

Colorado Chapter Holds Health Care Reform Forum

Forty Colorado Chapter members and health care leaders met on April 2 to discuss health care reform issues during a forum held by the ACC Colorado Chapter. The event was intended to empower local leaders and chapter members to participate in health care reform discussions by providing participants with the background knowledge needed to advocate successfully for change. Attendees included FACCs, Cardiovascular Team (CVT) members and practice administrators, as well as representatives of the Colorado Medical Society, Colorado Osteopathic Society and University of Colorado.

Reform Issues

Chapter President **Eugene Sherman, M.D., F.A.C.C.**, began the evening with a presentation on the existing political realities in health care reform at the state and national levels. The realities present themselves as not only medical challenges, such as professional liability, but also as political challenges that will only be overcome by tremendous activism on the part of dedicated medical professionals, Sherman said.

ACC CEO **Jack Lewin, M.D.**, spoke about the current system of health care delivery and the importance of meaningful, high-quality reforms. After his presentation,

members held a candid discussion with Lewin to discuss their concerns for future health care reform.

“The discussion inspired many members in the audience to become more involved in the Chapter,” Sherman said. “Membership is more excited and motivated now than in any time in recent memory.”



Media Success

The Chapter expanded its educational efforts beyond forum attendees — taking its health care reform message to the general public as well. An audio recording outlining the College’s health care reform principles, the importance of reform and how it relates to Colorado was aired on 39 radio stations in the state, reaching 325,000 listeners. In addition, an opinion piece by Lewin appeared in the *Denver Post*, available at denverpost.com/opinion.

PAC Effects

The forum also served to increase participation in the ACC Political Action Committee (PAC). Several members at the forum contributed to the PAC, which will assist the College in supporting candidates who are committed to developing sensible health care policies. Nineteen Chapter members have donated to the PAC, and the Chapter is one of the top participants in the PAC’s new “\$1,000 from 1,000 Doctors” campaign.

For more information on the ACC’s health care reform efforts, visit *qualityfirst.acc.org*. For information on the PAC, go to www.accpacweb.org.



1982 ACC President Suzanne Knoebel urges the ACC to develop Consensus Statements lest quality cardiovascular practice be dictated by the government.