



ACC Fellows in Training

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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An Exciting Year Ahead > page 1

Fellows in Training Selected to Serve on NCDR Research Committees > page 2

Finding the Right CV Position for YOU > page 2

The FIT Experience: ACC Legislative Conference > page 3

Go Local: Why Chapters Need FITs > page 3

Win Free Travel to the 2013 Legislative Conference > page 3

Legislative Conference Travel Awards from ACC State Chapters > page 6

Promoting Patient Outcomes through Physician/Hospital Alignment > page 6

Advance Your Career: The 2014 Research & Career Development Awards > page 6

Upcoming courses > page 7

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An Exciting Year Ahead

by Stephanie Siehr, MD

Welcome Fellows in Training! (FITs)

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the FIT Section Leadership Council (SLC) to an exciting year ahead. As some of you know, the American College of Cardiology recently approved recommendations to expand Councils within the ACC, and the FIT Council and Section was created as a result to maintain our committee as a council (the leadership body) to represent the section (all the FIT members). This is an exciting change for all FITs as it strengthens our relationship with other sections within ACC and provides yet another way to promote important issues to ACC leadership.

I would like to thank the Council’s immediate past chair, Scott Lilly, MD, PhD, for his immense contributions to the group over the past year. We look forward to continuing to work with Scott as an active member of ACC’s Early Career Section Leadership Council.

Riding the coattails of an immensely successful ACC.13, planning is already underway for next year. Some of the highlights from San Francisco included the very popular ‘Mix & Mingle’; Drs. Bashore, Nishimura and O’Gara working through fellow presented cases in ‘Stump the Professor’; and new informal sessions in the FIT Lounge. Social media-related content was also expanded, with Twitter updates throughout the weekend

as well as over 70 videos thanks to the hard work of our FITs on the GO blog team. Even Larry King showed up for an interview with the editors. You can view all the videos at www.youtube.com/FITsontheGo.

This year, the FIT SLC will create working groups composed of council members and interested FITs to manage specific projects. An example will be the Adult Congenital and Pediatric FIT Working Group, which aims to make ACC the home for ACPC FITs by adding resources to CardioSource and allowing FIT content development. FITs interested in production can be a part of the CardioSource Communities, Newsletter or Web and Social Media Working Group. The working groups are a great opportunity for FITs not on the Council to actively contribute to important projects and we are excited about expanding FIT contributions.

Are you interested in getting involved? Please email fellowsintraining@acc.org.

I look forward to working with many of you and to an exciting 2013-2014!



Stephanie Siehr is the new FIT Section Leadership Council Chair and a Fellow of Pediatric Cardiology at Stanford University.

Fellows in Training Selected to Serve on NCDR Research Committees

In September, the NCDR announced open positions for Fellows in Training (FITs) on the Research & Publications (R&P) Subcommittees for the NCDR's registry programs, including two new opportunities to serve on the recently established IMPACT Registry R&P Subcommittee.

The ACC and NCDR are pleased to announce the following FIT appointments to R&P Committees:

ACTION Registry-GWTG

Dr. Nadia Sutton, University of Michigan, Division of Cardiology

CathPCI Registry

Dr. Homam Ibrahim, The Methodist Hospital DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center

ICD Registry

Dr. Amit Noheria, Cedars-Sinai/Greater Los Angeles Cardiology Fellowship Program

IMPACT Registry

*Dr. Noa Holoshitz, Rush University Medical Center
Dr. Natalie Jayaram, Mid-America Heart Institute*

PINNACLE® Registry

Dr. Jason Wasfy, Massachusetts General Hospital

ACC and NCDR also would like to acknowledge and thank the following FITs that will be rotating off R&P committees this year:

Dr. Binita Shah, Dr. Sachin Kumar, Dr. Siddharth Wayangankar, Dr. Matthew Cavender, Dr. Thomas Dewland, and Dr. Ashley Fitzgerald.

The work of the R&P committees provides an opportunity for FITs to make real contributions in a volunteer capacity and to become part of the next generation of NCDR leaders. Calls for nominations of FIT members to R&P committees are an annual part of the NCDR committee appointment process. For more information about the NCDR programs and governance, visit www.ncdr.com. If you're interested learning more about NCDR committee opportunities contact ncdrcommittees@acc.org with your registry of interest, CV and brief two-to-three sentence justification for your interest in applying.

