



ACC Fellows in Training

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Looking Forward to an Exciting 2012-2013

Greetings Fellows in Training (FITs)! On behalf of the FIT Committee, I would like to welcome your new or continued participation in the ACC. The Committee would like to extend a special thanks to Justin Bachmann, the 2011-2012 FIT Committee chair, for his leadership and energy. Specific successes included collaborative ACC.12 programming and increasing FIT representation at the annual Legislative Conference.

We are on the heels of perhaps the most successful FIT experience yet at ACC.12, which included expanded FIT forums, new sessions (the wildly popular "Mix & Mingle"), and a centralized location that enabled us to easily move from FIT-specific to educational sessions. Mike Cullen and Jeff Geske, two FITs from the Mayo Clinic, established the innovative FITs on the GO video blog, engaging over 40 FITs as roving reporters and adding a slice of social media to our national meeting. Planning for ACC.13 has already begun and the FIT Committee is working in tandem with FITs from around the country to incorporate new ideas and ensure that programming remains top notch. You can expect novel FIT sessions in San Francisco, based in large part on the inventiveness of FITs seeking to improve our national experience.

The FIT Committee has additional goals for the 2012 – 2013 year. One is to improve the CardioSource FIT interface – see Nihar Desai's article later in this issue for more details. We are also working to improve communication among FITs so that relevant issues with respect to training or career planning can be quickly identified and addressed.

Are you interested in participating in the ACC? Many states have FITs on their executive councils and involved in their subcommittees. Stay tuned for examples of how FITs have become involved; and if you are interested let us know by emailing fellowsintraining@acc.org! There is much to be done and FIT participation is welcomed at both the state and national level.

Here's looking forward to an exciting and productive 2012-2013!

Scott M Lilly, MD PhD FIT Committee Chair, American College of Cardiology
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Improving the Fellow in Training Experience on CardioSource

By Nihar R. Desai, MD, MPH

The Fellow in Training page on *CardioSource*, the online home of the American College of Cardiology, is undergoing a transformation. You may have noticed recent changes to the FIT page on *CardioSource*. Instead of one long page, we've made a commitment to turn our portion of the site into what we're now calling the "FIT Center", providing a truly outstanding user-experience and a first-class resource for trainees. The FIT Center's goal is to take the content most relevant to trainees and provide it in one convenient location, in a more user-friendly and interactive way. This includes the latest news in cardiovascular medicine, expert reviews of journal articles and scientific conferences, and an array of educational resources. In addition, there are several new initiatives we would like to bring to the page including a FIT Blog, plus a mechanism for fellows to share interesting images (ECGs, angiograms, echocardiograms) and teaching files with colleagues.

Being on the front lines of patient care, preparing for an ever-increasing number of Board examinations, and navigating the complex road to your first job—the College recognizes the tremendous challenges Fellows in Training must face. The revamped FIT Center on *CardioSource* will provide a unique and unparalleled experience for fellows and demonstrates the commitment of the American College of Cardiology to investing in, mentoring and supporting its FIT membership.



Scott Lilly, MD, PhD, chair of the ACC FIT Committee, and I have had the great pleasure to serve as Editors of the FIT Clinical Collection on *CardioSource* as well as play an active role in the redevelopment and redesign of the FIT pages. We sincerely hope to get your thoughts and feedback on the new FIT pages and welcome your ideas and participation in our endeavor to maximize the utility of these pages.

Please send comments and suggestions to fellowsintraining@acc.org.

Nihar R. Desai, MD, MPH is a member of the ACC Fellows in Training Committee and a Cardiovascular Medicine Fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Purchase iScience for only \$249

iScience is a comprehensive digital library of presentations from ACC.12 and includes over 400 hours of educational content. It is the most convenient way to experience all the education from ACC.12 and allows you to watch presenters' slides while listening to fully-synchronized audio as if you were actually attending each session

Order today and enter promo code "FIT Member" to save!

**Save 83% off
the list price!!!**



September 9-11
Fairmont Hotel
Washington, DC

My Legislative Conference Experience

By Christopher Gelwix, MD, MS

As a Fellow in Training, I spend most of my days trying to learn the ins and outs of abbreviations like CAD, PAF and VT. I find myself more than often confused and humbled, but equally fortunate, to be able to dedicate my career and understanding to help patients ailed with these conditions.

In September 2011, the Alabama ACC chapter afforded me the opportunity to become more familiar with a handful of other confusing and somewhat frightening abbreviations while attending the 2011 ACC Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

Prior to this conference, I was naive to the likes of SGR, DRGs and RVUs and equally ignorant as to how these abbreviations affect everyday patient care in our state. I was amazed and inspired by our delegation as they championed our positions directly to our state representatives. And in a time of increased political cynicism, the fact that our state representatives met our delegation personally speaks to their character and dedication to the people within our great state of Alabama.

