



Oregon
CHAPTER

Oregon Chapter of the ACC
PO Box 55424
Portland, OR 97238
503-345-9294
www.cardiologyinoregon.org
alan@cardiologyinoregon.org

August 2007 Chapter Newsletter

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1) Governor's Message

Greetings Oregon ACC Chapter Members,

This morning I read another letter to the editor in the Bend Bulletin from a concerned citizen advocating universal health care. My Bend neighbor argued that since all major industrial nations except the United States have universal health care and since their health statistics surpass ours we should adopt universal health care as well. Universal health care was not defined by the author of the letter but it was implied that universal meant single payer, government sponsored health care: Medicare for all.

Regardless of whether you agree with the author or not, health care reform will be a key issue in the coming year. We will soon see efforts to provide universal coverage at the state level through the development of the Oregon Health Board. Presidential candidates will begin debating their own proposals at the national level. Senator Ron Wyden's recent health care reform proposal, "The Healthy America's Act" has recently taken center stage and his bipartisan bill is attracting a lot of attention. Unlike the call for universal coverage his proposal maintains a private-public partnership to health care financing.

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What is the ACC position on health care reform? Along with eight other medical and specialty organizations the ACC published a series of principles for reform of the US health care system. [Click Here](#) for a copy of the document. As the debate about health care reform continues it will be imperative for ACC members to remain informed about the health care initiatives being proposed. Your Chapter remains committed to providing you up to date and useful information about these health care reform proposals so that your voice in the debate can be heard.

2) News

a) National Legislation

Prior to the fall recess, both the House and Senate passed their own separate versions of the “Children’s Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007” extending federal insurance coverage to children. The house legislation included a repeal of the anticipated 10% cut in physician reimbursement, replacing it with 0.5 % updates in 08 and 09. The bill also replaces the SGR with six spending targets for types of physician services. Unfortunately, the cost of repealing the SGR mandated cuts is partially paid for by allowing the reductions in imaging reimbursements in the 06 Deficit Reduction Act to go forth. In addition the new spending targets would reduce physician payments by \$35 billion from its original proposal starting in 2010. Dr. Jim Dove, current President of the ACC, sent a letter to the Chairmen of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance committee thanking the legislators for the updates in Medicare re-imburement after a decade of no updates. His letter also expressed the ACC’s ongoing opposition to paying for the updates with further cuts in physician reimbursement in imaging. Dr. Dove’s letter also expressed opposition to replacing the flawed SGR with another flawed system of spending targets. The House and Senate bills need to be reconciled after Congress returns from recess before heading to the President’s desk. President Bush has indicated he will veto the bill regardless of the final version. Despite the veto threat, ACC members need to contact their representatives during the recess to encourage them to support the physician payment updates and to eliminate the imaging cuts in the final version of the bill.

b) Eugene Heart Club Dinner on July 18th

The summer “Heart Club” meeting was held in Eugene July 18th. Thanks to the help of my fellow Dartmouth alumni, Sam Lau, Alan and I were able to “meet and greet” many of our Eugene colleagues, including newcomer Matt Trojan who has expressed interest in becoming our next Eugene councilor. Unfortunately, Sumeet Chugh got caught up in traffic getting out of Portland and was unable to give his presentation. Nonetheless, Alan and I were able to have a productive conversation about the direction of the chapter and meeting the educational needs of its members. Special thanks to Medtronic for sponsoring the dinner. Thanks to all who attended. The Fall quarter “Heart Club” in Medford is currently in the planning stages. We are looking at a September or October meeting.

c) Chapter Administrator Earns CAE Certification

Congratulations are in order for our own Executive Director, Alan Morasch. Alan recently received the Certified Association Executive credential from the American Society of Association Executives. This is the highest professional credential in the association industry. Less than five percent of all association professionals have achieved this mark of excellence. The Oregon Chapter is extremely proud of Alan’s achievement. We are grateful that he lends his talents to our organization.

