



# Illinois

## CHAPTER

### Illinois Chapter ACC

11 Salt Creek Lane  
Hinsdale, IL 60521

### Spring 2015 Newsletter

#### Upcoming Events

##### Annual Symposium and Meeting: Hot Topics in Contemporary Cardiovascular Practice

May 29, 2015  
The Hyatt Lodge  
Oak Brook, Illinois

##### International Cardiovascular Nutrition Summit

May 29-31, 2015  
Embassy Suites Chicago-O'Hare  
Rosemont, Illinois

##### Cardiovascular Team (previously CCA) Symposium

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##### Best of ACC.15

June 12-13, 2015  
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois



**Jay Alexander, MD, FACC**  
*IL-ACC Incoming Governor*

Dear Colleagues:

The ACC is a member driven organization with elected Governors from each state ensuring our voices are heard. We are in turbulent times with decreased reimbursement, attacks on employed physicians and reductions in subsidies for post graduate medical education. We are dealing with oppressive regulations such as those imposed by the ABIM and the ever present issues with Medicare reimbursement. More than ever the ACC is relevant and stands to help fight these battles. It is an incredible honor to have been elected as your Governor, as I take the baton from Dr. Marc Shelton I want to thank him for all he has done for our Chapter. Under his incredible leadership, our Chapter has thrived and the legacy of leaders such as Drs. Messer, Dove, Hale, Brown, Wallis, Hines and Shelton are tough acts to follow. Actually as I look back on the slate of Governors who have served our cardiology community we have been blessed with incredible leadership and vision. It's humbling to accept the baton that has been held in such capable hands.

As I start on this journey it is imperative that you join me in this endeavor. The Chapter needs EACH of you to be involved, to advocate, to give to our other CV Team members. I look forward to working with our many members on state and national advocacy issues, CME/CNE committees, our Fellows in Training events, and clinical issues. And you know if you have not joined the PAC -- you WILL hear from me!

I hope all of you have reached out and contacted your senators while they have been home to urge them to permanently fix the SGR. It is imperative that you call and email them -- when they return on 4/13 they MUST pass this critical bill. This is not a private practice issue but affects the entire house of medicine whether you are employed, in academic practice or private practice.

WE have had an exciting 1st Quarter - starting with one of the best FIT events we have hosted. There were over 40 Posters, - including 4 from our "new" sister Chapter, Wisconsin. I was thrilled to host them at this event and hope next year we top 50 posters! Then I had the opportunity to see many of you in San Diego for ACC.15. I was a great meeting - not to mention incredible weather!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our spring symposium and I hope to hear from you so I can represent our chapter's interests at the board of Governors. Remember I need you, so please do not hesitate to contact me with any of your questions, ideas, or needs. I look forward to the next 3 years - and again my deepest thanks and gratitude Marc for a job well down -- these are hard shoes to fill!



**Marc Shelton, MD, FACC**  
*IL-ACC Outgoing Governor*

Dear Colleagues:

As I begin to say goodbye I want to thank all of you. It has been a privilege serving as your Governor of the Illinois Chapter for the last three years. I have enjoyed working with so many of you in different ways. The leaders before me and those that will follow remind me how humbling it is to be surrounded by such incredible leaders. I truly stood on the shoulders of giants and could not have had the success we have enjoyed without their legacy and your support. My three years has been filled with meeting incredible people in very challenging times. As I pass this extraordinarily important leadership mantle to Dr. Jay Alexander, I do so knowing you and our Chapter will be in great hands. May this cycle of leadership expertise never be broken! We need our leaders as we leap into this value agenda and the related uncharted waters. We are so fortunate to have Jay's leadership to see the Chapter through to the next challenge. Dr. Alexander has been a strong force in working with National ACC Advocacy - consider that fair warning to get Illinois in the top 5% for contributions!

I want to thank the Board and our Chapter's membership for their support and participation over the last three years and I look forward to continuing an active role in the Chapter.

