Each year, ACMQ has held its traditional Quality Institute at the Annual Meeting. Over the past 5 years, the nature and format of the Quality Institute has evolved into one of the best attended and highly rated sessions. The Annual Meeting Committee has supported the move away from passive lecturing to a lively, interactive and timely case study format that involves negotiation and problem solving within small groups of participants. The Case Study method has evolved over the past 30 years as a very effective and proven learning method that is now used widely in business schools and other post-graduate degree programs.

The Institute has attracted highly regarded national expert faculty, who provide firm and factual foundations for small group learning. Some of our guest faculty have included nationally recognized quality leaders Drs. Carolyn Clancy, Greg Pawlson, George Isham, Kent Bottles and Bruce Bagley. Some of the leading healthcare organizations have provided additional expertise, including Advocate Health, Montefiore, Vanguard, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Thomas Jefferson School of Population Health and the Institute of Medicine.

One important goal of the annual Quality Institute has been to present information and simulations of the most current and difficult challenges to improve quality healthcare that are facing physicians and health systems. Some examples of “hot topics” from our previous Institutes have included:

- Applying principles of comparative effectiveness and shared decision making for a patient with prostate cancer (2010)
- Developing and negotiating a “game plan” for the development and implementation of an Accountable Care Organization for the Medicare Shared Savings Program (2011)
- Simulating a problem-solving debate between hospital administrators, primary care and specialist physicians regarding a fair and balanced formula for distribution of shared savings in an ACO (2012)
- Agreeing on a model for accountability, care coordination and financial success for the CMMI Bundled Payment for Care Improvement program (2013)
- Evaluating a number of major patient safety issues occurring to a patient seen in a variety of different care settings, with a focus on developing a patient safety organization (2014)

The 2010 session led to publication in the American Journal of Medical Quality which described the session in detail, including the outcome of the small group simulation exercise. For further details, see Use of Problem-Based Learning to Develop Physicians’ Comparative Effectiveness Interpretive Skills: Experiences From a Workshop Featuring the ICER Report on Management Options for Low-Risk Prostate Cancer (American Journal of Medical Quality November/December 2010 vol. 25 no. 6 481-485).

The 2015 Quality Institute will continue in the tradition of prior sessions. This year’s guest faculty will highlight the expertise and insights of members of the ACMQ Board of Trustees, including current President Jim Cross, Past President Alan Krumholz and Treasurer John Vigorita. The case study will focus on the evolution of value-based care to assuming population based risk for improving quality and
reducing cost of care. This session will occur on the first day of the ACMQ Annual Meeting, which we hope you will attend.