



AMERICAN
COLLEGE *of*
CARDIOLOGY

COVID-19

Navigating Through a Pandemic & Beyond: An Advocacy Policy Discussion with ACC's Health Affairs Committee

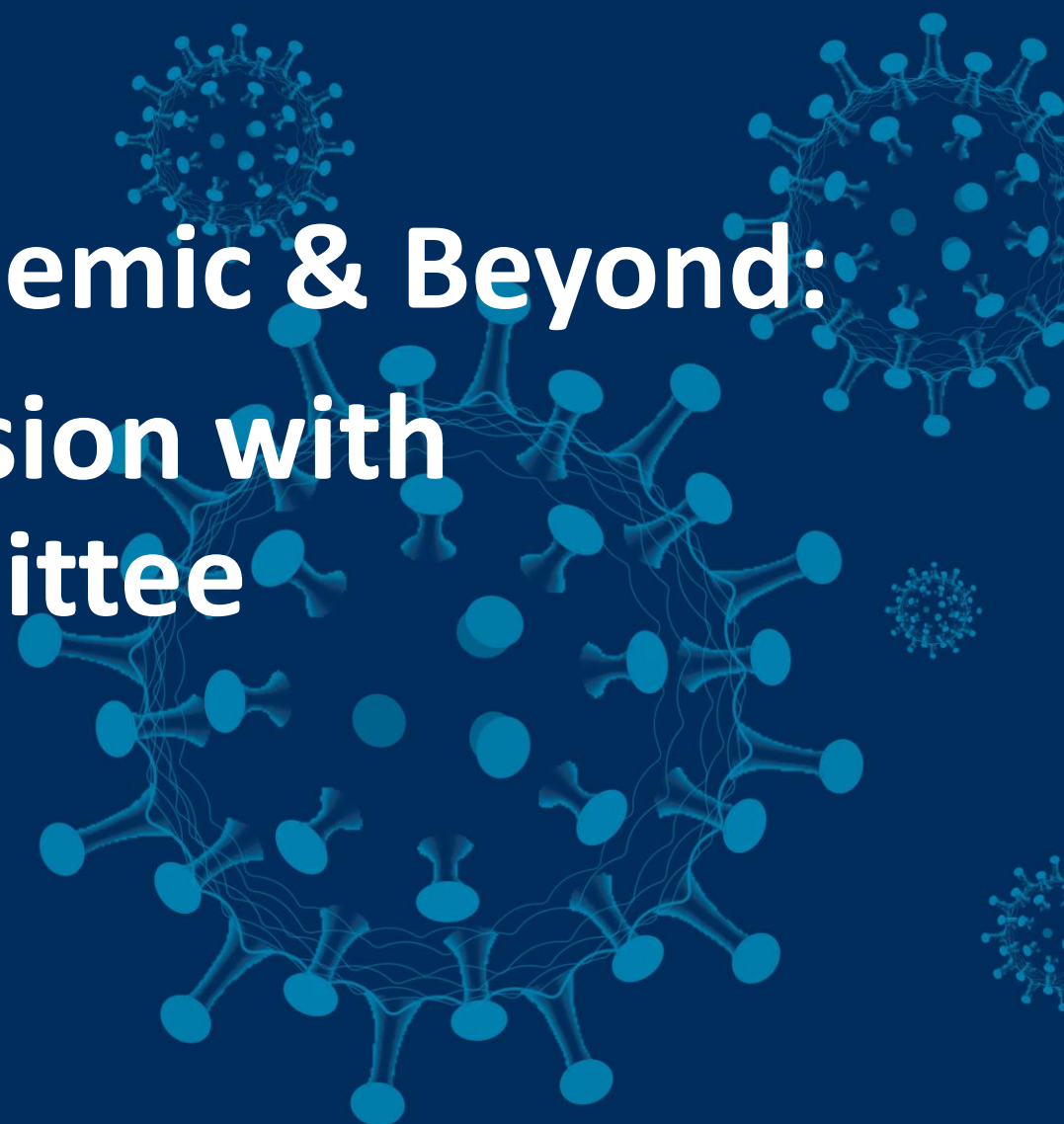
Sam O. Jones, MD, MPH, FACC (Chair, Moderator)

Benjamin Galper, MD, MPH, FACC

Sandeep Krishnan, MD, FACC

Pascha Schafer, MD, FACC

Richard Wright, MD, FACC





Panel

Benjamin Galper, MD, MPH, FACC

- Director of the Structural Heart Disease Program for the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (MAPMG)
- Medical Director of the Structural Heart Disease Program at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington VA
- Assistant Chief of Cardiology, Northern Virginia MAPMG

