



SCIENTIFIC SESSION NEWS

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American College of Cardiology 52nd Annual Scientific Session

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DON'T FORGET

The Presidential Plenary Session, which includes the annual Presidential Address and Simon Dack Lecture, will be held Monday, from 8 to 9 a.m., in Hall D of McCormick Place.

The Second Annual American College of Cardiology International Lecture will be held Tuesday, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., in Room S104 of McCormick Place.

The 34th Annual Louis F. Bishop Lecture will be held Tuesday, from 2 to 3 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom S100B of McCormick Place.

The 52nd Annual Convocation will be held Tuesday, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton & Towers.

The annual Meeting Highlights session will be held Wednesday, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in Hall D of McCormick Place.

Welcome to the 52nd Annual Scientific Session and Exposition

Coordinated, or integrated, team care and quality are about to take center stage here in Chicago as the American College of Cardiology opens the doors of McCormick Place to thousands of cardiovascular specialists and their colleagues in health care.



Dr. Fye

ACC President W. Bruce Fye, MD, MA, said deciding to develop the College's 52nd Annual Scientific Session around the theme of "Integrated and Quality Team Care" came easily to him and the meeting's co-chairs, Bijoy K. Khandheria, MBBS, and David R. Holmes, Jr., MD. "Never in the history of medicine has it been so important for physicians to function effectively as the leaders of care teams," said Dr. Fye, who is also the College's historian.

"By pairing this new emphasis on integrated care with the College's long



Dr. Khandheria



Dr. Holmes

Most Comprehensive CV Resource on the Web

Subscribe to Cardiosource at ACC Central and Get a Special Discount

Annual Scientific Session attendees who visit ACC Central (Booth #2003) and sign up for the new and improved Cardiosource, the ultimate Internet destination for cardiovascular specialists, will receive a special 20 percent discount on a premium subscription.

New Content Geared Toward Certification/Recertification

Among the many updates and enhancements since it was unveiled at the American Heart Association annual

NHLBI Director Dr. Lenfant to Deliver Convocation Address

Since his appointment as director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in 1982, Claude Lenfant, MD, has been an influential and effective leader in promoting research and public education to reduce morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular, pulmonary, and hematological diseases. Dr. Lenfant will address the College's new Fellows at Tuesday evening's **Convocation Ceremony**, beginning at 6 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton & Towers.



Dr. Lenfant

Born in Paris in 1928, Dr. Lenfant received his undergraduate degree from the University of Rennes and his medical degree from the University of Paris. After clinical and research training in France, he came to the United States in 1957, working first as a research fellow at the University of Buffalo and Columbia University. From 1961

See CONVOCATION, page 5

tradition of offering the highest-quality education on the latest-breaking science, we have a formula sure to deliver the information, tools, and resources attendees need to improve the care they provide to cardiovascular patients," added Dr. Fye.

A quick perusal of the ACC '03 *Final Program* reveals that the Program Committee has combined the best and most

popular elements of past Annual Scientific Sessions with some exciting new educational opportunities debuting this year.

New at ACC '03

Among the innovative new learning options available this year are four **point-of-care symposia**: atrial fibrillation, heart failure, metabolic syndrome, and con-

See WELCOME, page 4

meeting last November, the new Cardiosource features specially designed modules to help users prepare for the American Board of Internal Medicine Board exams.

"These modules are designed to fulfill the needs of members who are participating in the ABIM Continuous Professional Development program," said Cardiosource Editor in Chief Alfred A. Bove, MD, PhD. "This will be a very helpful feature for anyone working toward renewal of board certification in cardiovascular diseases."

Patient-Education Materials

Cardiosource subscribers will also find two growing libraries containing thousands of drug-specific and condition-specific patient handouts and education materials covering everything from angina to ventricular tachycardia. More than half of the patient-education titles are also available in Spanish.

"These brief reports written specifically for the patient are valuable resources for cardiologists who can distribute this

See CARDIOSOURCE, page 6

Improving Cath Lab Quality

Preview New Quality CathKIT at ACC Central

During ACC '03, the College is inviting cardiologists and their colleagues to examine a new interactive, Web-based resource designed to help cardiac catheterization laboratories improve the quality of their systems and processes and, ultimately, their patients' outcomes. This new resource is called CathKIT.

