



# Missouri Chapter

News - March, 2007

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## A Message from the Governor



Dear MO-ACC Member:

As we approach the Annual ACC Scientific Conference in New Orleans, we approach the end of my term as Governor for the state of Missouri.

I have enjoyed my Governorship and have learned more about the challenges that we all face each day. These challenges continue and our Chapter is in a good position to address anything that

comes along. As one of my last duties as Governor, I want to bring you up-to-date on what is happening with the Chapter before my term ends.

### The Reigns of Leadership Change in Mid-March

William "Grif" Bowen will assume the Governorship for a three-year term at the Annual ACC Scientific Session. He has been a Fellow of the ACC for twenty-five years and has a long history with the Missouri Chapter serving as Secretary-Treasurer, Membership Chair and Councilor.

Dr. Bowen is professor of clinical medicine and cardiology at Washington University in St. Louis. He has just completed a two-year term as president of the Medical Staff Association of Barnes Jewish Hospital and is also a board member of Barnes Jewish Hospital. He has been President of the Maryland Medical Group for the last twelve years and practices clinical cardiology at Barnes Jewish Hospital. He was awarded the Barnes Jewish Hospital Community Scholars award in 2002.

### All Chapter Reception

If you are planning on attending the ACC meeting in New Orleans later this month, please stop by and see us during the all member reception on Sunday, March 25th. The reception will be held at the New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street in the

French Quarter in the Acadia Room (Grand Ballroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor). The reception starts at 5:30 and continues through 7:30 pm. This will be a great time to meet Grif. Also, come say good-bye to Michael Cain. Mike has taken a new position outside of Missouri. He is the Dean, for the School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo. Mike was the first Governor of the Chapter.. We wish him well in his new job.

We also want to thank Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. for their generous support of the 2007 ACC All-Chapter Reception.

### Joint Meeting With Washington University

We are happy to announce that we will be a co-sponsor with Washington University of a symposium on heart valve disease featuring high level surgical and clinical presenters. The symposium will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2007 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in St. Louis. The tentative time is from 7:30 am to early afternoon. Breakfast and lunch will be included and CME credit will be provided. Plans are still tentative so please watch your mail or email for further information.

### Advocacy

#### Medicaid Fraud

The Senate and Governor's office was very interested in seeing a Medicaid fraud bill passed in 2006. The House was resistant to the Senate bill (SB 1210) and the issue died before the end of session.

During the current session, HB 353, the Medicaid Fraud bill, has been approved by the House of Representatives and is awaiting committee assignment in the Senate. The House Perfected version stiffens the penalties for fraud and rewards whistleblowers for turning over legitimate evidence of wrongdoing to the Attorney General. However, it does not contain any

ominous provisions allowing any person to file a lawsuit against a health care provider suspected of fraud. The bill is supported by MSMA and is the one that physicians can agree upon. The Senate, however, will want a much tougher bill. If you want to see the summary of the bill you can access the text at:

<http://www.house.mo.gov/bills071/bilsum/perf/sHB353P.htm>

We encourage you to contact your Senator and express your concern that opening up physicians to new civil action is not the way to go about fighting Medicaid Fraud. Senate information can be accessed at the link: <http://www.senate.state.mo.us>.

## Medicaid Fraud

### Governor Blunt's Medicaid Transformation Plan

Since Governor Blunt's announcement that he plans to transform Medicaid, everyone has been waiting to hear the details. His plan was announced through SB 577, submitted by Senator Charlie Shields. The new program will be called MO HealthNet. Participants will be able to choose a health care advocate who will coordinate the individual's health care needs by conducting health risk assessments, making referrals and providing care management. Participants will have their choice of three delivery options:

- (1) a risk-bearing care coordination program (managed care), which consists of coordinated care with a guaranteed savings level that is actuarially sound while limiting the profit that is generated to the vendor;
- (2) an administrative services organizations program (fee for service), which consists of a system of health care delivery providing care management and health plan administration services on a non-capitated basis where the financial terms shall require that the vendor fees are reduced if savings and quality targets specified by the department are not met; or
- (3) a state care management point of service program (team-oriented), which consists of a system of health care delivery administered by the department of social services.

There is much more to the bill, but as space is limited, you can access the entire bill at the following link:

[http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/BTS\\_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=28834](http://www.senate.mo.gov/07info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=28834)

## CPT Coding Seminars to be Presented in May

Watch your mail for information about our upcoming CPT Coding Seminars. The seminar leader will be Nikki Vendegna. The seminar in St. Louis will be May 22 at the Hilton St. Louis Airport. The Kansas City date is May 23 and will be at the Kansas City Airport Hilton. The topic is "Advanced Cardiology."

## GAP (Guidelines Applied in Practice) D2B (Door-to-Balloon Time)

**The ACC will unveil the list of hospitals that are participating in the D2B: An Alliance for Quality project at the annual meeting in March.** Several Missouri hospitals have signed up for the program and we are still encouraging more to participate. Hospitals can still sign up for the project even if they did not meet the March 1st deadline.

The program is a new Guidelines Applied in Practice (GAP) program launched by the American College of Cardiology to save time and save lives by reducing the door-to-balloon times in U.S. hospitals performing primary PCI. We are also looking for "Champions" who will help shepherd the program through their hospitals.

National guidelines developed by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association state that hospitals treating STEMI patients with emergency PCI should reliably achieve a door-to-balloon time of 90 minutes or less. However, accomplishing this level of performance is an organizational challenge.

For more information about D2B visit the D2B web site at <http://www.d2balliance.org>. You will find a toolkit that will help you get started. You will also find an action plan and information about data monitoring and feedback.

Should you have any questions about the program, you can contact Jason Byrd, ACC, [jbyrd@acc.org](mailto:jbyrd@acc.org).

Sincerely,

Alan D. Forker, MD, FACC, Governor