Upon returning to my fellowship program and sharing my experiences with my colleagues, they too were surprised at how dialogue 800 miles away directly impacts how we will ultimately shape our clinical practice. Overall, this conference gave me a refreshed prospective of what is required to practice cardiology, and I hope others will be able to make the trip this year to walk the Hill and share in the cause.

Christopher Gelwix, MD, MS is a Fellow in Training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Legislative Conference Travel Awards

Now is the time to apply for the FIT Travel Awards for the 2012 Legislative Conference.

The ACC has made a select number of travel awards available for FIT members attend the ACC's 2012 Legislative Conference on September 9-11, 2012 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.

There can only be one winner from a training program and winners must not have received the national award in the past two years. 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 name, email address, training program and state to Julia Berman at jberman@acc.org by July 9, 2012.

For more information regarding the 2012 Legislative Conference, please contact the ACC's Advocacy Department at advocacyleg@acc.org, call (800) 435-9203 or visit CardioSource.org. Eligibility is limited to FIT members of the American College of Cardiology.



Are You Graduating From Training This Year?

Congratulations! It's time to take your first steps on the path to becoming a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (FACC)

This is a significant event in your professional life, one which brings a certain amount of change. Upon graduating from training, your ACC membership will be converted to Affiliate status, which entitles you to free benefits and membership through 2012 and a discounted membership through 2013. Membership benefits and dues for Affiliates and FACCs are the same, so now is the time to start the FACC application process. While you must pass your Board exam to become a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, you are already eligible to apply for full FACC membership within the College. The process may sound daunting, but we've broken it down into a few easy steps and all the membership forms you need are available at www.CardioSource.org/FITtoFACC:

1. Complete your application. Only completed applications will be processed, so please make sure prior to submission that it is completed in full, with sponsor signatures.
2. Obtain two letters of sponsorship. These sponsor letters should come from current Fellows of the College who have reviewed your application and signed the Sponsor's Endorsement section of the application. At least one of the sponsors must be from your geographic area of professional activity; however, only one of the sponsors can be from a partner or colleague who works in your office. You are also limited to one sponsor from your training program and relatives may not sponsor you.
3. Submit the completed application packet including the signed application form and attachments, letters of sponsorship and payment of your annual dues and nonrefundable processing fee.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. The ACC Credentialing and Membership Committee meets twice each year to review applications and make determinations on accepting membership applications, and will contact you once a decision has been made regarding your application. The College will communicate directly with the ABIM to verify your Board results. If you have any questions, contact our Resource Center at any time at (202) 375-6000 ext. 5603. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your materials!

Training Graduates: Make Your Transition Easier with the Early Career Professionals Section

By Andrew M. Freeman, MD, FACC, FACP

For those of you graduating from training this year: congratulations! As your fellowship comes to an end, many of you are looking forward to the end of several long years of training and embarking on the journey into your career as a newly minted cardiologist.

It's important not to forget the ACC as part of your plan. Your ACC strives to provide the services, materials, and education you need to stay on top of your game in the field of cardiology. Besides the obvious JACC journals and annual ACC meeting (which is a great

way to get your CME), your ACC fights battles regularly on your behalf. In partnership with the ACC Political Action Committee, the ACC aims to stem and reduce the impact of Washington's cuts and works on policy to ensure you get to do your job the way you were trained to do. Without the ACC backing us young cardiologists, the practice of cardiology would be quite limited and involve regular battles to get commonly needed tests performed. In addition, through the ACC's efforts, our salaries are being preserved.

→ Continued, Top of Page 5

If that's not enough, the ACC has just created an Early Career Professionals Section of which I hope you will become part. This section focuses on the needs of those in their first 7 years out of fellowship and you'll be auto-enrolled as a complimentary member when you graduate. The ECP Council has been busy planning special sessions just for early career professionals at ACC.13, has created a private Facebook discussion page to encourage conversation, networking, and career building behind closed doors, is developing a funding database project for both academic and industry based grants, and is working to ensure our voices are heard by your local state ACC and on the national level. Visit our page online at www.CardioSource.org/EarlyCareer to find our two most recent newsletters that contain information that may be helpful to you on your transition.

Finally, as the future of cardiology, the ACC needs you to be involved. With your participation in committees, sections, and writing groups, it is the early career folks who will get to shape the College's guidelines, taskforces, and general direction. With the ECP Council, we're striving to ensure an early career member is on every committee in the College.

As you can tell, your ACC is doing its best to empower you, the future of cardiology to stay connected, involved, and committed to lifelong learning. I look forward to watching your careers take off! Best of luck.

Freeman is chair of the Early Career Professionals Council and practices cardiology at National Jewish Health in Denver, CO.