The foundation of CathKIT is derived from recommendations in ACC/American Heart Association (AHA) practice guidelines and expert consensus documents that all cardiac catheterization laboratories implement a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process. CathKIT provides a framework to address quality at many different levels and will assist laboratories in their response to increasing scrutiny from third-party payers and state regulators. CathKIT is a joint effort of the College and the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions (SCA&I).

The staff in each lab will be able to use CathKIT's user-friendly self-evaluation checklists to identify areas where they excel, areas requiring improvement, and deficiencies that represent opportunities for positive changes. "However, CathKIT is more than just a quality-assurance program," noted Richard A. Chazal, MD, who chairs

the joint ACC/SCA&I task force that developed the kit. "Using CathKIT, labs will not only identify areas for improvement but also obtain practical guidance on how to implement projects that result in improved operations and outcomes.

"Quality-assurance programs focus on minimum standards," said Dr. Chazal. "In CQI, we strive for continuous improvement—reaching goals and then adjusting those goals to achieve even better results."

Users will find information on all of the traditional measures of quality, such as complication rates and radiation exposure, as well as many less-cited but equally important measures, including training standards, credentialing, scheduling efficiency, and patient flow.

"CathKIT brings together in a comprehensive repository the wealth of information on the management of cardiac catheterization laboratories that, to date, has existed in bits and pieces within many different resources," said Gregory J. Dehmer, MD, vice-chair of the ACC/SCA&I task force. "Cath lab directors told us there was a growing need for a comprehensive product to assist them with CQI and other management issues."

To enrich the information covered in

CathKIT, added Dr. Dehmer, "the task force includes nurses, cardiovascular technologists, and administrators from organizations such as the AHA, the Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals, the American College of Cardiovascular Administrators, and the Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals."

Feedback from physicians and cardiac catheterization laboratory staff is essential to ensure the usefulness of CathKIT, which is being pilot-tested through this summer and will be released in the fall. To review the demonstration version of CathKIT, visit ACC Central (Booth #2003).

Meeting Reminders

Registration

The ACC '03 registration area is located in Hall A of McCormick Place South and is open during the following hours:

- Saturday.....Noon – 5 p.m.
- Sunday7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Monday7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Tuesday7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Wednesday.....8 a.m. – Noon

ACC Office

The ACC Office is located in Room S501 of McCormick Place South. Telephone: 312-791-6737; fax: 312-791-6735. ACC staff are available to help you during the following hours:

- SundayNoon – 5:30 p.m.
- Monday7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday.....7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday.....8 a.m. – Noon

Shuttle Service

Complimentary shuttle service will operate daily from McCormick Place and the official hotels of the Annual Scientific Session. Check the shuttle sign posted in the lobby of each hotel for additional information, changes, frequency of service, and specific departure times for the designated route. General hours of operation are as follows:

- Sunday.....6:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Monday6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday.....6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday.....6:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The scheduled end times are when the last shuttles will depart from McCormick Place. The last shuttles will depart from hotels approximately 90 minutes before this time.

Audiotapes/Audio-CDs

Audiotapes and audio-CDs of selected sessions will be available two hours after each session concludes and may be purchased at Audiotape Sales, located in the Hall D foyer of McCormick Place (East/Lakeside building). Hours of operation are as follows:

- Sunday8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Monday8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Tuesday.....8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Wednesday7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ACC Gala Dinner

Always a highlight of the Annual Scientific Session, the ACC Gala Dinner will be held Tuesday from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Guests will be able to choose where they sit when they arrive at the event. No advance seating assignments will be made, with the exception of the president's tables. Each table will seat 10 guests and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to sit with certain people, arrive early to hold the table for your group.

Questions can be posed at the ACC Gala Dinner Desk, located in the Grand Concourse of McCormick Place.

Name Badges

Your badge serves as your passport to education sessions, the Exposition, and complimentary shuttle service. Attendees must wear their name badge at all times. ACC security will not allow people without badges to attend events. For your safety, we recommend that you do not wear your name badge after leaving the convention center.

