



# Missouri Chapter

News - December, 2007

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## A Message from the Governor



Dear MO-ACC Member:

As we approach the end of 2007, I want to tell you about some of the exciting programs we have scheduled for next year and some of the activities that have taken place this year.

### New Council Members

We have been working diligently to fill open Council positions. **Dr.**

**F. Douglas Biggs** and **Dr. Douglas Bogart** will fill positions in the North District covering the western part of the state. **Dr. Bryan Beck** will fill an open positions the Southeastern District and **Dr. Elie Azrak** will fill an open position in the Eastern District. We have an open position in the Eastern District and will have two open positions in March so ballots will go out to members in the Eastern District within the week. In addition, ballots will be mailed to the entire membership for the Treasurer position. We wish to thank **Dr. Richard Whiting, Dr. Annette Quick, Dr. Ali Nawaz Khan** and **Dr. Randall Meyer** who have finished their term on the Council. And a special thanks to **Dr. Greg Ewald** who has served four years as our Treasurer. It takes a great deal of time to serve on the Council and we appreciate the time that all of these busy individuals have given to the Chapter.

### MO-ACC Foundation Established

ACC Chapters are finding it more difficult to solicit industry sponsorships to fund programs. Our total revenue from dues were approximately \$35,500 last year. This revenue had to cover staff time, lobbying expenses and other operating expenses. Since our Chapter cannot operate on dues revenue alone we decided to establish a foundation to accept donations. The State of Missouri has approved our incorporation papers and we are

in the process of completing paperwork requesting not-for-profit status from the IRS. I have had many positive conversations with my patients about our education plans and have a substantial amount of money promised from some of these patients. If you would like to donate to the foundation or would like to talk to your patients about donating, please contact me or our Chapter Executive, **Tonya Ferguson**. One of the first programs we plan to fund will be a Fellows-in-Training program scheduled for next year and discussed below.

### Fellows-in-Training Program

Committee members, **Dr. Frank Bleyer, Dr. Ben Barzilai, Dr. Greg Flaker, Dr. Alan Forker, Dr. John Best,** and **Dr. Andy Kates** recently met via conference call to layout a program for our Fellows-in-Training. Other members of the committee include **Dr. David Law, Dr. Bryan Beck, Dr. Tim Martin** and **Dr. Gene Langevin**. The program will be held on May 10, 2008 in Columbia, Missouri. The focus of the program is networking, contract evaluations, avoiding malpractice litigation, types of practices available for fellows and an update on Chapter and national ACC activities. All members of the organization are invited to attend this program. It has been awhile since we have had a statewide program so mark your calendar and plan on attending this networking opportunity.

### Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services . . . Stroke and STEMI Task Force

The Missouri Chapter has been asked to take a leadership roll by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to expand Missouri's successful trauma care system to address stroke and ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). **Dr. George Kichura** will represent the Chapter over the next several months as the Task Force advises the Department on a process to develop consensus on Missouri's Stroke and STEMI time-critical diagnosis and guiding principles for the Task Force leading to the eventual implementation of a system.

## Advocacy

Recent news from Capitol Hill is that Congress has passed a six-month Medicare payment fix. The action replaces the scheduled 10 percent cut in Medicare physician payments with a .5 percent update for 2008 and continue the Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). While the College appreciates Congress' action, we are disappointed that Congress could only agree to a six-month fix.

"We are ready to work with Congress after the New Year to craft a longer-term policy that reforms the flawed payment system and advances the quality and appropriateness of care provided," ACC CEO Jack Lewin, M.D. said. "The cardiovascular community is committed to improving the quality of care, but the continued unstable Medicare reimbursement system hinders the ability of practices to implement many of the exciting quality improvement initiatives being proposed."

## CPT Coding Seminars to be Presented in January

Once again the Chapter is offering a cardiac specific CPT Coding Seminar in January. The seminar leader will be Mr. Ray Cathey, Certified Physician Assistant & Administrator, McVey Associates. Fliers have been mailed to the membership. You can also access information on the Chapter webpage, <http://www.moacc.org>.

The dates are:

Tuesday, January 29, 2008 Kansas City, Missouri Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel 8801 N.W. 112th Street Kansas City, MO 64153	Wednesday, January 30, 2008 St. Louis, Missouri Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel 10330 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis, MO 63134
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## All Chapter Reception - Sunday, March 30, 2008

Join us at the All Chapter Reception which will take place during the ACC Scientific Session in March. The reception will be held on Sunday, March 30 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue.

This is a great time to drink a little wine, eat a little food, catch up on old friendships and meet Chapter officers.

Sincerely,

**William G. Bowen, MD, FACC, Governor**

## Officers and Council

### Governor

William Bowen, MD, F.A.C.C.  
Maryland Medical Group,  
St. Louis

### Secretary/Treasurer

Gregory Ewald, MD, F.A.C.C.  
Washington University School of  
Medicine, St. Louis

### Past President

Alan Forker, MD, F.A.C.C.  
Mid America Heart Institute,  
Kansas City

### Councilors

#### District 1 - North

F. Douglas Biggs, MD, F.A.C.C.  
Kansas City Cardiology Associates,  
Kansas City

Douglas Bogart, MD, F.A.C.C.  
University Physician Associates,  
Kansas City

Marius Hubbell, Jr., MD, F.A.C.C.  
The Children's Cardiac Center at  
Mercy Hospital, Kansas City

#### District 2 - Central

John Best, MD, F.A.C.C.  
University of Missouri Hospitals &  
Clinics, Columbia

#### District 3 - Southwest

Gene Langevin, DO, F.A.C.C.  
Joplin Cardiovascular Medicine,  
Joplin

#### District 4 - South Central

Timothy Martin, MD, F.A.C.C.  
Washington University Heart  
Specialists, Rolla

#### District 5 - Southeast

Bryan Beck, MD  
Cardiovascular Consultants, Cape  
Girardeau

David Law, MD, F.A.C.C.

Cardiovascular Consultants,  
Cape Girardeau

#### District 6 - East

Elie Azrak, MD, F.A.C.C.,  
F.S.C.A.I.  
St. Louis Cardiology Consultants,  
St. Louis

George Kichura, MD, F.A.C.C.  
Metro Heart Group,  
St. Louis

Marc Lewen, DO, F.A.C.C.  
Cardiology Diagnostics, Ltd.,  
St. Louis

Tonya J. Ferguson  
Chapter Executive  
St. Louis