



# ACC Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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### CCS.09 at ACC.09 March 29-31 ACC.09!

CCS.09 is filled with a variety of sessions including symposia presentations, oral abstracts and interactive Meet-the-Experts sessions. The session will cover a range of congenital heart conditions and issues facing patients and physicians today. Main topics include Ebstein's Anomaly: Neonate to Adult; Fontan Late Outcome and Management of the Failing Circulation; Complex Transposition of the Great Arteries; Staging the Patient with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome and Neurodevelopmental Outcomes of Neonates and Infants Undergoing Cardiac Surgery.

**Discount registration  
ends February 18!**



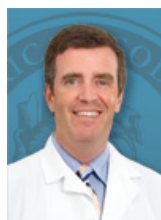
### CCS Spotlight at CCS.09

On Tuesday, March 31, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at CCS.09, John W. Moore, M.D., F.A.C.C. devotes the full day to interventional catheterization techniques and discussion regarding the risks and benefits of different catheter-based procedures.



*The American College of Cardiology's Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology Section is pleased to present our new electronic newsletter. We hope this quarterly communication will serve to educate, inform, and stimulate conversation within the Section and College. Each issue will bring you updates on Section activities, the College's initiatives supporting the ACC's pediatric and congenital cardiology community and avenues for involvement and discussion. We look forward to your comments and continuing to advance the pediatric and congenital cardiology priorities.*

## Lobby Day 2009: Securing Funds for Our Patients' Futures



As Gerard Martin, M.D., F.A.C.C., walks up the steps of a Washington, D.C., congressional office building on February 10, he will be thinking not only about the children he has treated for congenital heart disease (CHD) over the years, but also about the adults they will become. Indeed, the lifelong needs of patients with CHD will be a dominant theme when an estimated 200 patients, families and health care professionals meet with legislators during the third National Congenital Heart Lobby Day.

“Lobby Day is a way to speak out on behalf of our patients, a way to go to the folks who control health care funding and say, ‘This is an important issue,’” said Dr. Martin, who chairs ACC’s Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology (ACPC) Section, and is co-director of the Children’s National Heart Institute in Washington, D.C. “We need to ensure the best care not only in childhood, but also for adults with CHD.”

## ACPC Special Events at ACC.09!

### **FITs: Career Options in Pediatric and Congenital Cardiology Session and Breakfast**

Discover the steps you need to take to launch a career in pediatric cardiology

Sunday, March 29 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Convention Center, West 106  
RSVP to [rschucha@acc.org](mailto:rschucha@acc.org)

### **Learn about getting involved in the Section and what we have planned for this year.**

Sunday, March 29 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Peabody Hotel, Orlando Ballroom III  
RSVP to [rschucha@acc.org](mailto:rschucha@acc.org)

For more information, visit [ACC.09.org](http://ACC.09.org) and look for congenital cardiology solutions under special interest groups.

### **Fasules Takes ACC Advocacy Position**

Jim Fasules, M.D., F.A.C.C. has joined the ACC staff as the new Senior Vice President of Advocacy. Dr. Fasules is a pediatric cardiologist, most recently practicing at Arkansas Children's Hospital. He has previously been extremely active in advocacy activities, serving on the board of ACC's Political Action Committee and as a leader of the Advocacy Committee. In his new position, Fasules will provide strategic direction and management oversight for ACC's legislative policy, regulatory affairs, payer advocacy, PAC, grassroots and state government functions.

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The Adult Congenital and Pediatric Cardiology Section (ACPC) of the American College of Cardiology connects more than 1,200 members who share a professional interest in pediatric cardiology, adult congenital cardiology and congenital heart disease surgery. Members of the ACPC Section speak through a collective voice to advance and advocate priorities that correspond both to the College's mission and the pediatric and congenital cardiology community. Gerard Martin, MD, FACC chairs the ACPC Section.  
[www.acc.org/acpcsection](http://www.acc.org/acpcsection)

Lobby Day is especially important in 2009 because this diverse group of citizen lobbyists will be advocating funding for three high-priority needs: a surveillance registry for CHD patients of all ages; expanded research into outcomes and inheritance patterns in CHD; and programs to promote education and awareness — particularly about the need for specialized care throughout life, as patients transition from pediatric to adult cardiology care.

The three issues go hand-in-hand. When the transition to adult care is unsuccessful, it may set the stage for a health crisis 10 or 15 years later. A lifelong registry would provide crucial data on health patterns. "We're hoping that by counting, we can document the human cost," Dr. Martin said. "Then we can move forward in providing better care."

This year's National Congenital Heart Lobby Day is supported by a five-member group led by the Adult Congenital Heart Association (ACHA). Other members are The Children's Heart Foundation, It's My Heart, the Congenital Heart Information Network and Mended Little Hearts. Representatives and families from each of these organizations will take part in Lobby Day.

Lobby Day participants will spend the morning in training sessions with advocacy experts from both ACC and ACHA, learning how to describe CHD and the importance of funding the future of congenital heart disease patients in just a few sentences for time-strapped legislators and their aides. They will come prepared not only with fact sheets and talking points, but also with photo buttons and "heart story" books that put a human face on CHD. "I can't underestimate how powerful this is," said Amy Verstappen, ACHA president and chief executive officer. "This is democracy in action, and it's wonderful that ACC has partnered with us. It speaks volumes about ACC's commitment to patients."

Cardiologists have an important role to play, Dr. Martin said. As health care professionals, they are in the best position to answer questions about ongoing research issues and funding needs. "Each Lobby Day we make contacts with legislators, and we build momentum toward getting what we need," he said. "We just need more momentum."

Lobby Day will take place on Feb. 10, 2009. A reception to welcome participants is scheduled for February 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Heart House. It is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the ACC. For more information, contact Stephanie Mitchell at [smitchel@acc.org](mailto:smitchel@acc.org).

[Click here for interview with CEO Jack Lewin M.D. and Curt Daniels M.D., F.A.C.C. discussing Lobby Day.](#)

**We hope you have enjoyed reading this electronic newsletter. If you would like to continue to receive these emails, please become a member of the ACPC Section by [clicking here](#) or calling our resource center at (202) 375-6000 ext: 5603.**

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