



# ACC Fellows in Training

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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## STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

The ACC offers Fellows in Training exciting ways to build a network of colleagues and get all of the latest news in cardiology. Keep up with ACC activities plus clinical and advocacy news through ACC in Touch, the College's social media campaign, by joining Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

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## ACCF Research Fellowship and Career Development Awards

The submission site for the 2010-2011 ACCF Research Fellowship Awards programs is now open.

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## THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED! *CardioSource.org*

Make connections, get invaluable information and access a full offering of cardiovascular resources all in one place. Fast and easy to use, **CardioSource.org, launching this month**, is a blending of *acc.org* and *Cardiosource.com*. Visitors will get all the high-quality science, education and information they are accustomed to accessing on *Cardiosource.com*, plus the member benefits, practice resources and career support previously found on *acc.org*. *CardioSource.org* still will include the full range of "Talk Back" articles, videos, case studies, guidelines and quality standards, and links to topics specific to the needs of FITs.

With *CardioSource.org*, in addition to receiving the timely, targeted cardiovascular information accessible through the FIT Clinical Collection, FITs can access news and information based on their unique preferences and specifications by creating their own profile and tagging areas of interest through the *My CardioSource* feature. The convenient new ACC website also includes a social and community networking capacity as part of its online presence. Site registrants may comment on articles, start and participate in forum

discussions, and create connections through groups. To access this private social network of cardiologists and other ACC constituents, simply log in to *CardioSource.org* and join a community of colleagues. FITs also may share their experiences with other fellows within the CardioSource FIT Community.

Using cutting-edge technology, the ACC has produced a single website combining outstanding content, streamlined access and advanced customization for the most comprehensive, easy-to-use information and education resource available. With major content areas including science and quality, publications, membership/practice management, education and advocacy, *CardioSource.org* delivers an interactive, customized online experience for FITs. Find the full text of *CardioSource* News, clinical trial reviews and clinical images, resources for board preparation and career selection, plus information about FIT research and travel awards. With the new *CardioSource.org*, it has never been easier to connect, to keep in touch and to stay informed.

# GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Economic instability, reimbursement cuts, the uncertain effects of health care reform, added layers of bureaucracy: This is the turbulent practice climate Fellows in Training (FITs) will enter. According to Andrew Freeman, M.D., until recently an FIT and chairman of the FIT committee, “many of my colleagues are starting out at a salary as a percentage of the partners’ salaries. If the partners make less due to cuts and staff layoffs, the new additions to the practice also get a cut — their first year out from training — in the face of huge debt loads, and the \$20,000 expense for board exams. The American College of Cardiology Political Action Committee (ACC PAC) is fighting along with the ACC and other organizations to save our careers and jobs.” He encourages FITs to “participate, contribute and act now!”

Committed to educating its members, the public, health care payers and Congress about the importance of strong practices and patient care, the ACC’s Quality First Campaign focuses on transforming health care from the inside out. Part of that transformation must come from FITs.

By supporting ACC PAC, FITs have the power to influence health care policy. Advocacy takes many forms, from small financial contributions to connecting with ACC Chapters or contacting state representatives and members of Congress.

“The first thing FITs can do is read up on the issues, either in the e-mails from the ACC or by visiting the advocacy website (CardioAdvocacy Network, [www.acc.org/can](http://www.acc.org/can)),” suggests Dave Winchester, M.D., FIT committee chairman.

Eugene Sherman, M.D., F.A.C.C., vice-chairman of the ACC PAC agrees. “FITs can help by being informed, by telling their

colleagues what the ACC and ACC PAC are doing, subscribing to the free ACC Advocate Newsletter, and reading and discussing the topics.”

The specific role of ACC PAC is to support candidates for political office who are advocates for patients seeking quality cardiovascular care. It is the vehicle for getting the ACC message across to legislators, particularly important in anticipating the elections this November.

