Hola Amigos:

Our leadership has been very active during the past few months. I traveled to the ACC Heart House back in January for the Leadership Conference where we discussed vital issues affecting our members. We recruited several new members for our board – please welcome:

Patricia Grodecki, M.D.
Northern Kentucky

Rita Coram, M.D.
Louisville Councilor

Lakshmana Pendyala, M.D.
Fellow-In-Training, UL

Bruce Kuo, M.D.
Fellow-In-Training, UK

In March, Dr. Albert Waldo was gracious enough to give two lectures, one in Louisville and another in Lexington, both regarding atrial fibrillation. Approximately 60 physicians attended these lectures. About a dozen chapter members have volunteered for our “Cardiologist-For-A-Day” program in which a legislator shadows them and witnesses our professional work first-hand!

We are very excited about the upcoming Annual Meeting. Our Board has been hard at work recruiting local and national speakers from major centers including Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Boston Children’s, Rush Memorial, and Northwestern. Dr. David Holmes, the new ACC President, will be giving the guest lecture on “Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion”. The meeting will be on Saturday, October 22, 2011 at the new Albert D. Chandler Hospital Auditorium at the University of Kentucky. It will start at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast and a Poster Presentation provided by Fellows-In-Training. It will be a unique program as it will deal with surgery versus catheter-based therapy for pathologic regurgitation of the four cardiac valves. A copy of the scientific program appears in this newsletter.

Please reserve October 22, 2011 so that you can join us for our annual meeting as it promises to be exciting. You will get a chance to earn CME/CEU credits. For the first time ever we will be honoring one of our senior cardiologists in Kentucky. Dr. Jacqueline Noonan will be receiving the Honorable Maestra Award. Please make plans to join us in celebrating her achievements!

Muchas gracias,

Juan Villafañe, M.D., F.A.C.C.
President KY Chapter ACC
9:00 am – 9:30 am  Breakfast and Posters on Display  
Fellows In Training from University of Louisville and University of Kentucky

9:30 am – 9:40 am  Welcome and Introductory Comments  
(by Juan Villafane, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.H.R.S., F.A.A.P.)

Morning Session Chairs: Mark Plunkett, M.D., and Louis Bezold, M.D., F.A.C.C.

9:40 am – 10:10 am  Guest Lecture by ACC President  – David Holmes, M.D., F.A.C.C.,
•  Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion

10:10 am – 10:45 am  Tricuspid Regurgitation
•  Echo – Brian J. Holland, M.D., F.A.A.P.
•  OHS – Tomislav Mihaljevic, M.D., F.A.C.C.

11:00 am – 12:00 pm  Mitral Regurgitation
•  Echo – Louis Bezold, M.D., F.A.C.C.
•  OHS – Tomislav Mihaljevic, M.D., F.A.C.C.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  Lunch & Presentations
•  The Power of Registries – David Holmes, M.D., F.A.C.C., President ACC
•  Young Investigator Award – Louis Bezold, M.D., F.A.C.C.
•  Honorable Maestra Award to Jacqueline Noonan, M.D., F.A.C.C., Juan Villafane, M.D., F.A.C.C. & David Holmes, M.D., F.A.C.C., President ACC

Afternoon Session Chairs: Erle H. Austin, III, M.D., F.A.C.C. and Christopher L. Johnsrude, M.D., F.A.C.C.

1:10 pm – 2:15 pm  Aortic Insufficiency
•  Echo – Ivan Salgo, M.D., M.S.
•  OHS – Pedro J. del Nido, M.D., F.A.C.S.

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm  Pulmonary Regurgitation
•  MRI – Anil K. Attili, M.D.
•  OHS – Pedro J. del Nido, M.D., F.A.C.S.
•  TCath – Ziyad M. Hijazi M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C.

3:25 pm – 4:05 pm  FIT Lecture: Choosing Between, and How To Succeed in Academic vs. Private Practice  
Alison L. Bailey, M.D., F.A.C.C. & Bart Dawson, M.D.

4:05 pm – 4:30 pm  Closing Remarks & Evaluation  
Juan Villafane, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.H.R.S., F.A.A.P.
Register for the 14th Annual Gill Heart Institute Cardiovascular Research Day being held Friday, October 21st at the Lexington Convention Center.