Locator System

The Locator System kiosks will allow attendees to search for other attendees, exhibiting companies, and products. The system includes a computerized ACC '03 Exposition layout. Attendees may also send and retrieve messages using this system. These kiosks are located in the registration area (McCormick Place South, Hall A) and the Hall D foyer (McCormick Place East/Lakeside building).

Restaurant Reservations

The ACC '03 Restaurant Reservation Service booth is located in the Grand Concourse of McCormick Place during the following hours:

- Saturday.....Noon – 6 p.m.
- Sunday9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Monday9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Tuesday.....9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The restaurant reservation service is also available by calling 312-791-6746.

ACC-NCDR™ Pilots New Web Portal at ACC Central

CathKIT is designed to be a stand-alone product, but it also complements the ACC-National Cardiovascular Data Registry™ (ACC-NCDR™). Since 1998, when the Registry was formed, it has helped the cardiac catheterization community to make great strides in the standardization of data collection and benchmarking. Here, at ACC '03, the NCDR™ will unveil its latest advance—a demonstration version of a new Web portal that will make it easy

for Registry participants to update their profiles and obtain reports.

College staff will be on hand at ACC Central (Booth #2003) during Exposition hours to demonstrate the new Web resource. They will also field questions about ACC-NCDR™ enrollment and how participants are directing the evolution of a uniform language for comparing institutional performance and, thereby, improving patient care.

Monday Is Chapter Night

The College's 10th annual Chapter Night will be held on Monday evening. Many chapters will host gatherings, where members can socialize and network with colleagues from their state or region.

ACC chapters provide a vital link to cardiovascular medicine at the local level. Chapter Night represents a unique opportunity for attendees to learn about the activities of their local chapters and how individual involvement can strengthen the specialty.

"The role of ACC chapters continues to expand, providing members with opportunities to participate in all of the Col-

lege's mission areas," said ACC President W. Bruce Fye, MD, MA. "For example, our chapters are a vital part of the ACC's advocacy early warning system, and they have played a critical role in our GAP pilot projects by providing local physician leadership and support for this important quality-of-care initiative."

All of the chapter receptions will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Hyatt McCormick Place, which is adjacent to the convention center.

A full list of chapter receptions and their locations will be published in Monday's edition of *Scientific Session News*.

Download Practice Guidelines at PDA Beaming Stations

Attendees who brought their Windows or Palm-OS personal digital assistant (PDA) to this year's Annual Scientific Session can stop by any one of 30 PDA stations in McCormick Place and put some of the latest practice guidelines "in their pocket." The College has enhanced the PDA formatting of the pocket guidelines, including color, hyperlinks to important information, and improved table and figure viewing.

The PDA stations—located next to Registration in Hall A, at ACC Central (Booth #2003), and in the InfoTech area of the Exposition—can be used to download the following guidelines:

- **Just Updated — *Management of Patients With Unstable Angina and Non-ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction* (dissemination supported by Bristol-Myers Squibb/ Sanofi Pharmaceuticals Partnership*[†]; Palm-OS version also available at Bristol-Myers Squibb/ Sanofi Booth # 242)**
- **Just Updated — *Management of Patients With Chronic Stable Angina* (dissemination supported by Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging Inc.*[†])**
- **Just Updated — *Implantation of Cardiac Pacemakers and Antiarrhythmia Devices***
- ***Perioperative Cardiovascular Evaluation for Noncardiac Surgery* (dissemination supported by Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging Inc.*[†])**
- ***Management of Patients With Atrial Fibrillation***
- ***Evaluation and Management of Chronic Heart Failure in the Adult***
- ***Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Surgery***
- ***Management of Patients With Acute Myocardial Infarction***
- ***Management of Patients With Valvular Heart Disease***

The College thanks the companies noted above for supporting dissemination of the PDA version of individual pocket guidelines.

