

Chapters Earn Recognition for 2007 Achievements

Over the years, ACC chapters have grown to serve as the grassroots voice of the College and be pivotal in helping to identify key cardiovascular issues and prioritize College-wide initiatives. In recognition of the invaluable contributions made by chapters, the ACC recently awarded 18 chapters for going above and beyond the call of duty in the areas of education, quality, advocacy, communication and chapter management. The 2007 Chapter Recognition Award winners are as follows:

“Venti” Award Winners — Chapters with more than 500 members



California: On the education front, the California Chapter held more than 13 educational courses across the state for physician and Cardiac Care Associate (CCA) members and partnered on more than 30 others. Its Computed Tomography workgroup assisted in writing LCDs for the state, while Chapter leaders were actively engaged in advancing the Chapter’s causes with payers, lawmakers and other state-based medical groups. The Chapter also rose to the challenge on the Advocacy and quality fronts whether it was promoting the D2B initiative, working on the Governor’s health care proposals or working to combat obesity and smoking.



Ohio: The Ohio Chapter held to its mission to serve as a key voice and resource for all concerned with cardiovascular care in Ohio. The Chapter worked to increase the knowledge base of its physician and CCA members through CME programs, an online education library, coding seminars and scholarships to the ACC’s Legislative Conference. In addition, the Chapter successfully involved more than 70 percent of Ohio hospitals in the D2B program and was actively involved with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Medicare CAC on rules regulating PCI and CABG and reimbursement issues respectively.



Florida: In 2007, the Florida Chapter embarked on several large-scale projects. On the Advocacy front, the Chapter created tools, held forums, arranged meetings and stepped up its efforts to keep members informed on critical issues impacting cardiovascular specialists at both the state and federal levels. In addition, it embarked on an affiliation with an EMR vendor to help spread the proliferation of the EHR and to control the collective data contained in the CMR system.



Michigan: In 2007, the Michigan Chapter continued its traditional programming, embraced the national D2B initiative and made great progress toward meeting its strategic plan goals. In addition, the Chapter’s annual meeting was bolstered by its traditional fellows’ case and poster competitions and enhanced by a new breakout session for CCAs, making it the best ever.



Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania Chapter held a very successful annual meeting in 2007. The meeting included an increased educational component and incorporated special sessions devoted to CCAs and Fellows in Training (FIT). Overall, the Chapter made a concerted effort to increase significantly the involvement of CCAs in its overall programming and chapter governance.



New York: The New York Chapter worked hard this year to engage younger members of the cardiovascular community and grow the educational opportunities available to cardiovascular specialists across the state. The Chapter also shifted its annual meeting focus from traditional CME to include advocacy and quality activities and was successful in building relationships with lawmakers

“Grande” Award Winners — Chapters with 150 – 500 members



Connecticut: The Connecticut Chapter worked successfully to increase involvement of FITs in its annual meeting and provide additional educational programming at local hospitals. On the Advocacy front, the Chapter worked to build relationships with key lawmakers, whether it was providing input on health care reform or holding fundraisers.



Alabama: The Alabama Chapter met all of its goals in 2007, whether it was recruiting hospitals for the D2B program, increasing attendance at its annual meeting or building relationships with payers. On the Advocacy front, Chapter leaders were active on issues such as smoking cessation and outpatient cath labs.



Indiana: The Cardiac Care Team was the Indiana Chapter's focus in 2007.

Whether it was making sure there were "no post-fellows left behind," recruiting hospital involvement in the D2B initiative or providing team-based educational sessions at its annual meeting, the Chapter was successful at every level.



Maryland: The Maryland Chapter deserves recognition for conceiving and embarking

on an ambitious plan to change a state law that restricted in-office medical imaging, thus changing the way the imaging battle is being fought across the country. In addition, the Chapter has worked to add early-career FACCs to its Advocacy Committee and increase opportunities for CCAs.



Minnesota: The Minnesota Chapter is a small chapter with limited resources but a

lot of heart. In 2007, the Chapter continued to revamp its efforts to rejuvenate its annual meeting and provide increased avenues for FITs and CCAs. It was also the first chapter to get 100 percent of its hospitals participating in the D2B effort.



Virginia: The Virginia Chapter is recognized for taking a risk and drastically changing the

format, location and timing of its annual meeting. The risk paid off and the meeting was overwhelmingly successful with increased attendance and excellent reviews. A simple one-day meeting was turned into a three-day event complete with President's Dinner, children's activities and renowned national speakers.



Washington: The Washington Chapter's efforts to offer greater

membership benefits didn't go unnoticed in 2007. The Chapter made great strides in increasing opportunities for FITs and CCAs. It also hosted its 2nd annual "Olympia Day," which brought cardiovascular specialists to the state capitol to lobby on key issues. The Chapter also worked to empower its Council — a move that resulted in much-needed discussions and feedback on Chapter activities.



North Carolina: The North Carolina Chapter's committed members are dedicated to

getting the job done. In 2007, they expanded the annual meeting and increased member involvement in Chapter governance. On the Quality front, its RACE initiative continues to be an outstanding project that considers the complexities of organizing a network of 68 hospitals for management of acute MI. Full updates of the RACE initiative are online at www.nccacc.org.



South Carolina: South Carolina has focused its efforts on increasing the

chapter, both in membership numbers and involvement. The Chapter has added a CCA to its council and successfully involved other CCAs in its education and meeting planning efforts. When it comes to Advocacy, more than 75 percent of Chapter members are signed up to receive action alerts on key state and national cardiovascular issues.



Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Chapter successfully dealt with many changes in 2007,

including new management. The Chapter also reformatted its annual meeting and made great strides in including CCAs in its governance and other activities. In addition, the Wisconsin Chapter was involved with the D2B campaign, and plans are underway to increase involvement in advocacy and quality issues.

"Tall" Award Winners — Chapters with less than 150 members



Oregon: Oregon's tradition of envisioning what should be and developing an action

plan to make it happen continued in 2007. The Chapter continued its advocacy work with the Oregon Medical Association on cardiovascular issues. Its Cardiovascular Symposium continued to be the premiere education event in the Northwest. In Quality, the Chapter developed a panel of cardiologists to serve as the key responders to media inquiries. It also continues to develop an Oregon Heart Disease Prevention Initiative, a statewide screening program.



West Virginia: The West Virginia Chapter experienced a year of

"firsts" in 2007. Under direction of the newly assembled Council, the Chapter appointed a Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee liaison and is proactively working with the WV Health Care Authority in the development of CCTV CON regulations. The Chapter also successfully increased FIT involvement in Chapter activities.

Leadership Forum Full of HEROs, Politics and More

The ACC's Leadership Forum was held Jan. 25 and 26 in Washington, D.C. New and returning ACC Governors and Trustees met to network and learn from each other about the challenges and successes facing ACC Chapters. They also heard from ACC CEO **Jack Lewin, M.D.**, ACC President **James Dove, M.D., F.A.C.C.**, and other ACC staff and leaders about upcoming ACC initiatives and the current health care environment both on Capitol Hill and off. Participants also had the opportunity to get an insider view of the current political landscape and the possible implications for health care. Finally, many Chapters were recognized for their efforts over the past year (see above) and for the first time ever, three Chapters received "HERO Awards" for their "Heroic Efforts creating Results and Opportunities" and advancing the College mission. These three chapters – Michigan, Maryland and Oregon – will each be profiled in upcoming issues of *Cardiology*.