The Key to State Chapter Success: FIT Engagement

By William R. Lewis, MD, FACC

If the American College of Cardiology is a member-driven professional organization, then Fellows in Training (FITs) are our lifeblood. Their unique perspective and youthful enthusiasm are an asset to any Chapter. Ohio is fortunate to have eight accredited cardiology training programs.

Ohio has engaged fellows for many years. Each October, at the Ohio ACC annual scientific meeting, fellows present their research and compete for prizes. These presentations had historically been in the form of research posters, but in recent years, the top two abstracts have been presented orally during the main scientific program.

Ohio's leadership believed that FITs' engagement could also be enhanced through leadership roles. As such, Ohio has had an FIT Council since 2006. This council has a representative from each fellowship program in the state. The FIT council chair and the chair-elect represent the FIT Council on the Ohio Chapter Board of Trustees. They attend the board meetings and actively participate. The FIT Council has tackled such topics as ensuring that graduating fellows are kept involved with the ACC as their careers progress; we contact the chapters where our graduating fellows move to and make sure that they are "welcomed" to their new chapter.

Fellows are engaged in every activity of the ACC, including state and federal advocacy. Fellows join our Ohio members and visit state legislators for the Ohio-ACC Legislative Day in Columbus. In addition, ACC members who have attended the ACC Legislative Conference know that it is the best way to learn about issues

affecting cardiologists and appreciate the immense efforts of the legislative team on Capitol Hill. The Ohio Chapter recognizes the importance of fellows' participation in the ACC Legislative Conference and provides two travel stipends for fellows to attend each year. FITs walk with members into Congressional offices and meet as a team with our nation's representatives and senators.

Our FIT Council identified the need to learn more about how to transition to practice. In 2009, the Ohio Chapter held an educational program addressing next steps in a cardiology career, which included a curriculum on how to read a contract, understanding malpractice insurance and how to interview. The attendees responded positively to this program because it provided them with information they could not have obtained elsewhere. We continue to hold these sessions for our fellows and have another one planned in October 2012.

The Ohio Chapter's commitment to FIT programs not only benefits our fellows, it ensures that the Chapter will have a rich supply of engaged members for the future. Engagement is the key to the success for any state chapter. What better way to start than with the enthusiasm of our FITs!

William R. Lewis, MD, FACC, is the Chief of Clinical Cardiology at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, OH, Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, and served as Governor of the ACC Ohio Chapter from 2006 to 2009.

MGMA Releases 2011 Cardiology Salary Survey

By Andrew Freeman, MD, FACC

The Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) surveys practices and hospital each year to determine the mean salary based on region, specialty, and type of practice. They also offer an exhaustive survey collection indicating estimated RVUs and salaries for academics versus hospital owned versus private practices. This year, through the efforts of your ACC, the MGMA has released the following chart which lists salaries by US geographic region and contains all-comers – there’s no differentiation by practice type or size. Your employers use this kind of data to find out how much they should pay you and how hard you need to work (RVUs), so you should arm yourself with this data to ensure you’re working to the appropriate level and pay.

Table 1.7: Physician Compensation (More Than 1 Year in Specialty) by Geographic Section for All Practices

Eastern				Midwest			
Specialty	Providers	Practices	Median	Specialty	Providers	Practices	Median
Cardiology: Electrophysiology	41	19	\$477,000	Cardiology: Electrophysiology	73	28	\$590,433
Cardiology: Invasive	81	21	\$425,353	Cardiology: Invasive	110	34	\$533,326
Cardiology: Invasive-Interventional	105	28	\$458,631	Cardiology: Invasive-Interventional	146	36	\$578,920
Cardiology: Noninvasive	155	44	\$350,403	Cardiology: Noninvasive	198	42	\$472,290

Southern				Western			
Specialty	Providers	Practices	Median	Specialty	Providers	Practices	Median
Cardiology: Electrophysiology	70	29	\$576,298	Cardiology: Electrophysiology	33	17	\$445,456
Cardiology: Invasive	229	51	\$514,860	Cardiology: Invasive	86	19	\$351,152
Cardiology: Invasive-Interventional	239	54	\$609,138	Cardiology: Invasive-Interventional	140	32	\$439,997
Cardiology: Noninvasive	175	51	\$449,711	Cardiology: Noninvasive	72	20	\$437,766

2011 Report Based on 2010 Data. Copyright © 2011. All Rights Reserved. Medical Group Management Association.



Dr. Freeman is chair of the Early Career Professionals Council and practices cardiology at National Jewish Health in Denver, CO.

Are You LinkedIn to the NCDR Research Network? **Join Today!**

ACC in Touch is expanding with a new [NCDR Research Network Subgroup](#). The NCDR Research Network group is a space for physicians, researchers, and other individuals interested in cardiovascular research to connect with one another. The group serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas, networking and discussions centering around cardiovascular research findings and opportunities to conduct research based on clinical data collected through the NCDR. Through the group, participants receive updates on the latest research published from the NCDR.