ACC '03 Abstracts on CD-ROM Available at Merck Booth

Complimentary CD-ROM compilations of the American College of Cardiology 52nd Annual Scientific Session abstracts will be distributed from the Merck U.S. Human Health booth (#633) on a first-come, first-served basis. Supplies will be limited. The College thanks Merck U.S. Human Health for its educational grant in support of the CD-ROM.

Attendees may also pick up printed copies of the pocket guides for *Implantation of Cardiac Pacemakers and Antiarrhythmia Devices* and *Management of Patients With Chronic Stable Angina* at the booths of the companies that supported the printing and dissemination of the two newest pocket guides: Medtronic, Inc.,* Booth #2060, for the pacemaker/antiarrhythmia devices pocket guide; and Bristol-Myers Squibb


Medical Imaging, Inc.,* Booth #642, for the chronic stable angina pocket guide.

**Note:* The supporting companies were not involved in the development of these products and in no way influenced their content.

Download ACC '03 e-Program

The PDA stations will also offer the ACC '03 e-Program (formerly Palm-Guide), which provides handy access to

information about the Annual Scientific Session educational program as well as hotel and shuttle information, the InfoTech Theater schedule, and exhibit-or data. The exhibitor data are sortable by exhibitor name, product category, and booth number.

The College thanks AstraZeneca for its educational grant in support of the ACC '03 e-Program. 

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Chicago's McCormick Place will be home this week to the American College of Cardiology 52nd Annual Scientific Session and Exposition.

Get Empowered!

Forum Educates Physicians About How to Be Powerful Advocates

If the enactment in February of legislation to prevent another round of cuts in physicians' Medicare fees in 2003 proved anything, it's that physicians, suitably armed and motivated, can influence policy. And one look at the agendas of state legislatures and the U.S. Congress also proves that legislation and policy that directly affect how physicians practice medicine are bountiful. The lesson: The physician community must become politically savvy and better appreciate what it takes to achieve its policy priorities.

At ACC '03, attendees have a unique opportunity to learn more about the political process and how to influence health care policy by attending a special forum, "**Empowering Physicians for the Future: How You Can Shape the Health Care Policy Agenda.**"

During this forum—held Sunday, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Room E259 of McCormick Place—attendees will hear from special guest U.S. Rep. Mark S.

Kirk, R-Ill., on the importance and effectiveness of grassroots advocacy in influencing health policy decisions. Rep. Kirk, who has been a health care "champion," especially in the area of medical liability reform, will provide an inside perspective on what motivates legislators and what moves legislation. Also on tap is highly respected grassroots advocacy guru Michael E. Dunn. Mr. Dunn will drill down to the individual constituent level, providing advice and proven techniques for communicating with and influencing lawmakers.

"Physicians can't expect others to advocate for our agenda, especially when we are battling against powerful interest groups like trial lawyers and massive managed care conglomerates," said ACC Political Action Committee Vice-Chair Jerry D. Kennett, MD. "We must be our own best advocates. This forum is an easy way for meeting attendees to learn what it means to do that. It will be 90 minutes well spent." 🌈

WELCOME

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flicts of interest. Each of these sessions will provide a half-day "crash course" on the topic, examining it from the perspective of the entire health care team, explained Dr. Khandheria. "I hope that our physician attendees have brought along their nurses, physician assistants, and technicians," he continued, "because these sessions will provide each member of the team with practical, relevant, 'need-to-know' information on specific diseases and practice management."

Another new session geared toward the whole cardiovascular care team is **CardioTeam '03**, one of three new Spotlight Sessions offered this year.

"The addition of the CardioTeam '03 to the Annual Scientific Session reflects our appreciation of the important and growing role that nonphysician clinicians play in the day-to-day care of patients," noted Dr. Fye.

The other new Spotlight Sessions are **CT/MRI '03** and **Vascular '03**, which join the returning roster of these sessions—**ACCIS**, **ClinCard**, **Echo**, **EP**, and **Nuclear**—to enhance and expand the scope of the meeting's Sunday programming. The Spotlight Sessions highlight disease processes, said Dr. Holmes. "They cover everything from basic pathophysiology to diagnosis to current and future treatments."

