



Missouri Chapter

News - November, 2009

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A Message from the Governor



Dear MO-ACC Member:

It's hard to believe that my three years as Governor for the chapter are just about over. As my term ends in March of 2010 this will be my last communication to you via our newsletter.

I believe we have

accomplished a great deal but the work continues. Our profession has many challenges ahead of it. I know the chapter will be in good hands when **Dr. Greg Flaker** takes over the helm next year.

When I started three years ago I had many plans but focused primarily on goals that would reenergize the council, get the fellows-in-training involved, increase the involvement of members in the legislative process and provide educational opportunities for members.

I am pleased to say that we have a good group of councilors who are giving of their time and energy. We have provided two annual meetings for the FITs, we have increased the number of CCAs in the chapter and provided them with complimentary registrations to our annual meeting. Twelve members attended the ACC Legislative Conference and made visits to our members of Congress. And, after many years of no

state-wide meetings, we have brought back the annual conference.

Perhaps my greatest legacy to the chapter is the formation of the MO-ACC Foundation. The foundation, now in place for two years, has raised \$113,000. Membership dues and industry sponsorship can no longer sustain the activities of the chapter. It is comforting to know that there is a fund that will provide the chapter with a cushion for our endeavors in the future.



Left to right, Justin Beland, Dr. William "Grif" Bowen, and Annual meeting co-chair Dr. Victor Davila

I know that Dr. Flaker will want to build on the current activities. We have already started to plan for next year. If you would like to get involved or have comments or concerns that you want to share, please contact me or Dr. Flaker.

Annual Meeting a Great Success

It's been several years since the chapter hosted an annual meeting and I am pleased to report that our meeting held on October 10th was a huge success. We had the largest turnout ever with representation from around the state.



Left to right, speakers Dr. Bernie Chaitman, Dr. George Kichura, Dr. Elie Azrak, and Dr. Richard Bach

Co-chairs **Dr. Victor Davila** and **Dr. Andrew Kates** put together

a top-notch scientific program that provided CME credit through Washington University. I can't thank them enough for their time and energy.

And special thanks goes to all of these speakers and moderators: **Dr. Elie Azrak, Dr. Richard Bach, Dr. Joseph Billadello, Dr. Sanjeev Bhalla, Dr. Bernie Chaitman, Dr. Murali Chakinala, Dr. Alan Forker, Dr. Stephen Kaine, Dr. George Kichura, Dr. John Lasala, Dr. Geetha Raghuvier, Dr. Angela Sharkey, and Dr. Alan Zajarias.**

Thanks also to **Justin Beeland**, Associate Director, Grassroots Outreach and Development for the American College of Cardiology. Justin provided us with an update on the legislative efforts currently being conducted by the ACC.

There is nothing like face-to-face meetings that allow for networking and discussion. Plans are to host another annual meeting next year in the fall and Dr. Davila has graciously agreed to chair the program. We also plan to host a program for FITs and CCAs so watch for additional information next year.

Contingent of Missouri Cardiologists attend the ACC Legislative Conference

I am pleased to tell you that a large contingent of members from the chapter participated in the largest visit ever to Capitol Hill in September.

Those who attended with me were **Dr. Elie Azrak, Dr. Scott Brodarick, Dr. Walter Coats, Dr. Joe Drozda, Rock Erickson, Tonya Ferguson, Dr. Greg Flaker, Dr. Jerry Kennett, Connie Kray, Dr. David Morton, and Dr. David Sewall.** Physicians who practice in Kansas and visited Kansas City area legislators included **Dr. Michael Main and Dr. Randall Thompson.**

The ACC Legislative Conference was a thought provoking two days of speakers and panel discussions focusing on reform, CMS cuts and quality issues. Then armed with information and talking points we visited the offices of senators and representatives.

We visited the offices of Senators **Claire McCaskill** and **Kit Bond** and Representatives **Russ Carnahan, Emanuel**

Cleaver, Blaine Luetkemeyer, and Todd Akin.

Representative Russ Carnahan sat with us for close to a half-hour as we explained the impact of the Weiner-Bralely imaging amendment and how the CMS cuts would affect health care delivery to Medicare patients.