To keep current with registry research activities, please join the ACC in Touch LinkedIn *NCDR Research Network Subgroup*. To join, go to LinkedIn Groups, search for "NCDR Research Network" and click the "Join Group" button. Once you have joined the NCDR Research Network community, you will also be accepted into its parent group, the *American College of Cardiology*, if you are not already a member.

www.CardioSource.org/FIT

Finding the Right CV Position for YOU

by Zubin Eapen, MD

After seven glorious years as a house staff member of Duke University Medical Center, I transitioned to the Cardiology faculty at Duke in July 2012. The lessons I learned along the way may not be new to you, but are worth sharing. Here are a few key things to keep in mind as you search for the perfect cardiovascular position.

Start Early

During each rotation of your fellowship training, ask whether you could see yourself spending the rest of your life in that line of work. Will reading echo be intellectually stimulating for you long term? Will your back withstand the cath lab for decades? Do you like the type of patients that you may electively ablate as an electrophysiologist? If you are interested in academics, begin to carve out a research niche that dovetails nicely with your clinical interests so that a division can view you as the champion for an area in which it wants to invest.

Network Often

Lean on clinical and research mentors to connect you with peers at other institutions or practices that may be looking for someone with your interests and skills. Use conferences and research meetings as opportunities to meet with people from other institutions. Despite being one of the larger specialties, cardiology remains a close-knit network where everybody is within a few degrees of separation from each other. Your mentors and colleagues are often the best source of future opportunities.

Cast a Broad Net

Use your contacts to actively seek other positions and consider whether headhunters or physician recruiters would be useful for you. Send your CV to all places that might interest you; many practices or institutions may not be hiring and you have to actively seek out this information. In some instances, practices may already have cardiologists with similar skill sets. In other instances, practices may be in a period of uncertainty as they actively assess whether to consolidate with local hospitals. Try as much as possible to obtain multiple offers. The chances of negotiating successfully with one practice or institution are considerably improved if you have another offer to leverage.

Be Honest with Yourself

Is it the patient care, your research interests, the geographic location, a specific call schedule, etc. that will make you happy? Apply first to those practices or institutions that make sense professionally and personally for you based on this self-evaluation. If you have a family, consider whether a job description or geographic location makes sense for them. Spend time reflecting where you want to be in 10 to 20 years and how your next position fits into your long-term vision for yourself.

For many of us, this is the first time that we are not applying to a school or a training program. There is a lot more uncertainty with this step in our lives than ever before. The uncertainty also brings great opportunity; this is the first chance for us to differentiate ourselves professionally and begin to reap the rewards of years of studying and training. I hope that all who are going through this process have a chance to enjoy it, shrug off the stress that can accompany it, and gain the position that they rightfully deserve.

The FIT Experience: ACC Legislative Conference

by **George T. Charlton, MD**

Last September, I was one of three FITs from Brown University who were privileged to attend the annual ACC Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, courtesy of grants from both the national ACC and the Rhode Island chapter. We were treated to an intense two-and-a-half day immersion in the intricacies of the federal legislative process. Our introduction the first evening was a well-attended dinner and speech by renowned political commentator George Will. He gave a humor-lightened and generally conservative interpretation of current events, which was especially timely coming less than two months before the 2012 national election. That first night we also officially joined the ACC Political Action Committee (ACCPAC) and were encouraged to wear our PAC pins prominently throughout our visit as a show of commitment and strength in numbers.

The following morning we sat with a few hundred other cardiologists, FITs and associates for a full-day of detailed presentations from well-informed sources. Featured speakers included prominent advisors from both sides of the political spectrum, as well as a very informative overview of the current state of cardiology by a panel including then-ACC President Dr. William A. Zoghbi, MD, MACC. Dr. Zoghbi described the national trend that is also playing out dramatically in Rhode Island: the move away from physician-owned cardiology practices to employed positions as part of a larger health care system. In 2007, for example, 8% of cardiology practices were hospital-owned. Over the past five years this increased three-fold to 24% of practices.

