on both the old and the new guidelines; and (3) that many Americans are not aware that they have high blood pressure, showing the importance of identifying patients who are hypertensive. “[B]lood pressure management presents the first real opportunity for personalized medicine within the cardiovascular field,” Fuster writes. “Caregivers should be discussing blood pressure with their patients to understand the appropriate level for each person. Furthermore, we need to prioritize those patients who have high blood pressure. The attention that the guideline has received may present just the opportunity to broach these conversations with each of our patients individually.” [Read more.](#) Visit the guideline hubs on [OnlineJACC.org](#) and [ACC.org](#) for additional commentary, tools and resources.

New Leadership Saves Lives Toolkit Available

The ACC recently launched the [Leadership Saves Lives \(LSL\) Toolkit](#), a companion initiative to [Surviving MI](#). The toolkit includes practical tools and insights about how hospitals achieve culture change. LSL was created on a team-based leadership intervention in ten U.S. hospitals to: promote uptake of evidence-based strategies associated with better 30-day risk standardized mortality rates for patients with acute myocardial infarction, drive improvements in five domains of organizational culture and reduce RSMR. Find out more and download the toolkit at [CVQuality.ACC.org](#).

ManageMR App and Toolkit Now Available

The ACC recently launched the ManageMR app to offer clinicians personalized referral and treatment advice for diagnosed mitral regurgitation patients by verifying the severity and etiology of the MR. Clinicians can enter patient parameters from an Echo assessment and review customized advice

on:

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probable severity and etiology of a patient's MR; need for referral; and feasibility of mitral valve repair vs. replacement for the patient. This app is part of ACC's [ManageMR Toolkit](#) created to guide clinicians from assessment to referral of diagnosed MR patients. [Download](#) the ManageMR App for free and learn more about ACC's mobile resources at [ACC.org/Apps](#).

TOP ADVOCACY & HEALTH POLICY

ACC Launches New Advocacy Action Alert System

Your ACC has launched a new grassroots Advocacy Action Alert system, [VoterVoice](#). Sharing your opinion with legislators and decision makers has never been easier!

How It Works: ACC Advocacy will [post](#) announcements about essential legislation at the state and federal level and share these Action Alerts with members via email. With just a few easy clicks, ACC members can contact their legislators or regulators via **email, phone or Twitter** to share their support or opposition to policies impacting cardiology and patient care. This system offers many exciting benefits, including the ability for ACC members to share Action Alert links directly with other members.

Take Action: Watch for important Action Alert emails from ACC staff or chapter executives, and visit [ACC.org/AdvocacyAction](#) today! Questions? Email advocacyleg@acc.org.

DIGITAL ACC RESOURCES

ACC Weekly Podcast on Not-to-Miss CV Topics Now Available on Google Play, iTunes
ACC members and clinicians have a new way to gain unique insights and expert commentary on some of the [top content posted to ACC.org](#)

each week. In his *Eagle's Eye View* [podcast](#), ACC.org Editor-in-Chief **Kim Eagle, MD, MACC**, discusses the hottest cardiovascular topics, ranging from new clinical guidelines to practice-changing research and innovative quality initiatives and tools. "Our talented team of web editors and ACC staff is dedicated to curating the most valuable content for members and the cardiovascular community," said Eagle. "The podcast provides an efficient way to obtain weekly highlights in an exciting new format." Listen now on [ACC.org](#), [Google Play](#), or [iTunes](#).

Get Easy Access to JACC Content on Your Phone or Tablet Via the JACC Journals App

Use the [JACC Journals App](#) to access the latest research and clinical practice updates from the top-ranked family of JACC Journals. This single app puts all of your favorite content at your fingertips – and is accessible across all iOS and Android devices. The app lets you browse new issues, link to featured articles, and interact with figures, tables and multimedia content. The "My Reading List" feature allows you to save articles for offline reading; share via social media; email useful content; and much more! Download the app from the [iTunes App Store](#) or get it on [Google Play](#) today.

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 \(@ACCCardioEd\)](#), and [quality \(@ACCCVQuality\)](#). CardioSmart, ACC's patient

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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.

Download ACC's Advocacy Action Mobile App

Be sure to download the [ACC Advocacy Action mobile app](#) to get easy access to ACC's advocacy priorities and timely talking points to share during congressional visits. The app was designed to help members engage with lawmakers and influence health policy. Download it today on [iTunes](#) (iPhone, iPad) and [Google Play](#) (Android devices).

SAVE THE DATES!

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

2018 Cardiology Fellows-In-Training Poster Presentation and Reception

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Intercontinental Hotel

Chicago, Illinois

CLICK HERE FOR FIT EVENT FLYER

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2018 Annual Meeting & Symposium

Saturday & Sunday, May 19 & 20

Grand Geneva Resort & Spa

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

