



Missouri Chapter

News - June 2008

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A Message from the Governor



Dear MO-ACC Member:

We have had a very busy year revitalizing the Council, setting up an education foundation and hosting a Fellows-in-Training program in May.

I am happy to report that we have had some great successes that are outlined in the newsletter below.

If you would like to get involved with the Chapter or have suggestions or concerns, please contact me.

MO-ACC Foundation

The Missouri Chapter has formed a foundation for the purpose of raising funds for educational and public activities. In recent years Pharma Guidelines have limited the access to funds from industry and membership dues are not enough to fund programs and run the Chapter. The MO-ACC Foundation was formed earlier this year and we have received our 501 (c) (3) designation from the IRS. I have found that my patients are happy to donate to a worthy cause and my solicitation to date have raised close to \$70,000. If you have patients that you think would be interested in donating to the foundation we can provide you with the necessary paperwork to help. And you can always donate yourself.

As Foundation Chair I would like to thank Foundation Trustees **Alan Forker** (Vice Chair), **Greg Ewald** (Treasurer), **Tonya Ferguson** (Secretary) and **Jerry Kennett** (Trustee). Our first course of business was to provide \$10,000 in funding to the FIT program held in May.

Missouri Legislature passes HB 1790

The TCD Task Force (Time Critical Diagnosis) chaired by

George Kichura has successfully ushered legislation through the Missouri House and Senate to pass HB 1790. This bill changes the law regarding hospital designations by the Department of Health and Senior Services to include a STEMI center and a stroke center if it meets the department's applicable level of STEMI or stroke center criteria.

This legislation is believed to be the first in the nation to legislatively create a STEMI and stroke system. A summary of the bill is provided on the MO-ACC website, www.mo.acc.org.

One of the key movers of the legislation was **Dr. Bill Jermyn**, EMS Medical Director for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Unfortunately Dr. Jermyn died the day the legislation was passed. We will keep you posted as to the implementation of the legislation.

Fellow's-in-Training Program

The Chapter successfully sponsored an educational program for close to thirty FITs in Columbia on May 12th. Thanks to the leadership of **Frank Bleyer**, and the help of university program directors **Alan Forker**, **Greg Flaker**, **Ben Barzilai** and **Andy Kates**, the program provided information that attendees found to be informative and beneficial as they plan for their future in Cardiology.

Attendees learned the pros and cons of the various types of cardiology practices from members **Rob Merritt**, **Alan Forker**, **Jerry Kennett**, **Tom Martin** and **John Best**. They also received valuable information on contracts, malpractice issues from the plaintiff and defendant viewpoints, and financial information from experts in the field.

Jim Dove, past president of the American College of Cardiology also provided the FITs with an outstanding talk on Quality Issues.

FITs Receive Poster Presentation Awards

The MO-ACC Chapter provided three awards to FITs who presented posters at the meeting on May 10th. The recipients are:

\$1,000.00 - Garg Rajeev, Universities and Clinics, Columbia

\$500.00 - Peter Mikolajczak, St. Louis University

\$250.00 - JoEllen Kohlman, St. Louis University

Council News

John Best has been elected to serve as Treasurer for the Missouri Chapter. He will serve a two year term. Also new to the Council since our last newsletter was published are **Greg Flaker** and **Jeff Sanders** representing the Central District; **Scott Brodarick, Dana Valencia** and **Victor Davila-Roman** representing the East District; and **Geetha Raghuvver** representing the West District.

WPS Becomes MAC for Missouri on June 1st

As most of you know, on September 5, 2007, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) became the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

The award is part of a Congressional requirement to replace all current Medicare Part A and B contracts with new contract entities called Medicare Administrative Contractors, or MACs. As a MAC, WPS will serve as a single point-of-contact entity, processing Medicare Part A and Part B claims from hospitals and other institutional providers, physicians, and other practitioners within this four-state region. The new single contract replaces the existing six contracts.

With the award of the J5 MAC, WPS began administering claims on June 1, 2008. WPS has provided the Chapter with a great deal of information, including customer service phone numbers and mailing addresses. As this information is too extensive to provide in this newsletter be sure to go to the MO-ACC website.

National News

Two Weeks Remain To Pass Medicare Reform Bill: Contact Your Senators To Take Action

Only a few days remain to pass a Medicare reform bill that would include updates in physician payments. The White House has given lawmakers until June 16 to pass legislation to prevent administrative and payment difficulties for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Members are urged to contact their senators and ask them to support 18 months of positive

Medicare physician payments, and ask them not to use cuts to medical imaging payments to offset new costs. To support the efforts of your colleagues in preventing physician payment cuts, contact your senators with the ACC's toll-free Grassroots Hotline at (800) 210-7193.

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

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

Past President

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

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Kansas City

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

Geetha Raghuvver, MD, F.A.C.C.
The Children's Cardiac Center at
Mercy Hospital, Kansas City

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University of Missouri Hospitals
and Clinics, Columbia

Jeffrey S. Sanders, MD, F.A.C.C.
Capital City Medical Associates,
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Washington University Heart
Specialists, Rolla

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Cardiovascular Consultants,
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Cardiovascular Consultants,
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Victor G. Davila-Roman, MD,
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Washington University, St. Louis

Dana P. Valencia, MD, F.A.C.C.
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Tonya J. Ferguson
Chapter Executive
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