From all of the materials and discussions, I took away a few key points that the ACC asked us to convey to our legislators. Some were familiar themes such as the need for comprehensive malpractice reform. Others were unfamiliar, like the effect of the clearly flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula that mandates deep cuts by Medicare in physician reimbursements each year but has needed last-minute fixes annually to prevent potentially catastrophic cuts. This year, we implored lawmakers to seek a permanent repeal of the SGR as part of the health care payment system overhaul in general to allow for more stability for physician practices. In printed materials the ACC explicitly states

that, as cardiologists, we believe that the current volume-based payment system is not sustainable and that we support a move toward more value-based reimbursement. To support this claim, we emphasized the proactive role the ACC takes in promoting clarity and accountability for reimbursement of many studies and procedures with the recently renamed Appropriate Use Criteria. The detailed, case-specific ACC publications promote integration into daily clinical practice.

On our final day, we took part in the annual march of hundreds of cardiologists to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress. We were scheduled to meet with staff of both our senators and congressman. My FIT colleagues and our Rhode Island chapter governor Dr. Michael Gilson spent the evening prior delegating each of us a particular high-priority topic to discuss at each meeting. For instance, I chose to highlight the proactive stance the ACC has taken in measuring the quality of our clinical care through large clinical registries such as the NCDR. I also described to our lawmakers how the Appropriate Use Criteria developed by the ACC is an example of how physicians, rather than radiology benefit managers, may best direct patient care to maximize clinical utility while keeping costs in check.

The 2012 Legislative Conference was a highlight of my fellowship training and added a dimension of practice-based learning that is not typically included in formal clinical training. I left more knowledgeable about the national practice and reimbursement landscape for cardiology. This knowledge and experience will aid in my search for employment next year. My experiences in Washington demonstrated the importance of staying proactive as cardiologists in advocating for policies that directly affect our patients and our practice environment. I greatly look forward to attending again this year to stay up to date on the rapidly changing policies that directly affect my ability to provide high-quality care for my patients.



Go Local: Why Chapters Need FITs

by ACC Board of Governors Chair David May, MD, FACC

I remember my first years in cardiology well, and although at this point they were years and many life experiences ago, I'll never forget how getting involved in the American College of Cardiology took my career to the next level. Colleagues, mentors and teachers from my past encouraged me to get involved—and some of my first and finest memories included working with my state Chapter. I earned my FACC designation in 1993 and by 2006, I was our Chapter Councilor, going on to be chair of the Chapter's Political Action Committee, and next serving as Chapter Governor. Now, I am the Chair of the Board of Governors.

At this point, Chapters have heard much of what I have to say. Chapters know where members like me stand. What they need are fresh voices, ideas, opinions and energy. Fellows in Training (FITs) are the future of cardiology—the future of medicine as a whole. FITs bring unique insight, social media savvy and a wealth of perspectives that Chapters need to evolve and work toward their mission, and the ACC mission as a whole, to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.

Chapters need FITs.

Want to get more involved at the state level? Here's how:

- **Send a note to your Chapter President or Chapter Executive** letting them know of your interest. They are eager to hear from FITs and would be more than happy to work with you in your interest area!
- Take your ACC involvement to the next level by volunteering for an **ACC committee or council**. Each fall, the College accepts nominations and applications for committee and council membership and all FITs are welcome to nominate a colleague or put their name in for consideration. The call for nominations and applications usually comes out around September.
- Take your local health care issues and concerns, as well as positive experiences, to the nation's capital in September for the **22nd Annual ACC Legislative Conference** as a state representative.
- Try your hand at your **state's annual meeting planning** by volunteering to participate in the planning committee. States are always happy to have fresh ideas and new faces!



David May, MD, PhD, FACC, began as the chair of the Board of Governors in March 2013. He currently works as a managing partner at his private practice, Cardiovascular Specialists, PA (CVS) in Lewisville, Texas.

Win Free Travel to the 2013 Legislative Conference

The ACC Legislative Conference provides an eye-opening experience for FITs. This year's Legislative Conference will take place **September 22-24, 2013** at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC.

As the future of cardiology, all U.S. FITs are encouraged to attend this event.

The ACC has made a select number of travel awards available to cover up to \$1,000 in airfare, hotel and other expenses. If you would like to nominate yourself or a peer, please send an email to Stefan Lefebvre at slefebvre@acc.org by **July 12** with their full name, address (including email), and year of training.

Those chosen will receive an award notification and information on making travel arrangements. The awards will be chosen by random drawing; however, no more than one FIT from any one program can receive an award. Also, award recipients may not have received a legislative travel award in the past two years. Many ACC chapters also offer FIT travel awards to the Conference. Please refer to the chart for more information about these awards.

