

Update from the FIT Committee

David Winchester, M.D. *FIT Committee Chair, 2010-2011*

The ACC FIT Committee continues to work on behalf of Fellow in Training (FIT) members. As part of our ongoing efforts to provide you with quality career resources in a single location, we have added the following to the FIT webpage on CardioSource at www.CardioSource.org/FIT:

- **MGMA data:** The Medical Group Management Association is one of the most trusted names in physician salary information, and we have worked with them to provide overview data for cardiologists. A sample salary data chart is available on our webpage. If you are interested, you can purchase more detailed data from the MGMA.
- **Circulation articles:** *Circulation* has a series of review articles on a variety of career options in cardiovascular medicine. While many of us have access through our institution's library system, we asked, and were granted, permission to directly link to the entire series of articles.
- **Board schedules:** We know how frustrating taking multiple Board exams can be. While we are continuing to work with the ACC on the issue of Board proliferation, we thought you might appreciate a simple place to get all the info on the registration deadlines, costs and testing dates for each of the Board exams.

In January of this year, I was invited to participate in the ACC's Leadership Forum. FITs appointed to ACC committees and councils were invited to attend, but several other FITs were also invited this year as a result of state and local council research competitions. Many states and local councils hold scientific meetings for FITs to show off their research, and the winner of each of these local competitions was invited to come to the Leadership Forum. Winning abstracts will also be included in the ACC.11 Abstracts. Thank you to the ACC for the invitations and providing another incentive for FITs to present their research! To learn about opportunities through your local chapter, visit www.CardioSource.org/Chapters.

Finally, in addition to attending the FIT Forum and Career Session detailed in this newsletter, I encourage you to stop by the FIT Lounge at ACC.11 to network with other FITs, grab a snack and check your email. It's open Sunday through Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the exception of Tuesday when it closes at 2 p.m. Also, you should have received the FIT Guide to ACC.11 and i2 Summit mailer in February. It includes the FIT Committee's recommendations of programs that will be of most interest to FITs. The mailer is also available on the FIT Webpage, at www.CardioSource.org/FIT.

Board Examination Deadlines

Use the chart below to keep track of the Board exams, costs and registration dates. Also visit www.CardioSource.org/FIT for Board exam preparation information.

Exam	Website	Certification Body	Cost	Dates (registration/test)
General Cardiology	www.abmi.org	ABIM	\$2,310	Registration deadline: May 1, 2011 Exam dates: Nov. 2-3 or 3-4, 2011
Nuclear	www.cbnc.org	Certification of Board of Nuclear Cardiology	\$895 as per 2010 data	Final dates for 2011 not yet posted
Echo	www.echobords.org	American Society of Echo	\$995	Registration deadline: Feb. 25, 2011 Exam date: July 25, 2011
CCT	www.cbcct.org/index.cfm	Certification of CCT	\$895 as per 2010 data	Registration deadline: June 3, 2011 Exam dates: Oct. 3-4, or 4-5, 2011

Physician Compensation by Geographic Section for All Practices

	Eastern		Midwest		Southern		Western	
	Phys	Median	Phys	Median	Phys	Median	Phys	Median
Cardiology: Electrophysiology	44	\$465,678	89	\$483,558	72	\$537,215	41	\$461,700
Cardiology: Invasive	63	\$414,000	127	\$452,929	199	\$535,780	114	\$407,273
Cardiology: Inv-Intvl	126	\$486,356	183	\$510,414	211	\$586,838	149	\$456,469
Cardiology: Noninvasive	224	\$390,179	240	\$437,798	172	\$470,610	97	\$344,359

Source: Physician Compensation Report, 2010 Report based on 2009 data
Published Courtesy of Medical Group Management Association

This chart is just one example of the information available in the MGMA 2010 Physician Compensation & Production Survey Report. For more detailed data and to order the report, visit www.MGMA.com.