#### Congratulations to Our Newly Elected Officers and Councilors

**Treasurer:** Dr. Francisco Aguilar

##### Chicago District Councilors:

Dr. Angira Patel  
Dr. Keith Benzuly  
Dr. Adhir Shroff  
Dr. David Fishman, Alternate  
Dr. Kevin Zhang, Alternate

##### North Suburban District Councilors:

Dr. Kousik Krishnan  
Dr. Ronald Berger  
Dr. Mark Lampert  
Dr. Amir Darki, Alternate

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### Value to Volume (V2V)

If you do not believe it is here ... believe it. The recent HHS announcement, coupled with the current proposed permanent SGR fix is largely built on transitioning to a value based reimbursement. It is critical that EVERY physician understand the [PQRS](#) and [Value Modifier](#) programs. 2015 data collection in your office is a critical element as failure to successfully report in PQRS will result in penalties for every physician beginning with all Medicare services in 2017. Your 2015 data will also be used to determine your Value Modifier, and depending on the size of your group (including PA's and NP's) can result in as much as a 6% payment adjustment (note there is a PQRS component in this as well). Finally [Meaningful Use](#) (MU) has now entered the penalty phase! If you have NOT attested by October 1, 2015 you will face a 3% adjustment in 2017 – these penalties, again based on 2015 data – can add up to 9%.

Failing to attest for MU in 2015 will also result in a 2% penalty starting January 1, 2016.

With the release of Stage 3 rules, ACC continues to watch this closely and will respond with comments as to the complexity of implementing this in your practices.



### **Kim Allan Williams, MD, FACC Becomes ACC President**

Following the end of ACC.15, Patrick T. O'Gara, MD, MACC, immediate past president of the ACC, passed the presidential chain to Kim Allan Williams, Sr., MD, FACC, at the time honored Convocation Ceremony. Williams is currently the James B. Herrick

Professor and chief of the division of cardiology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL. He is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases, nuclear medicine, nuclear cardiology and cardiovascular computed tomography. "Each president has the privilege of inheriting the foundation of past leaders," Williams said. "Following on Pat's year of building new leaders and ensuring continued focus on educational funding and research, I hope to focus on increasing our ongoing effectiveness as advocates for patient access to the best cardiovascular care, regardless of race, gender, income or geography." Read more on [ACC.org](#).

### **CMS Releases Chronic Care Management Services Fact Sheet**

CMS has released the [Chronic Care Management Services Fact Sheet](#), designed to provide background on the separately payable Chronic Care Management (CCM) services for non-face-to-face care coordination services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions. The fact sheet includes information on eligible providers and patients, Physician Fee Schedule billing requirements, and a table aligning the CCM Scope of Service Elements and billing requirements with the Certified Electronic Health Record or other electronic technology requirements.

### **ACC.org Has Arrived!**

The ACC's new website, [ACC.org](#), is now live, offering enhanced features and design requested by ACC members. Nearly two years ago, the ACC embarked on the redesign of [CardioSource.org](#), as part of its broader digital strategy. The goal: to leverage new technologies to ensure cardiovascular professionals and their patients have the tools and resources to communicate easily and effectively in today's increasingly digital world. Today's launch is the culmination of this effort. Based on the demands of ACC members, content organization and navigation are at the center of the new site. [ACC.org](#) is built upon intuitive navigation and improved search performance, which will help users easily navigate the large volume of complex ACC content contained in the site. Key highlights include mobile optimization, personalization options, streamlined navigation and improved search performance – all of which make the website easier to use whether in the office, at home or on the go. Get started with the [ACC.org Quick Start Guide](#). Your former CardioSource username and password are the keys to logging in.



### **ACC's New Advocacy Action Mobile App**

Be sure to download the new [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).

