

West Coast Quality Improvement Symposium for Medical Students & Residents
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On Saturday, January 10th, the American College of Medical Quality (ACMQ) sponsored the West Coast Quality Improvement Symposium for Medical Students & Residents. With the generous grant and support of the ACMQ, the medical students of the University of Southern California (USC) Keck School of Medicine organized and hosted a successful Quality Improvement & Patient Safety event, including bringing together engaging speakers and robust participant discussions. The West Coast event was spearheaded by Vamsi Aribindi, a leader in the ACMQ Resident & Medical Student Section. As a third year medical student and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) trained Aerospace Engineer, he has had a passion for measuring quality, improving systems and identifying solutions to prevent and reduce errors, waste and negative outcomes.

The keynote was delivered by Dr. Stephanie Hall, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of USC Keck Medicine, USC Keck & Norris Hospitals and Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs at the USC Keck School of Medicine. She provided a thorough and in-depth "autopsy" of Medical Quality in the in-patient clinical setting including all of the opportunities and challenges facing health systems today and the layers of complexity presented to hospital and clinic leadership by government policies, regulatory bodies, demands from various payors, pressures from governing boards, and a whole host of other healthcare industry standards and practices.

Other thought leaders presenting at the symposium included: Dr. Gina Rosetti, Associate Director of the USC Internal Medicine Residency Program & Director of Quality for the largest categorical residency program in the nation--she presented on developing Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QI+PS) Curriculum for Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs; Dr. Jerry P Abraham, a Resident Physician at the USC Family Medicine Residency Program at California Hospital and Trustee of the California Medical Association (CMA), Trustee-Elect of the American College of Medical Quality (ACMQ), Chair of the ACMQ Resident & Student Section and member of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC)--focused on Medical Quality, Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Opportunities for Physicians-in-Training and how the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is improving the quality of primary care delivery in the United States; and finally Dr. George Tolomiczenko, Administrator for the innovative USC Health, Technology & Engineering program--discussed how his center is redefining how medicine and engineering interface to foster innovation and tackle medical errors and improve health outcomes.

The event clearly sparked the interest of many of the attendees and suggests that there continues to be a growing demand by medical trainees for Medical Quality education, training and programming. In the future, the organizers are hoping with the leadership of ACMQ and partnering with other organizations including the department of public health, the medical society, various resident and medical student groups, hospitals, clinics and universities to host future Medical Quality events on the West Coast for medical students & residents.