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Don't Miss the FIT Track at ACC.11 & i2 Summit in New Orleans w

Fellows in Training (FITs) are the future of cardiology. The FIT track at ACC.11 & i2 Summit 2011 is geared to help FITs find everything they need to achieve success in the profession including world-class educational opportunities, career advice, hands-on training and much more. Plus, this year FITs get to attend for FREE!

Don't miss:

- **Focused Learning Pathways** with 11 topic tracks and education for every interest
- **i2 FIT Bootcamp and FIT Imaging Bootcamp** with the Fellows Case Review, an interactive test against your peers of your case-based knowledge
- **Lifelong Learning courses** and the **Cardiology Core Curriculum**, an intensive program featuring an all-star line-up of speakers and a comprehensive review of all major areas of cardiology
- **Special sessions** for FITs focused on career advice and guidance including FITs: What You Need to Know in Starting a Cardiology Career, FIT Forum: Stimulating Options 2011 and more
- **The FIT Community Lounge**, where FITs can go to unwind, check their email, and meet with peers
- **Heart Songs Learning Lab**, where you can learn how to sharpen your auscultation skills by using interactive and engaging media

For more information and to register, go to www.accscientificsession.org.





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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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FIT FORUM HELPS ATTENDEES NAVIGATE MULTIPLE CAREER OPTIONS

The multitude of career options in the medical field that are available to FITs can be both freeing and intimidating to those who are uncertain which to pursue. "FIT Forum: Stimulating Options 2011," moderated by ACC Cardiology Training and Workforce Committee Chair, Chittur A. Sivaram, M.D., F.A.C.C., navigates this career maze by leading FITs along its various paths.

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ACC.11 PROVIDES CAREER GUIDANCE TO FITS

Fellows in Training (FITs) are invited to take advantage of free registration and special events at this year's ACC.11 & i2 Summit at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. "What You Need to Know in Starting a Cardiology Career" and "FIT Forum: Stimulating Options 2011" feature a lineup of experts ready to offer guidance and insight on preparing for, and initiating, a successful career in cardiology.

"What You Need to Know in Starting a Cardiology Career" will help FITs acquire practical knowledge and confidence along the path to becoming a Fellow. The session advises FITs through a vital cycle of issues: from passing the Boards to financial planning that transitions with your career.

Moderated by Fellow in Training Committee Chair, David Winchester, M.D., the session exposes FITs to career options they might not have considered while providing tried-and-true tips on how to get started in what may seem like a daunting task: searching for a career.

According to Dr. Winchester, members of the FIT Committee meet regularly to discuss issues important to other Fellows in Training. The committee has dealt with the burden of

Board examinations, complying with ACGME regulations and addressed gaps in education. Also, at ACC.11 their primary goal is to provide FITs with career planning information and resources.

"Starting early is a FIT's best weapon when looking for a first career opportunity after training," says Dr. Winchester. "Take time to consider career options, network with people to find employment opportunities and talk to people who have recently been through the process to seek their advice."

The career session will provide FITs a head start, as a panel of six speakers discusses preparing for the Board examinations, selecting the right professional or academic practice after Fellowship, interviewing tips, contract negotiations and financial planning advice.

"FITs may not realize that Fellows who fail the Boards often fail the ECG section, not the multiple-choice questions," says Abhinav Goyal, M.D., M.H.S.

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Dr. Goyal and Joseph G. Murphy, M.D., F.A.C.C. will present two perspectives on preparing for and passing the Boards that cover everything from the basics—where, when, format, scoring and resources—to tips and study techniques.

Upon Board certification, the medical field offers FITs a tremendous variety of career options, which must be carefully weighed. There is an overwhelming amount of information to absorb when choosing a practice, including not only the kind of practice but how the practice is managed. During the program, Mary Norine Walsh, M.D., F.A.C.C. will outline a pragmatic approach to selecting a professional practice after training.

Dr. Walsh's presentation will highlight the differences between an academic career and private practice, and familiarize FITs with private practice specifically. According to Dr. Walsh, many FITs lack initial experience with private practice, despite that a majority enters the field.