This highly successful meeting has a mission of being a regional event for disseminating novel findings in basic and clinical areas of cardiovascular physiology and disease. The event includes a poster session and presentations by invited speakers, including:

David R. Holmes, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.C.
*Mayo Clinic*
Consultant in Cardiovascular Diseases
*Scripps Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine*
Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
President, American College of Cardiology

and

Curt D. Sigmund, Ph.D.
*Roy J. Carver Chair in Hypertension Research Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology*
*Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine University of Iowa*

All the details of the day will be listed on the Gill Heart Institute Cardiovascular Research Day Website: [www.mc.uky.edu/cvrc/cv-research-day/index.html](http://www.mc.uky.edu/cvrc/cv-research-day/index.html) or contact Casie Stevens at (859) 323-3467 or email cltrim2@email.uky.edu.

RECRUITMENT OF CCAs AND PAs

The Kentucky Chapter is seeking recruitment of Cardiac Care Associates (CCA) and Practice Administrators (PA) and we request your help. Please encourage your Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, RNs, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants and Practice Administrators to join our chapter. They may join by visiting the ACC Web site.

CCA:

PA:
[http://www.cardiosource.org/Practice-Management/Practice-Administrator-Membership.aspx](http://www.cardiosource.org/Practice-Management/Practice-Administrator-Membership.aspx)

Membership is $125 for CCAs and $250 for PAs. A list of all the benefits is also listed on the Web site.

Thank you for your assistance!

ATTENTION FELLOWS IN TRAINING

Our Annual Meeting this year will have several topics and activities tailored specifically for you. These include a poster presentation, Young Investigator Award, and a lecture titled “Choosing Between, and How to Succeed in Academic vs. Private Practice”. In addition, you will get a chance to meet ACC President, Dr. David Holmes. See the complete scientific program that appears in this newsletter. We hope to see you in Lexington on October 22, 2011.
**Member Input**

During the Kentucky Chapter’s recent survey we polled membership on the single most important thing the Chapter could do for them. Current President and Kentucky Chapter Governor Dr. Juan Villafane is pleased to see that many of the items we are currently addressing with this year’s Council members.

**What is the single most important thing that the Kentucky Chapter could do for you as a member?**

- Assist in meaningful committee and other participation at the national ACC
- Provide good educational programs
- Educate cardiologists regarding hospital employment vs. private practice
- Keep members informed of changes affecting our practice at local level
- Coordinated effort toward public health efforts in preventive cardiology
- Continue to provide guidelines and other sources of quality science and ways for us to improve patient outcomes
- Involve the CCAs more in the state’s mission to provide evidence-based care to Kentucky residents
- Achieve maximum and timely reimbursement for the practice of cardiology
- Political advocacy

**Upcoming KY-ACC Councilor Teleconference Dates**

**2011 Dates – 7:30 am Eastern**

- Friday, June 3rd, 2011
- Tuesday, August 2nd, 2011
- Thursday, September 1st, 2011
- Friday, September 30th, 2011
- Thursday, October 13th, 2011
- Tuesday, November 15th, 2011

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**IMPORTANT!**

**Cuts for Not E-Prescribing Coming Soon!**

Avoid the 2012 e-prescribing penalty! The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) authorized a new incentive program for eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers (e-Prescribers). Practitioners who participated in 2009 and 2010 received bonus payments of 2 percent. Those who participate in 2011 will receive a 1% bonus payment. The 2011 reporting period goes from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011.

Beginning in 2012, physicians will be penalized if they do not successfully participate in the e-prescribing program. However, it is very important to note that CMS will use e-prescribing data from Jan. 1 to June 30, 2011 to determine whose payments are reduced in 2012. In short, this means that anyone not reporting by the end of June 2012 will see all of their 2012 Medicare payments reduced by 1 percent. The ACC has prepared great resources to help you navigate the requirements and not be caught with a penalty come January 2012.

For the latest important information about this reduction, please visit [www.cardiosource.org/healthit](http://www.cardiosource.org/healthit). There you will see:

- Program details
- FAQs
- A slide set
- Links to an on-demand PINNACLE webinar recorded in mid-March
- Recommendations on e-prescribing systems

Please direct any of your questions on the Medicare e-prescribing program and its requirements to Lisa Goldstein at the ACC office. In the event that she is not available, Rebecca Kelly and Brian Whitman will be able to assist. All members of the Advocacy Division are aware of this pending situation and should be able to help triage, as well.

*Any questions on e-prescribing systems and implementation should be directed to ACC’s Health IT team.*

*The ACC office can be reached at (800) 253-4636.*
The ACC Political Action Committee (ACCPAC) strives to amplify the voice and political power of members of the College. It is a voluntary, non-profit, unincorporated association, not affiliated with any political party or candidate. ACCPAC exists to provide our members a seat at the table with members of Congress who understand the importance of cardiovascular care. ACCPAC is empowered by its contributors to support both federal candidates and political committees.