For more information regarding the 2013 Legislative Conference, please visit www.CardioSource.org/LegislativeConference, contact the ACC's Advocacy Department at advocacyleg@acc.org or call (800) 435-9203.

Legislative Conference Travel Awards from ACC State Chapters



Select ACC State Chapters are offering travel awards for Fellows in Training to attend the 2013 Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. See your Chapter listed and interested in attending? Email the contact below today! Interested candidates must:

- Be a member of the Chapter of which they are applying for an Award
- Be registered for the 2013 Legislative Conference
- Note the award covers registration, travel, lodging and meal costs up to the limit listed
- Provide receipts within 30 days of the end of the conference for reimbursement
- Participate in the entire schedule of events for the conference

CHAPTER	Number of 2013 Awards	Award Limit	Contact	Contact Email	Contact Phone	Additional Awardee Requirements
Kansas Chapter	2	\$1,000	Keith Jones	kjones@ksacc.org	877-954-7008	
Tennessee Chapter	1	\$1,000	Marisa Hackemann	mhackemann@xmi-amc.com	615-345-9550	
Pennsylvania Chapter	2	\$1,000	Maria Elias	meliass@pamedsoc.org	717-909-2698	
Michigan Chapter	3	\$1,000	Alice Betz	alice@accmi.org	517-663-6622	Awardee may not have received a travel grant previously.
Kentucky Chapter	2	\$1,000	Andrew Bronson	andrew@kentuckyacc.org	414-755-6297	
Georgia Chapter	1	\$1,000	Hank Holderfield	hholderfield@pami.org	770-271-0798	
Minnesota Chapter	1	Approved expenses	Bill Monn	billm@accmn.org	651-290-6261	
South Carolina Chapter			Beth Denny	info@sccacc.org	919-571-1314	Check with Chapter for more information.
North Carolina Chapter			Beth Denny	bdenny@nccacc.org	919-861-5581	Check with Chapter for more information.
Virginia Chapter	0		Jennifer Ray Beckman	jlrbeckman@vcacc.org	888-637-2405	
California Chapter	3	\$1,500	Lianna Collinge	lianna@caacc.org	253-265-3042	Awardee must write an article for CAACC newsletter/website
Washington Chapter	1	\$1,500	Lianna Collinge	aminc1@comcast.net	253-265-3042	Awardee must write an article for CAACC newsletter/website
Colorado Chapter	1	\$1,500	Lianna Collinge	aminc1@comcast.net	253-265-3042	Awardee must write an article for CAACC newsletter/website
Arizona Chapter	1	\$1,500	Lianna Collinge	aminc1@comcast.net	253-265-3042	Awardee must write an article for CAACC newsletter/website
Illinois Chapter	1	\$1,000	Nancy Mueller	nmueller@cardiacmgmt.com	630-528-4250	
Indiana Chapter	2	\$750	Gwen Goldfarb	indiana.acc@gmail.com	317-456-2223	Each training program to receive one FIT award.
Rhode Island Chapter	1	\$1,000	Carolyn Kinney	ckinney@riacc.org	401-330-6033	
Maryland Chapter	2	Approved expenses	Jennifer Ray Beckman	jlrbeckman@marylandacc.org	877-793-8171	
Ohio Chapter	4	\$1,000	Gwen Goldfarb	ohioacc@gmail.com	614-859-2223	

Promoting Patient Outcomes through Physician/Hospital Alignment

October 22, 2013, 2-3 p.m. ET:

Hosted by the ACC Council on Clinical Practice
1 CME/CNE credit offered!

This session will provide the participant with a broad overview of the current state of physician/hospital organizational structures such as CV SL Agreements and how to best implement them in their practice setting. Understanding the key elements prior to executing an agreement will provide the opportunity to design a model that will promote exceptional patient outcomes while understanding the financial and quality parameters.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and apply three core elements for a successful physician/hospital organizational structure such as a CV Service Line Agreement
- Identify three governance pillars and core elements necessary for a sustained and successful clinical management agreement
- Demonstrate how to incorporate employed and non-employed physicians in their CV Service Line agreement

Speakers include:

Matthew Phillips, MD, FACC, President, Austin Heart
Suzette Jaskie, President and CEO, MedAxiom Consulting

[Learn more and register here.](#)



Advance Your Career: The 2014 Research & Career Development Awards

2013-2014 ACCF/Merck Research Fellowships in Cardiovascular Disease and Cardiometabolic Disorders

Four one-year fellowships in the amount of \$70,000 will be awarded to support research in adult cardiology. Travel expenses up to \$1,500 will also be provided to attend ACC.14 in Washington, DC for each awardee. Preference is given to fellows in training who have had no more than two years of prior full-time experience either in clinical or basic research. Recipients will be expected to pursue a full-time project in clinical research during their year of supported training.