Sandeep Krishnan, MD, FACC, FSCAI

- Director of the Heart Failure and the Structural Heart Disease Programs at the King's Daughters Health System

Pascha E. Schafer, MD, FACC

- Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer
- Associate Chief Medical Officer
- Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University Health System)

Richard Wright, MD, FACC

- Chairman at Pacific Heart Institute in Santa Monica
- Co-Director, Heart Failure Clinical Focus Group, Providence St. Joseph's Health System
- Cardiology Advisor, Medicare Relative Value Committee

Moderator- Samuel O. Jones, MD, MPH, FACC, FHRS

- Chair, ACC Health Affairs Committee
- Co-Lead, EP Service Line CommonSpirit Health

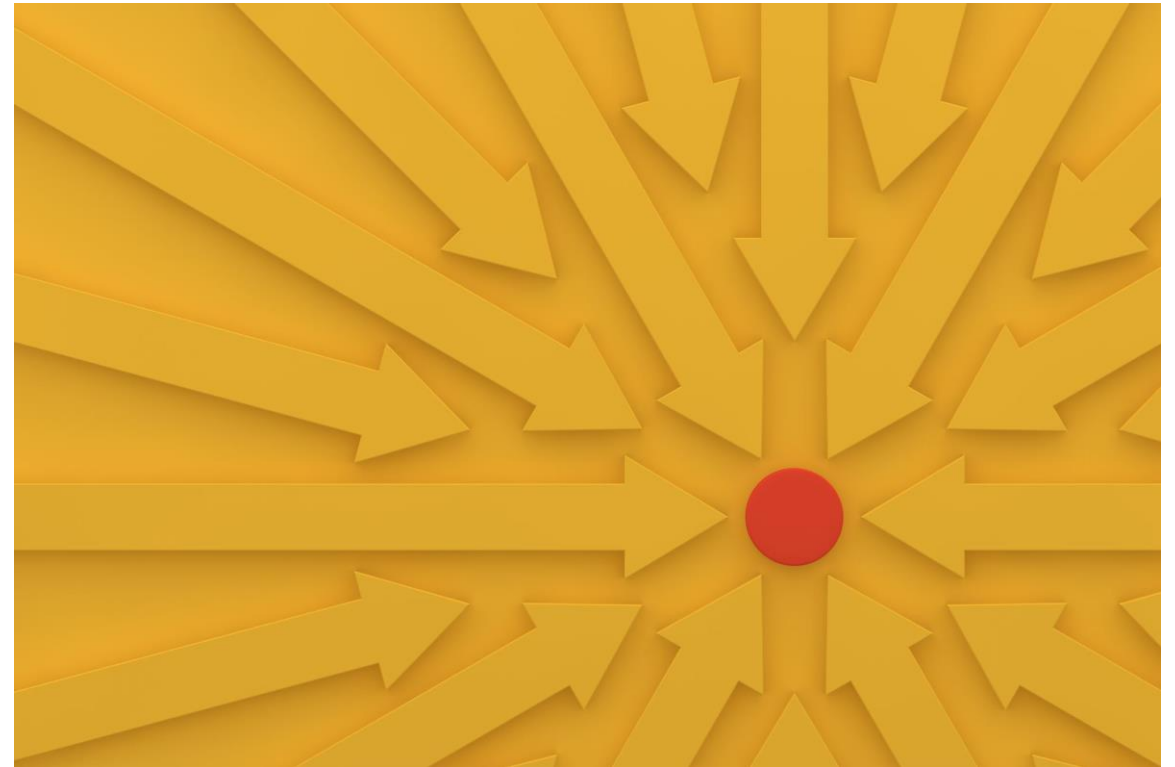


Disclosures

- **Samuel O. Jones, IV, MD, MPH, FACC**
Chattanooga Heart Institute
2501 Citico Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404
 - Disclosures: Nothing to disclose
- **Benjamin Zev Galper, MD, MPH, FACC**
Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group
Virginia Hospital Center
McLean, VA
 - Disclosures: Nothing to disclose
- **Sandeep Krishnan, MD, FACC**
King's Daughter's Medical Center
Ashland, KY
 - Disclosures: Nothing to disclose
- **Pascha E. Schafer, MD, FACC**
Associate Chief Medical Officer;
Chief Quality Officer
Medical College of Georgia at
Augusta University
Augusta, GA
 - Disclosures: Nothing to disclose
- **Richard F. Wright, MD, FACC**
Pacific Heart Institute
Los Angeles
 - Disclosures: Nothing to disclose

ACC Advocacy Priorities

- Reduce Administrative Burden and Promote Clinician Well-Being
- Lead Transition to Models That Strengthen Value and Patient Outcomes
- Promote Practice Stability and Patient Access to Affordable Care
- Optimize CV Care, Outcomes and Health
- Advance Member Engagement and Leadership



ACC's Health Affairs Committee - Who Are We?