New Spin on Old Favorites

Long-time Annual Scientific Session attendees will also be pleased to see that their favorite sessions are back this year, in some cases sporting interesting new twists designed to make them even more informative, interactive, and entertaining. For example, the always-popular "Clinical Decision Making" session is now known as "**Cardiology Jeopardy.**" Attendees will have an opportunity to test their knowledge against the experts on a number of topics directly related to patient care.

"Formulated loosely on elements from several television game shows, the session will feature five contestants answering a variety of clinical decision-making

questions," said Dr. Khandheria. "The show will also feature trials, radiographs, and electrocardiograms."

The "Controversies in Cardiology" sessions have also been updated. As suggested by their new name, "**Cardiology Crossfires,**" these sessions will feature experts debating the pros and cons of the most controversial issues facing cardiovascular specialists today.

The College's practical computer sessions have been expanded as well. Formerly confined to the *info@ACC* theater and classroom, opportunities to learn how information technology is transforming cardiovascular care now abound throughout the Exposition.

Back by Popular Demand

Like previous Annual Scientific Sessions, ACC '03 will feature a host of presentations and speakers sure to make headlines. The Late-Breaking Clinical Trials sessions always draw crowds, for example, and Dr. Fye's Presidential Plenary address will tackle the challenging task of managing conflicts of interest in the context of clinical trials and practice guidelines. Also speaking tomorrow during the **Presidential Plenary Session** will be this year's **Simon Dack Lecturer**, Eugene Braunwald, MD, who will take attendees on a journey into cardiology's past before fast-forwarding for a look at what the future may hold for the specialty. On Tuesday, A. Jamil Tajik, MD, will deliver the **Louis F. Bishop Lecture** on the growth, development, and future potential of echocardiography; and Magdi Yacoub, MD, will give the **Second Annual International Lecture** on the future of heart failure management. On Tuesday evening, NHLBI Director Claude Lenfant, MD, will deliver the annual **Convocation Lecture** (see article on page 1).

And, of course, no one should leave Chicago without attending the **Meeting Highlights** session. "There's no better way for attendees to take home the most important findings in cardiovascular care than to attend this session," said Dr. Fye. "If you attend Meeting Highlights, you won't miss out on any of the breakthrough science sure to be revealed this week." 🌈

Official Notice

ACC Annual Business Meeting Is Tomorrow

The annual business meeting of the College will be held Monday at 9:30 a.m. in Room S101 of McCormick Place.

All Fellows of the College are encouraged to attend this meeting, where the College's president, W. Bruce Fye, MD, MA, will give a report on the state of the College. Elections will also be held for new officers and trustees.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- **Introductory remarks by Dr. Fye;**
- **Reports of the College's secretary, treasurer, and Nominating Committee; and**
- **New business.**

New ACC Fellows Invited to Special Session

This year, the College will bestow on 650 new cardiovascular specialists the privilege of Fellowship in the College. Although every Fellow looks forward to adding the designation of "FACC" to his or her signature, the benefits of Fellowship are much more extensive. To introduce the new Fellows to these benefits, as well as the roles and responsibilities that accompany Fellowship, the College is hold-

ing a special session for the first time this year. The "New FACC Orientation" will convene Tuesday, April 1, from 1 to 2 p.m., in Room E350 of McCormick Place.

During this session, the College's new Fellows will have a unique opportunity to hear from ACC President W. Bruce Fye, MD, MA, and Chief Executive Officer Christine W. McEntee, as well as several ACC lead-

ers. Dr. Fye and Ms. McEntee will highlight the invaluable role that Fellows play in the College's three-part mission of education, advocacy, and quality of care.

ACC staff, who will also be on hand during this intimate gathering, look forward to hearing directly from the new Fellows about their needs and how they plan to participate in the College.

Fellowship Candidates Get Ready for Convocation

The College's Annual Convocation will be held on Tuesday evening, beginning at 6 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton & Towers. In preparation for the Convocation Ceremony, all Fellowship Candidates must sign the Convocation Register, located in the Convocation Office in McCormick Place South, Hall A (next to Registration). The register must be signed by 5 p.m. on Monday. Certificates will be available immediately following the Convocation only for those who sign the register in advance. The Convocation office is open Sunday and Monday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Child Care During Convocation

During Convocation on Tuesday, the College will provide a complimentary children's activity room from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Marquette Room of the Chicago Hilton & Towers. The activity room will be operated on a walk-in basis and will feature children's videos, books, coloring supplies, and games. Children must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or other responsible adult.