Application Deadline: September 23, 2013

ACCF Young Investigators Award Competition

Award Categories include the following:

1. ACCF/Herman K. Gold Young Investigator Awards in Molecular and Cellular Cardiology
2. Physiology, Pharmacology and Pathology
3. Clinical Investigations, Congenital Heart Disease and Cardiac Surgery
4. Cardiovascular Health Outcomes and Population Genetics
**Doctorate level nurses, physician assistants and clinical pharmacists in research are strongly encouraged to apply in this category*

The Award: The first place winner for each category receives \$2,000, second place winners receive \$1,000; three honorable mentions in each category receive \$500. Travel, hotel and meals up to \$1500 will be reimbursed for all 20 finalists to attend the YIA Competition at ACC.14 in Washington, DC.

Eligibility: Physicians, scientists, medical students, and other healthcare providers currently in residency or fellowship programs, or are no more than three years out of training. PhD, PharmD or DNP candidates who are no more than three years out of training may also apply.

Application Deadline: October 11, 2013 *The application site for the Young Investigators Award will open in August.*

Find out more and apply at
www.CardioSource.org/ResearchAwards

How to Become a Cardiovascular Investigator

December 6-7, 2013
Washington, DC



The American College of Cardiology seeks to address the need for future researchers and academicians by providing How to Become a Cardiovascular Investigator. This tuition-free course is designed specifically for FITs and residents to help them learn about the challenges and benefits of academic careers from highly regarded faculty and researchers.

Whether you have decided already on academic medicine or are just exploring the field, you should mark this course on your calendars. As one 2012 participant said, "It was an exceptional course, and I was honored to have been a part of it. It should be part of every FIT's training."

Register Today - Space is limited! www.CardioSource.org/CVI2013

Do You Want to Pass the Boards?

Get Prepared with the ACC—Where Everything You Need is at Your Fingertips



With offerings designed specifically to support you and your needs, the ACC can help you prepare for the Board exams.

LIVE COURSES

**Cardiovascular Board Review and Recertification Course +
Optional MOC Study Session** • August 27 – 31, 2013, Chicago

**ACC/SCAI Interventional Cardiology Overview and Board Preparatory Course +
Optional MOC Study Session** • August 15 – 18, 2013, Amelia Island, Fla.

ONLINE/PRINT

ACCSAP 8 Adult Clinical Cardiology Self-Assessment and Board Prep Program

CathSAP 4 Cardiac Catheterization and Interventional Cardiology Self-Assessment and Board Prep Program

ONLINE

2012 Cardiovascular Board Review Meeting on Demand™ Program

ACC's Maintenance of Certification Collection
18 modules covering Electrophysiology, General Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology

2012 Interventional Cardiology Board Review Meeting on Demand™ Program

Be prepared and learn more by visiting www.CardioSource.org/BoardPrep today!

Cardiovascular Research Funding: Found

Introducing NEW Research Funding Resources from the ACC



Spend less time searching and more time doing. Powered by InfoEd SPIN search technology, ACC's NEW Research Funding Resources make it easy to find—and manage—cardiovascular research funding. This new member benefit provides a web-based, easy search of more than 40,000 research opportunities from over 10,000 sponsors worldwide. You'll no longer have to spend hours searching multiple databases and websites to find funding for your cardiovascular research initiatives, so you can spend more time making an impact on cardiovascular care.

These new resources also help institutions efficiently manage funding received and save up to *thousands of dollars*. With InfoEd's collection of software applications, institutions will not only realize savings, but also improve data integrity, streamline administration processes and accelerate compliance.

Find funding for your next research opportunity today at www.CardioSource.org/ResearchFunding.

This new member benefit was made possible by the cross-collaboration and contributions of the Early Career, Academic, CVT and FIT Section Leadership Councils and the Cardiology Training and Workforce Committee.