



Helping Cardiovascular Professionals
Learn. Advance. Heal.

For the Media

The American College of Cardiology is a 36,000-member nonprofit medical society and bestows the credential Fellow of the American College of Cardiology upon physicians who meet its stringent qualifications. The College is a leader in the formulation of health policy, standards and guidelines, and is a staunch supporter of cardiovascular research. The ACC provides professional education and operates national registries for the measurement and improvement of quality care. The College is leading the way to optimal cardiovascular care and disease prevention; the College seeks to maintain position as the recognized leader to emphasize, synthesize, summarize and disseminate cardiovascular science, knowledge and best practices; accelerate the application of cardiovascular science, knowledge, and measurement into practice; increase value to members through programs and services that most effectively meet their needs; and improve overall financial and operational performance.

MEMBERSHIP

The ACC is comprised of physicians, scientists, and members of the cardiac care team concerned with all clinical and basic science disciplines of the cardiovascular system. Election to membership is based upon training, specialty board certification, scientific and professional accomplishments, and duration of active participation in a cardiovascular-related field.

F.A.C.C. DESIGNATION

Based on their outstanding credentials, achievements, and community contribution to cardiovascular medicine, physicians who are elected to fellowship and are members of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) can use F.A.C.C., Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, as a professional designation. F.A.C.C.s are adult cardiologists, pediatric cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, researchers and academicians, or specialists in a cardiovascular-related field.

The strongest evidence of achievement for those who earn the F.A.C.C designation comes from their peers. Letters of sponsorship from other F.A.C.C.s and medical school faculty attest to professional competence and commitment to excellence, and are necessary for election to Fellowship in the College.

When accepting election to Fellowship in ACC, each physician pledges, “cooperation and loyalty to the attainment of the ideals” of the College, the most important of which is to promote excellence in cardiovascular care.

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSION AND i2 SUMMIT

The Annual Scientific Session is the world’s premier cardiovascular conference, featuring scientific and clinically relevant research, lectures, core curricula and panel discussions for approximately 30,000 attendees. The Annual Scientific Session includes the annual Innovation in Intervention: i2 Summit, which focuses on clinical, educational and practical intervention in cardiovascular healthcare. The Annual Scientific Session and i2 Summit are held each spring.

ADVOCACY

The College is actively engaged in advocating for quality health care. ACC staff work alongside ACC members to help shape the future of health care policy at the state and federal levels. In addition to its continuous efforts to encourage better health care policy, the College hosts the annual ACC Legislative Conference to educate members on critical issues facing the cardiovascular community and to take the cardiovascular message directly to lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The ACC provides a framework of evidence-based clinical statements and guidelines developed by leaders in the field of cardiovascular medicine. These statements and guidelines provide the standards for care comparison throughout the cardiovascular world.



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CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

In addition to the Annual Scientific Session, the College seeks to facilitate and develop medical education through a variety of programs, resources and products. These include:

- More than 35 educational programs a year in which outstanding faculty are brought together to address specialized topics in cardiovascular medicine.
- Cardiosource, the College's online portal for cardiovascular continuing medical education and news on the latest clinical findings.
- More than 10 interactive self-assessment programs designed to update members in all areas of cardiovascular medicine.
- ACCEL, a monthly journal subscription service on audio CD and MP3 that features noted cardiovascular authorities.
- The Griffith Resource Library, which houses one of the most comprehensive collections of journals, textbooks, audiovisual aids and computer software dedicated to cardiovascular topics.
- A comprehensive member directory in which members can create profiles and search for their peers.

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

As College membership has increased, so has the need for a forum at the state level to discuss legislative, regulatory and socioeconomic issues. College Chapters have evolved from this need. There are currently 41 Chapters of the ACC in 44 states and Puerto Rico.

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PUBLICATIONS

The College produces a variety of publications for its members:

- The *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* is the official monthly peer-reviewed journal of the College. Written exclusively by cardiovascular professionals, it provides a comprehensive selection of original articles, clinical reviews and special reports.
- The *ACC Cardiosource Review Journal* provides abstracts and commentaries, as well as concise review articles, summaries of practice guidelines from the leading cardiology associations, and information on continuing education.
- The College's official monthly member publication, *Cardiology*, combines information about cardiovascular medicine with news about the profession and the College.
- *Cardiac Care* provides nurses, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and physician assistants with articles, relevant information and suggestions on quality cardiovascular patient care.
- The College's daily member newsletter provides timely information on current hot topics within the cardiovascular community.
- *My ACC*, a bi-weekly member newsletter, features breaking news and key information from every area of the College: Education, Science & Quality, Advocacy, and Member Services.
- *FITForum* newsletter reports news of interest to members participating in the College's fellowship training program.
- ACC also publishes a variety of educational booklets, position statements, appropriateness criteria and guidelines to further develop and encourage cardiovascular knowledge.

GOVERNANCE

The administration and general management of the College is vested in the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors. The Board of Trustees consists of 31 Fellows of the College who are elected to their positions. In addition, the structure provides for a smaller eight-member Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.