Arrangements for child care can also be made through the front desk or the concierge of most hotels. 🌈

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CONVOCATION

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to 1972, he was on the faculty of the University of Washington, where his research focus was pulmonary physiology. In 1970, he was appointed associate director for lung programs at the NHLBI. He served in that position until his appointment as director of the NHLBI in 1982.

During Dr. Lenfant's 21-year tenure as director, the NHLBI has thrived. Under his leadership, the Institute's budget has quadrupled; the FY2002 budget exceeded \$2.5 billion, with more than one-half of this money targeted at cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Lenfant's commitment to supporting basic and clinical research is matched only by his commitment to reducing the burdens of cardiovascular disease through comprehensive public education programs.

Dr. Lenfant, whose contributions as a physician and medical scientist have helped to enhance and prolong the lives of millions around the world, will also receive the 2003 Presidential Citation of the American College of Cardiology.

Exposition Hours

The ACC '03 Exposition provides attendees a unique opportunity to visit more than 400 exhibits and preview the most up-to-date drugs, devices, equipment, and services related to cardiovascular care. The ACC '03 schedule includes a conflict-free, dedicated Exposition hour, from noon to 1 p.m., on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Exposition hours are—

Sunday9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CARDIOSOURCE

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information to patients and families to improve communications about their illness," Dr. Bove said.

Cardiosource subscribers will continue to have access to expert reviews of recent clinical trials, self-assessment programs, practice guidelines, ACCEL interviews, case studies, and hot-topic news from national and international meetings. Access to the basic Cardiosource site is free to ACC members. Full access to all of the materials

offered on the site—including textbooks, patient handouts, Mosby's Drug Consult, clinical image libraries, and more—requires a premium subscription.

The current version of Cardiosource combines and expands the online offerings of the American College of Cardiology Foundation's ACCardio Web site and Elsevier Science's original Cardiosource site to create a one-stop resource for cardiology information and news, educational media and programming, and practice-relevant information. Cardiosource also includes the

resources of MDConsult Cardiology.

"The new site provides a very direct way for cardiovascular specialists and others to get current information on all aspects of cardiovascular practice," said ACC President W. Bruce Fye, MD, MA.

For more information and to take the free Cardiosource tour, stop by ACC Central or visit <http://www.acc.org/cstour.htm> or <http://www.cardiosource.com> on the Web. 🌐

ACC Central Checklist

Be sure that a trip to ACC Central (Booth #2003) is at the top of your Annual Scientific Session "to-do" list. At ACC Central, you can check out the latest technology and the most up-to-date tools for clinical practice. The following are just a few of the "must-see" ACC products and services on display:

- ✓ Subscribe to Cardiosource, the ultimate Internet destination for cardiovascular specialists, and get a special discount (see article on page 1).
- ✓ Test-drive *ACCSAP V*, the latest edition of the College's *Adult Clinical Cardiology Self-Assessment Program*.
- ✓ Use one of the many PDA stations to download practice guidelines and the ACC '03 *e-Program* (formerly Palm-Guide; see article on page 3).
- ✓ Check out an ACC-NCDR™ Web demonstration and learn how to enroll your facility.
- ✓ View a demonstration of the new CathKIT (see article on page 2).
- ✓ Learn about the benefits of the College's new International Associate Membership (see article on page 8).
- ✓ Sign up for the ACC credit card.
- ✓ Find out about ACC services, education programs and products, advocacy activity, membership, and more.
- ✓ Browse a unique new line of ACC emblem products and choose a few to take home.

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Get Ready for Recertification

Prepare to Pass the Boards at ACC '03

Annual Scientific Session attendees preparing for either certification or recertification can get some help at a new mini-course titled, "Prepare for the American Board of Internal Medicine Exams: Challenge Yourself With ACCSAP V Questions." The session will be held today, March 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. in Room S106 of McCormick Place.