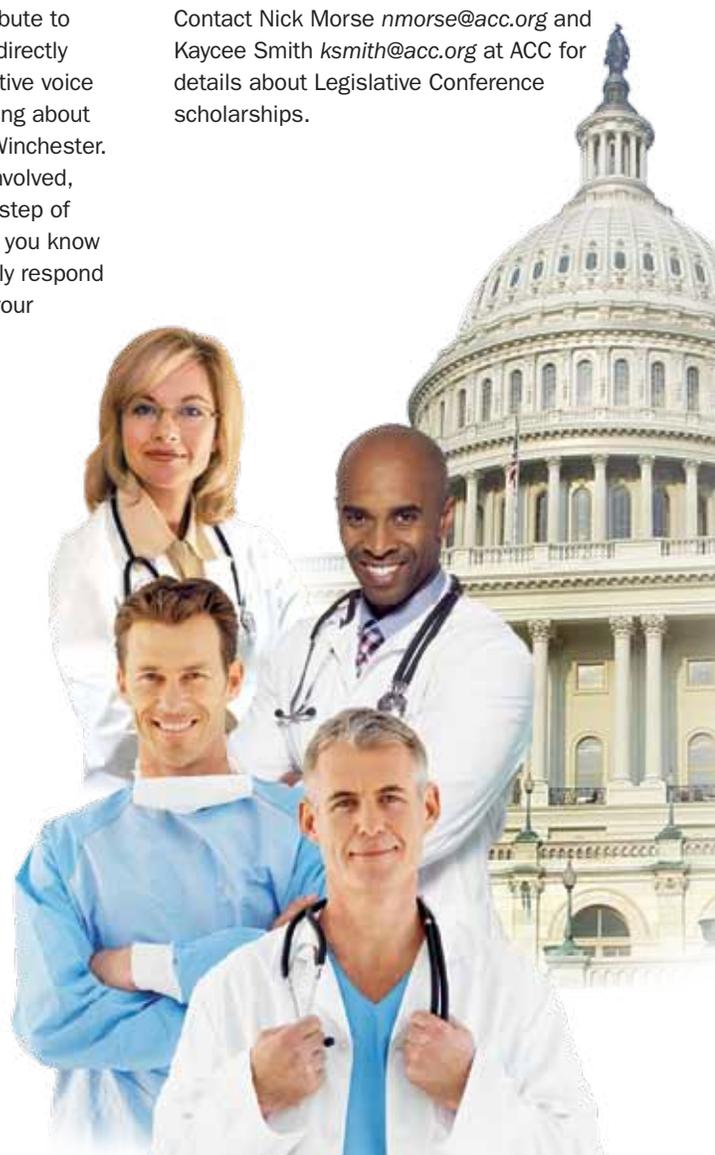
“Advocacy begins at the chapter level,” says Dr. Sherman. “Contact your Governor and chapter executive for local advocacy activities.” FITs also can contribute to the advocacy effort by working directly with regulators. “It is our collective voice and actions that add up and bring about substantive change,” says Dr. Winchester. The biggest hurdle for getting involved, he believes, “is taking the first step of contacting your legislator. Once you know how easy that is, you can quickly respond to the next Legislative Alert in your email and share your opinion.”

Select FITs wishing to get involved may also attend the Legislative Conference in September. “For those motivated to become involved on the national level,” says Dr. Sherman, “there are FIT scholarships available for the ACC’s Legislative Conference in September.”

Even with little time to participate, FITs can have an impact and influence health care policy. “With even a small contribution, FITs can make a difference in the election of supportive

political candidates,” says Dr. Winchester. To add strength to the ACC PAC influence on the current election cycle, Dr. Sherman would like to see an increase both in the contributions and, even more, in the percentage of member participation. “We are less concerned about the dollars than about seeing our members involved in the process during these turbulent times in cardiology,” says Dr. Sherman. “If 80 percent of all FITs gave just \$50 each for their future in cardiology, then all of cardiology might be inspired. The ACC PAC Board would love to publicize that FITs are more committed than our older members.”

Contact Nick Morse [nmorse@acc.org](mailto:nmorse@acc.org) and Kaycee Smith [ksmith@acc.org](mailto:ksmith@acc.org) at ACC for details about Legislative Conference scholarships.



# STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

The ACC offers Fellows in Training exciting ways to build a network of colleagues and get all of the latest news in cardiology. Keep up with ACC activities plus clinical and advocacy news through **ACC in Touch**, the College's social media campaign, by joining Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Even with a packed schedule, FITs can retrieve up-to-the-minute news, discuss important topics and clinical information, and network with other cardiologists who share their interests and challenges. Social media outlets provide alternate ways to stay connected and informed about cardiovascular and ACC news. They offer a forum for discussion that traditional newsletters do not allow.