Since the visit the Weiner-Bralely amendment, which would have eliminated the ability of physicians to provide advanced diagnostic imaging services in their office, was withdrawn. This success is due to the many ACC members, including those in Missouri who contacted Representative **Roy Blunt** on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Efforts continue to stop the proposed Medicare payment cuts. Approximately 25% of Congress has sent letters to Health and Human Services Secretary **Kathleen Sebelius** opposing the cuts. Representative **Todd Akin** signed on the Gonzalez/Rogers

letter to Secretary Sebelius while individual letters were sent to her from Representative **Russ Carnahan** and Senator **Kit Bond.** The chapter has been very involved in making contacts with all of our Senators and Representatives about this issue. We've encouraged members to contact their congressional leaders as well. We have also had op-ed pieces published in major newspapers in St. Louis and Columbia.

As we go to print the Senate has defeated the "Medicare Physicians Fairness Act of 2009 (S. 1776). The bill would have served as a legislative vehicle for eliminating the sustainable growth rate formula (SGR) and help establish a new Medicare physician payment system. The bill would have repealed the SGR permanently. Many Senators voting against the bill argued that the legislation was fiscally irresponsible.

We have many challenges still facing us and much will change before you receive this communication. However, to meet these challenges, we will need you, the chapter and national ACC all working together to counteract the forces working against us. You can participate by contacting your legislators when the call goes out.

**"We are not a country
governed by a majority, but by
a majority who participate."**

Thomas Jefferson

Legislative Conference



Left to right, Rock Erickson, Tonya Ferguson, Rep. Russ Carnahan, Dr. David Sewall, Dr. Grif Bowen and Dr. Scott Brodarick



Dr. Jerry Kennett discusses issues with Senator Bond's aid, Kara Smith. Joining him are Dr. David Morton and Dr. Walter Coats. Connie Kray and Dr. Joe Drozda in the background.



Rep. Todd Akin with Dr. Elie Azrak



Dr. Scott Brodarick, Dr. David Sewall, and Dr. Grif Bowen



Left to right, Dr. Grif Bowen, Dr. Scott Brodarick, Dr. David Sewall, Rep. Todd Akin, Connie Kray, Dr. Elie Azrak, Dr. David Morton, Dr. Joe Drozda.



Left to right, Dr. Greg Flaker, Dr. David Morton, Dr. Walter Coats and Dr. Joe Drozda.

Missouri Chapter Launches Online Career Center

The Missouri Chapter has launched their new interactive job board, the MO-ACC Career Center. With its focus on the cardiovascular professional and industry companies, the MO-ACC Career Center offers members—and the industry at large an easy-to-use and highly targeted resource for online employment connections.

Employers can post jobs online, search for qualified candidates based on specific job criteria, and create an online resume agent to email qualified candidates daily.

For members seeking new positions the MO-ACC Career Center is a free service that provides access to employers and jobs in the cardiovascular care industry. In addition to posting your resume, you can browse and view available jobs based upon your criteria and save those jobs for later review if you choose. You can create a search agent to provide email notifications of jobs that match your criteria. You will also have access to the National Healthcare Career Network (NHCN), a network of over 170 top healthcare associations and professional organizations. The chapters alliance with NHCN increases your reach to a larger database of industry-specific job postings.

To access the MO-ACC Career Center see [www://moacc.org](http://www.moacc.org).

Practice Administrators are Invited to Join the ACC

Practice administrators are invited to join the ACC. A membership in the ACC will provide practice administrators with the following benefits:

- Clinical guidelines and tools to improve clinical care management
- Information on important advocacy, reimbursement and policy issues affecting cardiovascular care management

Practice administrators will have access to:

- The Online Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC); JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions and JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging, Cardiosource Review Journal via Cardiosource
- Free access to Cardiosource
- Free subscription to Cardiology, the ACC's monthly magazine
- ACCF Standards and Guidelines
- And much more

To learn more see the ACC web page at http://www.acc.org/practicemgt/practice_management.htm

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