"Identifying the right fit for you is essential," says Dr. Walsh. She will review the changing landscape in private practice and its differing models such as independent, physician-owned groups and integrated models such as hospital-owned groups.

"If you're looking at multiple job options, you face both objective and subjective things when it comes to each opportunity," says Dr. Walsh. "My best advice is to 'go with your gut' and trust your instincts. This is really about

knowing yourself and what your needs are." Once FITs determine which career path to follow, the next task is to interview and select a practice.

"How does a practice know that you are the right one for them and that this is the right type of employment for you?" asks Susan F. Childs, FACMPE, of Evolution Healthcare Consulting.

Ms. Child's topic, "Interviewing Tips and Negotiating Contracts" will help FITs determine questions to ask potential employers as well as help FITs decipher which business and clinical issues to consider in order to negotiate a contract with self-assurance.

Upon choosing a practice, FITs may find themselves in need of some financial advice. Physicians often begin their career already in the red. "Financial Planning for Future Cardiologists," presented by Michael F. Merrill, ChFC, CLU, a financial advisor at North Star Resource Group, guides FITs toward a financially graceful transition from training to practice.

"Personal financial planning is rarely a subject taught in medical school," says Mr. Merrill. "Typically you receive 15,000 to 20,000 hours of training on how to be a cardiologist and usually only a couple of hours—if any—on how to manage the large income you earn upon completing your Fellowship."

In his presentation, FITs will learn how to prioritize their finances during training

and prepare for their financial future, while receiving tips on taxes, a rundown on the basics of investment principles and risk management and asset protection.

"FITs will learn how easy it is to prioritize their financial needs upon entering practice, which translates into a solid foundation for their financial future," says Mr. Merrill.

"For those who can be at ACC.11," Dr. Winchester says, "expect to get both some food for thought and some practical advice on how and where to start their job search."

For those who cannot attend this year's meeting, the career session moderator, Dr. Winchester, suggests FITs visit the recently updated FIT webpage, www.CardioSource.org/FIT, which features information about the Boards and career advice.

The ACC strives to provide FITs with the right tools and information to succeed. Print and online resources are always available on the ACC Cardiology Careers website at www.CardioSource.org/CardiologyCareers.

"FITs: What You Need to Know in Starting a Cardiology Career" takes place on Sunday, April 3, 2011 from 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. in the Room R06/R07 in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. For full and up-to-the-minute scheduling information and planning tools, visit www.accscientificsession.org.

THE FIT NEWSLETTER IS GOING MOBILE!

Now you can take your FIT newsletter on-the-go and read it on your iPad and iPhone. Beginning with the next issue, the FIT newsletter will be moving to electronic delivery—making it easier for you to access all your favorite articles when YOU want them, even if you are not at home. What this means for you is that you will receive the summer issue via email and USPS, but starting with the Fall 2011 issue, will only receive the newsletter via email.

We want to make sure you're able to receive the FIT newsletter electronically. Unfortunately, we're missing some of our FITs email addresses. Do we have your most up-to-date email address on file? If not, please log on to CardioSource.org to update your email address in your profile, or send us an updated email address to resource@acc.org with the subject line "FIT Newsletter". You may also call us at (202) 375-6000, ext. 5603.





FIT Forum Helps Attendees Navigate Multiple Career Options

The multitude of career options in the medical field that are available to FITs can be both freeing and intimidating to those who are uncertain which to pursue. “FIT Forum: Stimulating Options 2011,” moderated by ACC Cardiology Training and Workforce Committee Chair, Chittur A. Sivaram, M.D., F.A.C.C., M.B.B.S., navigates this career maze by leading FITs along its various paths.

The session will discuss the effects of healthcare reform and review various career options such as clinical investigation in an academic setting, clinical practice in an academic medical center and opportunities in private practice.

“In addition to hearing the views of respected cardiovascular leaders,” says Dr. Sivaram, “the FIT Forum provides an opportunity to network with other FITs and some cardiology leaders who are not featured in the program. This type of career counseling is often not provided within the Fellowship training and, as such, is not to be missed.”