"Since the emergence of the World Wide Web and the Internet, we now have the luxury of having information instantly at our fingertips," says Jon George, M.D., faculty in interventional cardiology and director of clinical research at Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Philadelphia. "In the fast-paced world of cardiology and rapid release of data from ongoing clinical trials, social media provide an avenue for organizations like the ACC to keep its members abreast of evolving information."

In a hurry and want brief, informative updates? Follow the ACC on Twitter. Get the answers to questions or instant updates on a wide variety of topics in 140 characters or less. Twitter offers four profiles tailored to specific interests: @ACCinTouch, ACC's main Twitter account; @Cardiology, ACC's advocacy account; @CardioSmart, which features patient-centered news; and @Cardiosource, dedicated to the latest science from *CardioSource.org*. Meaningful, fast and effective, Twitter is a simple tool that allows you to connect with those who share your interests.

For more in-depth information and discussion, become a "fan" of the ACC on Facebook; forge deeper connections with your colleagues and others interested in cardiology. If you're a member of the professional networking site LinkedIn, the ACC group allows you to connect and converse, strengthening your professional support system. Both sites present the latest news from the College, plus specifics on the ACC's initiatives and advocacy efforts.

Perhaps most importantly, social networking sites offer members the chance to access real-time information. As Dr. George explains, "I just returned from a week of medical volunteering in Haiti and there were several instances where I could've used a second opinion for complex cases due to lack of sufficient medical resources and equipment. Social media sites provide an ideal

platform for such long-distance team-based efforts for patient care in rural areas, disaster zones and battle fields."

*CardioSource.org*, the convenient new ACC Web site launching this month, includes a social and community networking capacity as part of its online presence. Site registrants may comment on articles, start and participate in forum discussions and create connections through groups. To access this private social network of cardiologists and other ACC constituents, simply log in to *CardioSource.org* and join a community of colleagues.

With these options for networking, Dr. George points out, "Members now have an opportunity to network and stay connected for collaborative work and exchange of ideas." It has never been easier to build a network of colleagues and get the most up-to-date information in cardiovascular care.





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## FIT Travel Awards for the 2010 Legislative Conference

Now is the time to apply for the FIT Travel Awards for the 2010 Legislative Conference. Ten FIT members will be selected for travel expenses reimbursement for the ACC's 2010 Legislative Conference on September 12-14, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

This travel award program provides FITs with an opportunity to become more educated about the important work the ACC is doing in the areas of Medicare reform, health system reform and research and prevention. It also serves to encourage them to get involved with important advocacy issues that affect their profession. Reimbursement of travel expenses incurred from traveling to and from the Legislative Conference will be provided to the awardees up to \$1,000. Awardees will be selected via a random drawing and will be reimbursed after the conference. Awardees will be expected to document their use of the funds by providing original receipts.

For more information or to apply for this award, interested applicants should send their contact name and information to Kelly Evans Ventura at [kventura@acc.org](mailto:kventura@acc.org) by July 2, 2010. For more information regarding the 2010 Legislative Conference, please contact the ACC's Advocacy Department at [advocacyleg@acc.org](mailto:advocacyleg@acc.org) or call (800) 435-9203.

Eligibility is limited to FIT members of the American College of Cardiology.

## ACCF Research Fellowship and Career Development Awards

The submission site for the 2010-2011 ACCF Research Fellowship Awards programs is now open. Fellows in Training (FIT) and Early Career members of the ACC are encouraged to visit <http://acc.gsubmit.net> to submit a research application and proposal for one of the following award programs:

- ACCF/Merck Research Fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease and Cardiometabolic Disorder
  - ACCF/William F. Keating, Esq. Endowment Award for Hypertension and Peripheral Vascular Disease
  - ACCF/GE Healthcare Career Development Awards in Cardiovascular Imaging Technologies and Targeted Imaging Agents
- ACCF/Pfizer Career Development Award in Cardiovascular Disease

**Deadlines for the 2010 – 2011 awards begin in July 2010.  
Please visit [www.acc.org/researchawards](http://www.acc.org/researchawards) for more information.**

**Please contact Kelli Bohannon at [kbohanno@acc.org](mailto:kbohanno@acc.org) with any questions regarding the award programs**