d) IRS approves the Oregon ACC Education Foundation

On August 7, 2007, we received official notification from the IRS approving the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Cardiology Education Foundation. At the 2006 Councilors’ meeting, the Council voted to form a Charitable Foundation for the purpose of:

- Receiving gifts, bequests, devises, property and monies to support education and scholarly activities relating to the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.
- Providing grants and scholarships to medical students to attend educational seminars and other educational opportunities.
- Engaging in fundraising and disbursement of funds to support the scientific, educational and charitable objectives of the Oregon Chapter of the ACC.

e) Chapter web site Member Forum is active

A new feature, the ACC Member Forum, has been added to the Oregon ACC Chapter web site.

www.cardiologyinoregon.org/bbs/bbs.html This is your opportunity to initiate a discussion or respond to a discussion in progress. Visit the web site and tell us what you think - or stimulate some conversation on one of the current discussions.

3) Advocacy

a) ACC Chapter meets with Sen. Wyden

Senator Wyden visited Portland and Bend this week to discuss his health care reform proposal. These meetings were sponsored by the OMA. Advocacy chair, Kirk Walker; national Advocacy representative, Sandy Lewis; and advocacy committee member, Jeff Werner attended the Portland meeting representing the Oregon ACC. I attended the Bend meeting. Look for our summary of the meetings in the next newsletter. Additional physician meetings with Wyden were held in Eugene and Medford. Detailed information of “The Healthy Americans Act” can be accessed through the Senator’s website: <http://wyden.senate.gov/>

b) ACC Legislative Conference – Sept. 16 – 18 in Washington, D.C.

Kirk, Alan and I head to DC next month to participate in the ACC’s Legislative Conference. Please consider attending the ACC legislative Conference in Washington, DC, September 16-18th as part of the Oregon delegation. The bigger our delegation, the greater our impact and influence on our US legislators. Interested members can still register through the ACC website.

4) Education - 2008 Symposium Update

The education committee is in full swing. We have finalized the date and location of next year’s symposium. We plan to hold the symposium May 17th and 18th at the Doubletree Lloyd Center. Now that the date is set we are moving ahead with finalizing speakers and topics. Vince Reyes, Chair of the Education committee, and Alan recently met with Jonathon Lindner of OHSU to discuss how OHSU and the Chapter can collaborate on educating Oregon cardiologists. Vince reported that the meeting was informative and productive with Dr. Lindner pledging OHSU’s ongoing support for the Chapter. OHSU’s Grand Round schedule is also now listed on the Chapter website.

5) Quality

No new activities this month.

6) Chapter Member and Councilors' Action

a) Link to Sen. Wyden’s proposed legislation

Chapter members should visit Senator Wyden’s website <http://wyden.senate.gov/> to learn more about his health care reform proposal.

b) Chapter members encouraged to contact your legislators

Chapter members are asked to contact their legislators during the August recess to ask them to eliminate the imaging reimbursement cuts proposed in the current legislation. This request should be preceded by thanking the legislator for their support for fair physician reimbursement over the past few years and for their support of the physician payment update this year. Use the ACC “hotline” to easily connect to your legislators. This number can be accessed through the ACC website at http://www.acc.org/advocacy/CAN_Network/can.htm

c) Chapter Handbook and Directory Update

The development of the Chapter Handbook and Directory is making progress. Alan and I are discussing appropriate format and structure so that the handbook can easily be updated without reprinting the entire thing and incurring additional costs. Over the next couple of months you will receive an email showing your current information we have on file. You will be asked to confirm this information and add any other biographical information you would like to be public. You may delete any information that you do not wish to be public. It is our intent that only members receive a copy of the directory, but obviously that does not ensure that the information will remain private.