As the practice of cardiology

undergoes significant evolution, understanding the effects that healthcare reform will have within the field are invaluable. Kim Eagle, M.D., M.A.C.C., professor of internal medicine at Albion Walter Hewlett and clinical director at the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center, will discuss regional and national trends within the healthcare field.

Dr. Eagle stresses that while all physicians will be affected by healthcare reform, FITs who understand the anticipated changes in regulation, measurement and reimbursement can succeed.

“As a leader of statewide reform efforts, I have practical lessons to offer FITs,” says Dr. Eagle. “Our future healthcare system will rely heavily on engaged, pragmatic physicians who embrace change and are not afraid to create local and regional solutions. The future is bright, but it is also different.”

For FITs considering the academic field, William M. Miles, M.D., F.A.C.C., professor of medicine at the University of Florida, presents “A Clinician and an Educator in an Academic Setting,” which explores the academic mission.

Drawing on personal experience, Dr. Miles will talk about the collaborative environment of an academic medical center and how, whether in clinical practice or research, the focus of the medical center can affect a physician’s time spent working with patients, teaching and mentoring, or in clinical research.

The presentations conclude with “Private Practice—Many Options



Await You in 2011” by president of The Cardiovascular Group and co-chair of the Cardiovascular Leadership Institute (CLI) C. Michael Valentine, M.D., F.A.C.C..

Dr. Valentine will address the current job market, which he believes has improved in academic, private and integrated practices over 2009 and 2010 as well as trends in lifestyle and work balance.

“Most young partners declare early that they do not want to work 80 hours a week like their boomer predecessors,” says Dr. Valentine. “We hear that all the time and understand, but incomes often correlate with work effort and time, so they must adjust their financial goals if they want more time off and ‘balance’ with family time. Neither is right or wrong, but the generations often differ in the desire for that ‘balance’ often mentioned.”

Dr. Valentine will explain the role of larger integrated practices and how flexibility in the workplace can help new cardiologists in their job search.

“If you are smart, talented, flexible and willing to lead, your future is incredibly bright now and you will have many options,” says Dr. Valentine.

FITs are invited to take full advantage of the forum through its discussion style structure that allots time for questions and answers between speakers.

“As a training program director,” says Dr. Sivaram, “I am interested in offering my Fellows the best available resources for making the best career decisions. I cannot think of a better avenue than the FIT Forum.”

Be prepared to consult top cardiologists and professionals with your toughest questions in this can't-miss event.

“*Stimulating Options 2011: FIT Forum*” takes place on Monday, April 4, 2011 from 12:15 - 1:45 p.m. in the Room R06/R07 in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. For full and up-to-the-minute scheduling information and planning tools, visit www.accscientificsession.org.

Career Advancement Websites

Check out these helpful websites as you navigate your career for information, advice and more.

ACC Cardiology Careers
www.CardioSource.org/CardiologyCareers

CareerMD
www.CareerMD.com

Elsevier Health Careers
<http://elsevierhealthcareers.com>

The New England Journal of Medicine
www.NEJMjobs.org/physician-jobs/cardiology.aspx

Keeping PACE and A New ERA initiatives

Take advantage of free educational cases. The **Keeping PACE** and **A New ERA** initiatives include interactive online patient simulations and webcasts. While designed to challenge clinicians' diagnostic and management skills, the ACS and AFib cases also provide feedback at each decision-making point to support knowledge. To learn more about these cases or to participate, please visit www.CardioSource.org/PICases.

Join the FIT Online Community!

CardioSource.org offers a special online community just for FITs. Within this social networking community, FITs have the opportunity to connect with one another, as well as, post videos, photos, create a personal blog and contribute to the online forums.

Browse current conversations and discuss hot topics with your fellow FITs right now. Currently in the FIT community, members are engaging in discussions on C. Wellen's Syndrome and the correlation between alcohol consumption and atrial fibrillation.

Become a part of the FIT online community today by logging into *CardioSource.org*, clicking on My CardioSource and selecting “Visit CardioSource Communities” from the “My Communities” tab.