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### **EHR Incentive Program Changes in the Works**

CMS recently announced that it intends to update the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs through the rulemaking process beginning this year. Feedback from health care organizations and stakeholders, including the ACC, was instrumental in CMS' decision to consider shortening the 2015 reporting period to 90 days, realigning hospital reporting periods to the calendar year and modifying other aspects of the program. CMS noted that these proposed changes align with HHS' commitment to fostering a health information technology infrastructure that elevates patient-centered care, improves health outcomes and supports the providers who care for patients. Reps. Renee Ellmers (R-NC) and Ron Kind (D-WI) deserve recognition for clearly listening to physician constituents and encouraging CMS to make this important change. This initiative is separate and distinct from the widely anticipated proposed Stage 3 rule that is also expected this spring. [Learn more here.](#)



### **ACC Names Final Round of Patient Navigator Program Hospitals**

The final 20 hospitals have been named as participants in the [ACC Patient Navigator Program](#), bringing the [total number of participants to 35](#). The first of its kind in cardiology, the program supports national efforts to reduce unnecessary patient readmissions related to heart attacks and heart failure. [Read More.](#)

### **AUC Continues Its March**

As part of last years (2014) SGR Patch – some very important legislation was put in place. It calls for mandatory AUC identification for any nuclear, PET, CT or MRI prior to performing the test. It requires this information be embedded in our EHR's and that specific information is included in the billing. This will be effective on January 1, 2017. Rules and clarification are due out this year so stay tuned to your ACC for further information.

### **MOC Process Changes from ABIM**

An email from Richard J. Baron, MD, president and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) was released recently to the internal medicine community outlines changes to its controversial Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. In conversations with ACC leadership, Dr. Baron has expressed gratitude for the ACC's support as well as its frank and constructive criticism during the past year of transition. Learn more about the changes in a post by ACC President Patrick T. O'Gara, MD, FACC on the [ACC in Touch Blog here](#). The College is continuing our efforts to educate our members about the new requirements and provide them the tools and resources necessary to help them meet these requirements as efficiently as possible. The ACC has created an MOC Hub with details about ABIM's current MOC program to inform and help ACC members navigate the changes. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Interventional Specialty Designation**

The AMA now recognizes interventional cardiology as a unique and separate specialty. It is imperative that in order to take advantage of this that your billing information with Medicare is updated and current. It is also important to remember that Board Certification is required to be classified as a subspecialist on PECOS (the billing mechanism). This can also be accomplished by completing Medicare Form 8551. [Read More](#)  
[View CMS Article](#)

### **Catch Up on the Latest News From ACC.15**

Miss out on the latest news on trials and sessions from ACC.15? Check out full coverage of the conference including news stories and trial summaries of the hottest trials on [ACC.org/ACC15](#). Get [video coverage](#) of the conference, including [FITS on the GO](#) interviews with presenters of the Late-Breaking Clinical Trials. Also, check out ACC.15 wrap-ups of each day on the [ACC in Touch Blog](#), with video highlights from Peter Block, MD, FACC, and Deepak Bhatt, MD, MPH, FACC. Interested in the Future of Cardiology? Search [#ACC15](#) and follow [@ACCinTouch](#) for recaps of the Future of Cardiovascular Medicine Track and more. Save the date for ACC.16 in Chicago, IL, April 2 – 4, 2016. [Read More.](#)

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#### **Fellows-In-Training Poster Presentation**

Our Fellows-In-Training poster presentation was a great success with 42 posters presented, included four posters presented by Wisconsin Chapter Fellows-In-Training. Congratulations to the 2015 poster winners:

- 1st Place - Dr. Sadiya Khan, Northwestern University
- 2nd Place - Dr. David Vance, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 3rd Place - Dr. Li Zhou, University of Illinois at Chicago

FIT's attending the event were also eligible for a drawing to win one of five free registrations to the Best of ACC.15. Those winners were:

- Dr. Matthew Feinstein (Northwestern University)
- Dr. Saifullah Nasir (Advocate Lutheran General Hospital)
- Dr. Neal Sawlani (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- Dr. Jaehoon Chung (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- Dr. Rahul Malik (Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center)