d) Annual Councilors’ meeting scheduled for October 26 – 28 at Salishan

The annual Councilors’ meeting is scheduled for October 26-28th at Salishan on the Oregon Coast. Please contact your councilor to inform them of your issues, concerns and advice. We still need to know of your concerns about Medicare, the Oregon Health Fund Board, CTA reimbursement and a Chapter PAC.

e) Advanced Reimbursement & Coding Seminar - September 11th in Portland

McVey Associates is conducting a new Advanced Reimbursement & Coding Seminar for physicians and their staff. For more information about the seminar or to register, please visit -

http://www.mcveyseminars.com/forms/cardio07_main_OR_adv.shtml?09/11/07-Portland,OR_070911RC_Ray_Cathey

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f) Providence HVI Physician Symposium - November 2nd - Nike Campus

Providence HVI is conducting its 2007 Physician Symposium on Nov. 2nd, from 11:45 am-6:00 pm, at the Stanford Theater - Tiger Woods Center on the Nike Campus in Beaverton. As an added symposium attraction, tours of the Nike campus will be available prior to start of the symposium; advanced pre-registration will be necessary for the tours. [Click here](#) for PHVI Symposium Details and Registration information.

The PHVI 2006 physician symposium was a success, with 162 physicians and nurse specialists from 18 different cities in OR and WA registering for the event. This event is being offered at no charge and participants will receive CME & CEU credits. PHVI would like to extend appreciation to ACC Chapter Member Dr. Todd Caulfield who, as the conference chair, has been instrumental in the planning of this year's symposium, especially in securing our national speakers.

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Questions, Comments.....Want to get more involved in Chapter Activities? Here is the contact information for your Chapter Officers and Leaders.

Governor

Mike Widmer, MD, FACC, Heart Center Cardiology, Bend, OR, michael@heartdoctorsnw.com

Past Governor

Tony Furnary, MD, FACC, FACS, Starr-Wood Cardiac Group, Portland, OR, tfurnary@starrwood.com

Governor-Emeritus

Stuart Trenholme, MD, FACC, Portland, OR, strenholme@comcast.net

Treasurer

Sandra Lewis, MD, FACC, NW Cardiovascular, Portland, OR, sandral@nw-ci.com

Councilor - Southern Oregon Members

Doug Burwell, MD, FACC, Cardiology Consultants - Medford, OR, bwellz@charter.net

Councilor - Eugene Members

Len Christie, MD, FACC, Eugene, OR, lenchristie@earthlink.net

Councilor - Central Oregon Members

Armond Lapine, MD, FACC, Heart Center Cardiology, Bend, OR, lapinearmond@hotmail.com

Councilor - CCA Members

Paul Deitering, PA, Columbia Cardiology, Portland, OR, paul.deitering@columbiacardiology.com

Councilor - Emertius Members

Don Sutherland, MD, FACC, Portland, OR, dws cardio@comcast.net

Councilor - Portland Area Members

Ty Gluckman, MD, FACC, Columbia Cardiology, Portland, OR, ty.gluckman@columbiacardiology.com

Aly Rahimtoola, MD, FACC, The Oregon Clinic, Portland, OR, arahimtoola@orclinic.com

Pasala Ravichandran, MD, FACC, FACS, VA Hospital, Portland, OR, ravichan@ohsu.edu

Vince Reyes, MD, FACC, NW Cardiologists, Hillsboro, OR, vpreyes@nwcario.net

Councilor - OHSU

Sanjiv Kaul, MD, FACC, OHSU, Portland, OR, kauls@ohsu.edu

Committee Chair Advocacy

Kirk Walker, MD, FACC, Cascade Cardiology, Salem, OR, kwalkermd@cc.mvipa.org

Committee Chair Education

Vince Reyes, MD, FACC, NW Cardiologists, Hillsboro, OR, vpreyes@nwcario.net

Committee Chair Quality

Len Christie, MD, FACC, Eugene, OR, lenchristie@earthlink.net

Chapter Administrator

Alan Morasch, CAE, Vancouver, WA, alan@cardiologyinoregon.org