This unique and interactive session

will be chaired by Richard P. Lewis, MD, a past president of the College and editor in chief of the latest edition of *ACCSAP*, the College's award-winning self-education and assessment program in adult clinical cardiology. Dr. Lewis will be joined by panelists Patrick T. O'Gara, MD, and William W. Parmley, MD. Drs. O'Gara and Parmley are *ACCSAP V* associate editors. Dr. O'Gara is also the co-director

of the College's popular Board Review course, and Dr. Parmley is both an ACC past president and the immediate past editor in chief of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Together, these three seasoned cardiovascular specialists will offer attendees useful insights and advice on preparing for their Board exams.

The review will include detailed discussions of 30 Board-like questions.

Audience participation will be encouraged during this session, aided by an interactive response system. (Note, however, that due to limited availability, only the first 200 attendees will be able to use the response system.) Participants will also receive a printed copy of all of the questions discussed during the session as well as answers and comprehensive commentaries.

Career Center Helps Employers and Candidates Connect

Among the thousands of attendees here at ACC '03 are many employers with positions to fill as well as numerous candidates who may be good matches for those job openings. Serving both groups is the live, on-site career center hosted by the College's Practice Opportunity Line (POL).

The Career Center, which is located in Room E353A of McCormick Place, makes it easy for employers and candidates to identify who is attending ACC '03. It also helps them to connect and arrange to meet during their time in Chicago.

Candidates can inform prospective employers that they are here in Chicago by flagging their online POL profile and adding local contact information. Candidates can also search the POL's database to find employers who have indicated that they will be in attendance. And, finally, candidates can take advantage of the POL's confidential search feature, which lets them reply online.

Meanwhile, with just a glance, employers can view online responses to jobs they have posted as well as which candidates are here in Chicago for ACC '03. Employers can also review candidates' profiles and CVs.

Career Center Hours of Operation

Sunday9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday9 a.m. – Noon

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International Cardiologists Eligible for New ACC Associate Membership

The American College of Cardiology has created and is now accepting applications for a new category of membership in the College. International Associate membership is being offered exclusively for non-U.S. cardiovascular specialists. Physicians who are granted membership in this new category will have unprecedented electronic access to ACC services and resources.

The College is pleased to offer a number of benefits to its International Associate members. For example, these new members are entitled to basic membership to Cardiosource.com, unlimited online access to the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and *Current Journal Review*, and discounts on ACC products and services. (See the sidebar below for a list of benefits.) International Associate members of the

College will also have rapid access to the ACC's informational resources as well as the College's extensive network of physicians. And, as International Associate members expand their knowledge and their practices, they may become eligible for other categories of membership, including Fellowship in the College (FACC). Only Fellows and Masters of the College are entitled to put the College's letter designations after their names.

nations after their names.

The College also stands to benefit by welcoming new members from around the globe, said ACC President W. Bruce Fye, MD, MA. "The College created this new membership category to provide cardiovascular specialists throughout the world with enhanced access to our educational resources and other services," said Dr. Fye.

The criteria for International Associate membership—which were endorsed by the ACC Credentialing and Membership Committee—ensure that this category is reserved for qualified, practicing cardiologists and that the College's reputation of excellence will be maintained. Candidates must have completed five years of medical training, including 24 months of formal cardiology training, and have been established in practice or academia for a minimum of six months. Candidates must also document that at least 50 percent of their professional activities are devoted to the field of cardiovascular disease.

For more information or to apply for International Associate membership in the College, stop by the Member Relations area of ACC Central (Booth #2003), or visit http://www.acc.org/about/join/joinacc_international.htm.

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Benefits of ACC International Associate Membership

- Electronic-only subscription to *JACC*;
- Member access to the ACC Web site, <http://www.acc.org>;
- Discounted fee for the Annual Scientific Session;
- Standard U.S. discounts on a premium subscription to Cardiosource.com and all other ACC products and services; and
- Eligibility to serve on ACC working groups, editorial boards, and authoring committees.

Scientific Session News

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