- 22 ACC members
 - CAA members, FIT, CVT/APP, practice administrator
 - Ex officio members: BOG, HeartPAC, AMA delegation, and subcommittees
- Implements ACC strategic plan and other BOT direction through advocacy with federal and state government bodies, health plans, other policy making groups
- Establishes advocacy priorities, provides guidance to staff, develops ACC policy positions
- Subcommittees – Partners in Quality, RUC, Coding Task Force, CAA



HAC & ACC's COVID-19 Response

- February 28: COVID Advocacy Day One
- Email from an ACC Trustee:
- Subject: Coronavirus and Virtual Care
 - “Pressing need to push for rapid deployment of novel modes of care delivery such as virtual care.”
 - Focused on protecting vulnerable patients from potential COVID exposure



- Advocacy team made contact that day with HHS senior staff

Off to the races!

COVID Policy Priorities

- Availability of Critical Resources
 - Personal protective equipment and other supplies
 - Widespread access to testing
- Preserve Patient Access
- Telehealth/interstate licensure
 - Remote CV Rehab
- Financial support for practices and institutions
- Liability Protection During Emergency
- Reduce Administrative Burdens
 - Monitor/improve prior authorization
 - Modify and/or delay program requirements – QPP, AUC, etc.



COVID Policy Outreach

- Direct contact with HHS, CMS, Congress
- ACC leaders interacting with policymakers
 - COVID Task Force Meeting with POTUS, VPOTUS
 - Meetings with policymakers – now VIRTUAL
 - CMS Front Lines calls
- Official policy letters
 - Congress – to shape COVID-relief bills
 - HHS and CMS – in response to policy announcements and emergency rulemaking
- Open letter to payers and prior authorization vendors
- Unprecedented grassroots response – well over 12,000 messages sent!





ACC COVID Policy Wins

- SIGNIFICANT Telehealth Flexibility
 - Removal of geographic and originating site restrictions
 - HIPAA Waivers
 - State licensure flexibility
 - Policy discussions
 - Audio-only
- HHS Provider Relief Fund – multiple waves to sustain different settings and patient mixes
- Paycheck Protection Program
- Program flexibility – QPP, extension of AUC education period
- States Offering Emergency Liability Protection
- Prior Authorization relaxations



Panel Discussion

- Current Challenges
 - Priorities during the Public Health Emergency to protect patients and clinicians, maintain patient access, and sustain institutions