For the first time in its history, ACCPAC, during the 2009-2010 election cycle, surpassed $1 million in voluntary contributions from ACC members around the nation. Reaching this milestone places ACCPAC among the elite physician specialty PACs. One-hundred percent of your personal contributions are used to support the campaigns of members of Congress who will listen to our message aimed at improving health care for patients with cardiovascular disease, facilitating the delivery of cardiovascular services by practicing physicians, and funding cardiovascular research and prevention.

In the 2010 cycle, the KY-ACC raised $17,844.04
So far in the 2011 cycle, the Chapter has raised $966.68 or 5.4%. The KY-ACC aims to exceed the 2010 numbers.

Please contribute to the ACCPAC at www.accpacweb.org

It’s Easy to Contribute

1. Visit www.accpacweb.org
2. Click on “Join the PAC”
3. Follow the three simple steps on the screen:
   a. Verify your contact information
   b. Make your contribution
   c. Finalize with electronic signature
4. Then…you’re done!

Please join us in making Kentucky a more powerful presence in the federal legislature through the ACCPAC!

KY Chapter Members Attend Annual Summit

18 Members of the Kentucky Chapter recently attended the ACC.11/i2 Summit Annual Scientific Sessions in New Orleans. You can read all the media coverage about the event at www.cardiosource.org/acc11coverage

L to R: Outgoing Chair of Governors Richard J. Kovacs, M.D., F.A.C.C.; Dr. Garcia Palmieri, M.A.C.C. (Puerto Rico); Kentucky Governor Juan Villafane, M.D., F.A.C.C.

ACC Board of Governors
Meet Our New Appointments

Lakshmana Pendyala, MD
Cardiology Fellow
University of Louisville
FIT Liaison

Lakshmana attended medical school in India and came to the U.S. for his residency. He did his Internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at the University of Louisville. Dr. Pendyala is currently the Chief Cardiology Fellow and is going to Washington Hospital Center for his interventional cardiology fellowship next year.

Bruce Kuo, M.D.
Cardiology Fellow
The Gill Heart Institute
University of Kentucky
FIT Liaison

Christine McIntyre, M.H.A., B.S.N.
Central Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute
PA Liaison

Patricia L. Horvat, R.N.
RN/Physician Extender
CCA Liaison

Dr. Juan Villafane, M.D., F.A.C.C.
was recently appointed as the Governor Representative to the Patient Centered Care (PC3) Committee for ACC National.

Check Out the New Face of the PINNACLE Network Online

The PINNACLE Network launched a new website www.cardiosource.org/pinnaclenetwork that is designed to better help cardiovascular professionals systematically measure, review, and improve their performance.

The website contains the latest Network news; informative videos to provide you with more details about what it means to be a PINNACLE Network participant; and multiple tools and primers on topics such as data collection/reporting, practice management, quality improvement, performance measurement and practice recognition.

The PINNACLE Network website also includes a community component, in which peers are accessible as experts and test drivers to help vet programs and approaches to CV care, assist with workflow changes, and share best practices. We strongly encourage you and your colleagues to take part in these community forums.

The website will continue to grow and evolve as the PINNACLE Network moves forward. If you have additional questions and/or feedback, please let us know by emailing pinnacle@acc.org. We hope you enjoy all that PINNACLE Network has to offer and we look forward to working with you on improving the cardiovascular care you deliver to your patients.
A recent quality improvement initiative of the American College of Cardiology designed to align Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) with clinical practice is called FOCUS (Formation of Optimal Cardiovascular Imaging Utilization Strategies). Past ACC President Dr. Fred Bove stated that, “[To] gain the respect of our patients, the insurers and legislators who affect our lives in medicine, we must demonstrate that we are serious about limiting tests and therapies to those that are appropriate, that we can manage overuse within our own profession with our own evidence based rules, and that we are committed to reducing the cost of health care in the United States.”

FOCUS is a quality improvement and innovation community designed to help cardiac imaging providers self-assess and gain quantitative feedback on their level of appropriate use, as well as share successes and strategies associated with AUC implementation. The FOCUS community has released efforts in Radionuclide and CT imaging as well as echocardiography.

In October of 2010 the American College of Cardiology Foundation, along with the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT) released updated AUC criteria for the clinical application of Cardiac CT. It was recognized that inappropriate use could be deleterious to patients while also having societal implications. Conversely, the report stressed that cardiac CT, when applied appropriately, should likely improve patient care. This report also considered not only the diagnostic utility of the test in question (cardiac CT) but also the potential risks and benefits of possible downstream therapeutic interventions. A total of 93 discrete clinical scenarios were developed for this analysis and then scored on a scale of 1 to 9 to indicate appropriate use, uncertain use, or inappropriate use. These criteria were developed both to foster improved physician decision-making and patient care as well as to influence and guide reimbursement policy. A similar report on radionuclide imaging had been previously released.