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.

In order to foster meaningful professional connections in the NCDR Research Network, please review the following tips:

- Take this opportunity to review your personal LinkedIn profile to make certain it is up-to-date
- Use the LinkedIn profile “Summary” or “Interests” sections to identify your particular areas of interest for research collaborations
- Consider adding the new LinkedIn profile sections for “Publications” to your profile and highlighting your articles and presentations based on NCDR data
- Don’t forget to highlight any special recognition you might have received for your NCDR research under the “Honors & Awards” section of the LinkedIn profile

For questions, please contact accintouch@acc.org.

JOIN TODAY!



PINNACLE™ Network Resources for FITs

Quality First SmartBrief—A Great Resource for ACC Members

FITs may not be aware of this excellent resource, so we encourage you to subscribe to our PINNACLE Network Quality First SmartBrief newsletter. Sponsored by PINNACLE Network this is our e-mail newsletter for professionals interested in staying at the forefront of quality health care. SmartBrief covers national news stories relating to quality care for cardiologists and other medical professionals, as well as news about ACC's quality improvement initiatives. It's delivered straight to your inbox every Tuesday and Thursday.

On-Demand Webinar: “The View from PINNACLE Registry: A Look Inside How Data Drive QI”

If you missed this exciting session you can still access it on-demand. Learn first-hand how five different practices are using their PINNACLE Registry data as a means to improve practice quality, efficiency, and revenue. For more information, [click here!](#)

Mark Your Calendars for September 25, 7 – 8 PM EST Webinar: “An Introduction to NCDR: Debunking the Top 10 Myths.”

This is part of our webinar series: “Let Data Do the Talking: Effectively Using Tools for Quality and Cost Improvement. Faculty includes Dr. John Rumsfeld, Chair of the NCDR Management Board

and Chief Science Officer, and Dr. Richard Kovacs, ACC Board of Trustee member and Chair of the Best Practices and Quality Improvement Subcommittee. You will learn how to recognize the suite of NCDR programs available, present how NCDR reports can be used for quality improvement, and explain how NCDR programs can support value-based purchasing for physicians and hospitals.

More About PINNACLE Network

The PINNACLE Network helps ACC members and their cardiovascular teams achieve practice success through systematic quality measurement, performance improvement and peer-to-peer learning. The Network is designed to promote the evolution of Network members into full Registry participation by providing and interactive community and foundational tools and services. There are 275 ACC members enrolled in the PINNACLE Network. Chaired by Dr. Blair Erb, the PINNACLE Network Work Group includes a diverse group of practitioners from the field who are charged with leading and guiding the PINNACLE Network. To learn more about PINNACLE Network, please visit our webpage. To speak with a PINNACLE Network staff member, email Arielle Fingerman at afingerm@acc.org or Laura Ritzenthaler at lritzent@acc.org.

Mark Your Calendar for ACC.13 in San Francisco!

Join us for a whole new learning experience — in a whole new city — March 9 – 11, 2013!

ACC.13 will emphasize the transformation of cardiovascular care — from discovery to delivery. Join us as we look at how innovation and science impact the delivery of care and focus on the prevention of cardiovascular disease in our patients.



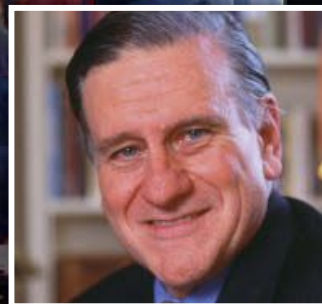
45th Annual New York Cardiovascular Symposium

Major Topics
in Cardiology Today

December 7 – 9, 2012

Hilton New York
New York City

Course Director
Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MACC



This December, join fellow colleagues and cardiovascular specialists from countries all over the world in examining the most advanced methods and technologies available to treat CVD. This three day conference, directed by Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MACC, is comprised of a distinguished group of cardiovascular experts who will discuss and debate cutting-edge issues that impact your profession and practice. Register today for best rates at www.CardioSource.org/nycvsymposium

Women in Cardiology Visiting Professor Program

Advance Your Specialty, Network & Gain Leadership Experience

If you are interested in having leading female cardiologists visit your institution to give Grand Rounds, recommend your training program for the Women in Cardiology Visiting Professor Program. The program, an initiative for the Women in Cardiology Member Section, was established to encourage interest from female medical students and internal medicine residents in the field of Cardiology.

If you believe your program may be interested, please contact Kelli Bohannon at kbohanno@acc.org with the following information:

- Your Name
- Name of Institution
- Contact Name and Phone number in the Department of Internal Medicine
- Name of Chief Resident (if different) and Contact Info