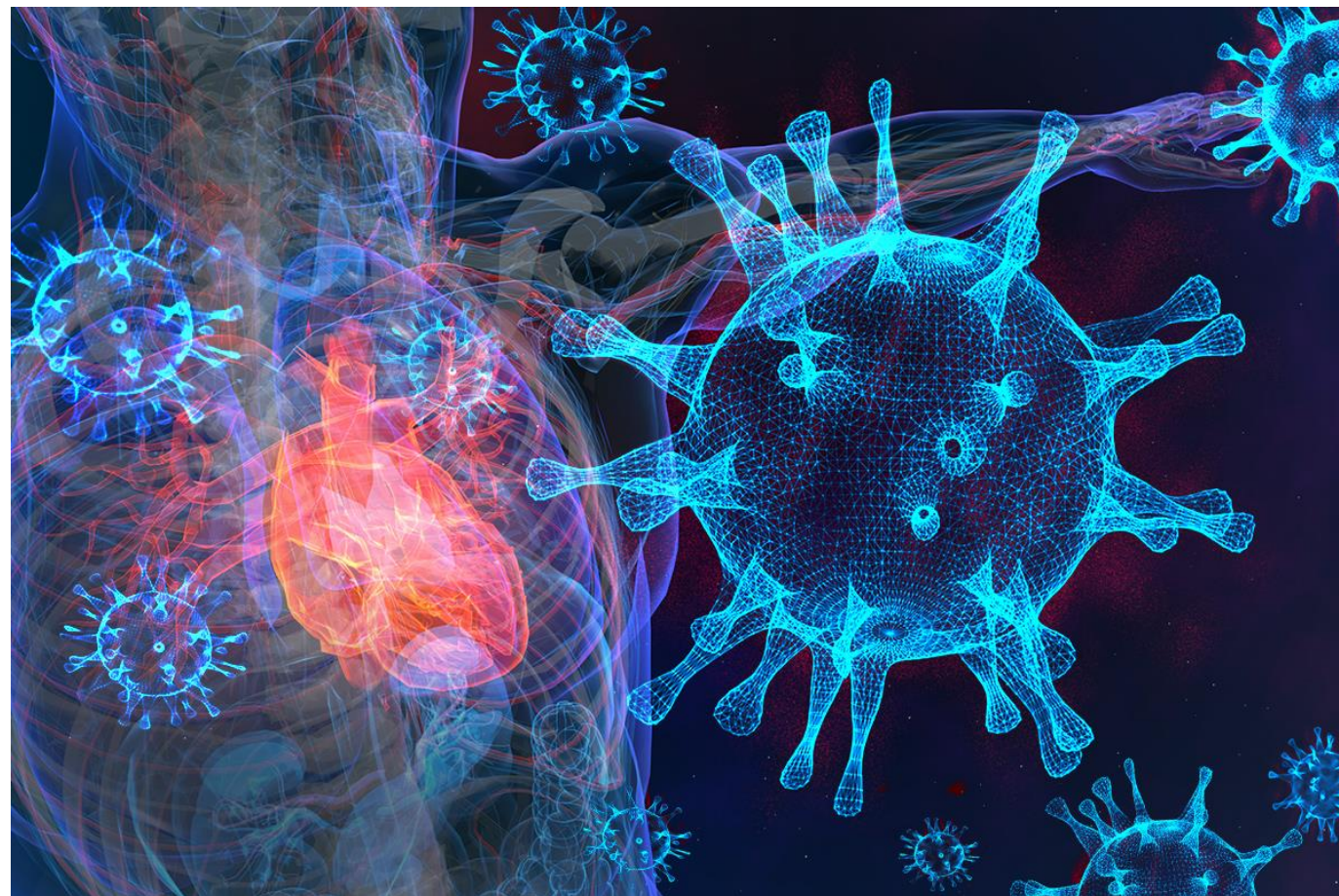
Key Takeaways



- PPE and testing are not yet on a firm footing across the nation.
- The PHE has shone a light on long-simmering disparities in care for racial and ethnic minorities that should inform systemic changes.
- Financial tools in CARES have provided a bridge in uncertain times. Continued innovation will be necessary.
- The rapid and dramatic adoption of telehealth is one of those shifts.

Panel Discussion

- The Post-COVID Landscape
 - When is "post-COVID" and what long-term policy changes are needed?
 - What innovations or flexibilities should be preserved or expanded?
 - What should be allowed to revert to pre-COVID state?



Key Takeaways

CORONAVIRUS AND YOUR HEART

COPING WITH POSTPONED PROCEDURES

Many non-urgent tests and procedures have been put on hold because of COVID-19. If you live with a heart condition, a delay may cause you to worry.

WHY THE DELAY?

A BALANCING ACT → To manage your health care needs and To protect you and your care team

- Respond to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Conserve medical supplies
- Prioritize care for those dealing with emergencies such as heart attack and stroke

As the number of COVID-19 cases drops, hospitals and clinics will reopen gradually with measures in place to protect your safety

WHAT YOU CAN DO WHILE YOU WAIT

TALK TO YOUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL IF YOU

- Have concerns about waiting to have your procedure
- Notice any new symptoms that your heart condition may be getting worse—especially if you've had a procedure delayed

DON'T FORGET

- Take your medications
- Keep up with heart-healthy habits
- Call 911 in case of emergency

For more information about COVID-19 and your heart, visit [CardioSmart.org/Coronavirus](https://www.cardiosmart.org/Coronavirus) @CardioSmart

Information provided for educational purposes only. Please talk to your health care professional about your specific health needs. To download in order posters on other topics, visit [CardioSmart.org/Posters](https://www.cardiosmart.org/Posters)

- Telehealth is going to be more important in the future, both to reach patients where they are and as a means of population health management.
- Rural facilities that were already on the brink will need additional financial support and adaptation to survive.
- Waivers issued regarding HIPAA-compliant platforms should prompt additional revisions to long-outdated policies from two decades ago.
- A return to “normal” may never occur.



2020 Legislative Conference

- LIVE virtual meetings with members of Congress and key staff
- Connecting with policymakers virtually is convenient, effective and probably the way it's going to be for the foreseeable future
- HeartPAC event, educational sessions
- Registration is now open!

www.acc.org/legislativeconference





ACC COVID-19 Hub and Social Media

- ACC Advocacy
 - <https://www.acc.org/tools-and-practice-support/advocacy-at-the-acc>
- COVID-19 Hub: <http://www.acc.org/covid19>
- Twitter: @accintouch and @cardiology
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ACCinTouch>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/americancollegeofcardiology>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanCollegeofCardiology/>



AMERICAN
COLLEGE *of*
CARDIOLOGY®

COVID-19