In March appropriate use criteria for echocardiography were published. This AUC document was developed, in part, to attempt to stem and reverse some of the onerous preauthorization rules utilized by radiology benefit managers for other areas of diagnostic testing. The ACC, which spearheaded the AUC effort along with the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) and several other major societies, has been working with insurance companies to use the AUC to determine coverage for echocardiography instead of contracting a third-party benefits-management company to preauthorize tests, although unfortunately we are seeing preauthorization requirements for echocardiography and stress echocardiography in the Commonwealth. The current document on AUC for echocardiograms builds on earlier efforts; the ACC and ASE published a report in 2007 covering 59 indications for echocardiography and another report in 2008 covering 51 indications for stress echocardiography. The new report, covering both rest and stress echocardiography, lists 202 indications, including more detailed information on valvular heart disease, perioperative evaluations, thoracic aortic disease, and pulmonary hypertension.

The indications delineated in these reports are included in the FOCUS national quality-improvement initiative, an online learning community for practices to assess their utilization of these diagnostic tests, compare it to recommendations from these recent documents developed by the ACC, and track their ordering patterns against benchmarks. FOCUS is designed to help cardiac imaging providers self-assess and gain quantitative feedback on their level of appropriate use, as well as share successes and strategies associated with AUC implementation. Through participation in the FOCUS community, participants will have access to a shared list of tools and best practices that can then be integrated into practice as well as access to online educational resources and quality improvement tools, including practical ways to optimize the use of AUC in this changing payment environment.

Further information is available from the ACC website: www.acc.org/auc
### ACC Upcoming Events

For more details on these events visit: [www.cardiosource.org/Certified-Education/Courses-and-Conferences/All-Courses-and-Conferences.aspx](http://www.cardiosource.org/Certified-Education/Courses-and-Conferences/All-Courses-and-Conferences.aspx)

#### JUNE

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Island Hotel</td>
<td>Hoag Heart and Vascular Center</td>
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<td>Newport Beach, Calif.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12-13, 2011</td>
<td>SCMR/NHLBI Cardiovascular MR “State of the Art” Course</td>
<td>W. Gregory Hundley, M.D., F.A.C.C.</td>
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<td>Natcher Conference Center on the NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presented by: The Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR) and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)</td>
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<td>June 17-19, 2011</td>
<td>The West Coast Cardiovascular Forum</td>
<td>Valentin Fuster, M.D., Ph.D., M.A.C.C.</td>
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<td>The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco</td>
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<td>Presented by: Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center; Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati</td>
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#### AUGUST

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<td></td>
<td>James E. Tcheng, M.D., F.A.C.C.</td>
<td>The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas</td>
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<td>August 19-21, 2011</td>
<td>ACCF/SCAI Premier Interventional Cardiology Overview and Board Preparatory Course</td>
<td>Joseph D. Babb, M.D., F.A.C.C.</td>
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<td>James E. Tcheng, M.D., F.A.C.C.</td>
<td>The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas</td>
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#### SEPTEMBER

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<tr>
<td>September 6-10, 2011</td>
<td>The ACCF Cardiovascular Board Review</td>
<td>Kim A. Eagle, M.D., M.A.C.C.</td>
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<td>Patrick T. O’Gara, M.D., F.A.C.C.</td>
<td>Fairmont Hotel, Chicago</td>
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<td>September 8-10, 2011</td>
<td>Arrhythmias in the Real World 2011</td>
<td>Peter N. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.C.</td>
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<td>Heart House, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>September 10, 2011</td>
<td>ACCF Interactive Study Session for Maintenance of Certification Cardiovascular Disease Updates 2010 and 2011</td>
<td>Rick A. Nishimura, M.D., F.A.C.C., Patrick T. O’Gara, M.D., F.A.C.C.</td>
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<td>Fairmont Hotel, Chicago</td>
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#### OCTOBER

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<td>Heart House, Washington D.C.</td>
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<td>JW Marriott Chicago, Chicago</td>
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<td>Co-sponsored by: American College of Cardiology Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21, 2011</td>
<td>Gill Heart Institute Cardiovascular Research Day</td>
<td>Lexington Convention Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22, 2011</td>
<td>7th KY-ACC Annual Meeting</td>
<td>University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital Auditorium</td>
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