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JACC Editor’s Page: Global Health Care and the Aging Population

In a recent Editor’s Page published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (JACC), Editor-in-Chief Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, MACC, discusses the health care challenges that will arise world-wide over the coming decades due to an aging population. Forward-thinking countries are developing strategies to combat this problem. While some counties are assessing technological solutions, other are looking to more human options, such as having those who are retired and still active act as caretakers. “From a health care perspective, there has never been more of a need to ensure an active population, regardless of age,” he writes. “We must focus on health promotion across all age groups... As clinicians, we need to obsessively focus on the best methods to care for the elderly and the best methods for keeping the diminishing youth population healthy longer.” [Read more.](#)
Advocacy and Health Policy News

CMS Releases Proposed 2018 Medicare QPP Rule

On June 20, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed 2018 Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP) rule, addressing participation requirements for 2018 and future years under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and the Advanced Alternative Payment Model (Advanced APM) pathways created by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The ACC is reviewing the rule and will provide more details about member implications in the coming weeks. Read highlights from the rule on ACC.org. “Next year will be another transition year for clinicians adjusting to the Quality Payment Program,” said ACC President Mary Norine Walsh, MD, FACC. “While the ACC will be reviewing the rule in detail, we were encouraged to see that CMS has listened to feedback from the public and recognizes a need to continue supporting clinicians in their transition to a value-based payment environment.” To learn more about QPP and current requirements for the 2017 performance year, visit ACC’s MACRA Information Hub. QPP will be a prominent topic of discussion at ACC’s 2017 Legislative Conference this September. Click here to register.

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Based on 2018 performance, clinicians and groups will be eligible to receive up to +/- 5 percent in bonuses or penalties on Medicare Part B services provided in 2020 under MIPS. Qualifying participants in an Advanced APM will be eligible to receive a five percent lump sum bonus.
Our 1st Annual CVTeam Conference March 11-12, 2017 was a huge success. The didactic portion allowed participants to learn from a wide variety of cardiovascular subspecialties and network with their colleagues. Drs. Breburba and Santosh Desai led a discussion of how MACRA and changes in health care policy will effect the cardiovascular team. The workshops provided by Robert Fisher RN BSN reviewed pacemaker interrogations; Jeffrey Dobberpuhl RN MSN, Ryan VanWoerkom, Lisa Eilmaurer RDCS and Heather Andrus RDCS gave participants hands-on interaction for new skills and technology.

Congratulations to the winners of the following conference sessions

**Poster session:**

1. Jane Linderbaum RN MS CNP  Interdisciplinary Mobile Tool for Perioperative Anticoagulation Management Across Busy Medical and Surgical Practices at Mayo Clinic
2. Christen Waddell RN DNP CMC FNP-BC mplantable Electronic Device Procedures
3. Amanda Stumpf RN BSN PCCN Efficacy of Ambulating Heart Failure Patients with Pulmonary Artery (PA) Catheters While Awaiting Heart Transplantation or Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) Insertion to Reduce Postoperative Length of Stay

**Oral Sessions:**

1. Kathryn Sisterman RN, BSN, MSN, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC  Provider Variability is Associated with Hospital Re-Admission for Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction Patients
2. Jane Linderbaum RN MS CNP  Interdisciplinary Mobile Tool for Perioperative Anticoagulation Management Across Busy Medical and Surgical Practices at Mayo Clinic
3. Christen Waddell RN DNP CMC FNP-BC Promoting Clinical Outcomes: Direct Oral Anticoagulant Management in Patients Undergoing Cardiac Implantable Electronic Device Procedures

**For the Participants:**

Thank you for attend our 1st Annual CVTeam Conference. Your participation made the conference a huge success and we plan on holding the 2nd Annual CVTeam Conference next year likely in April 2018. Stay tuned and check back at the AZ CVTeam website. We also hope to see you at the May 18, 2019 AZ ACC Quarterly Meeting that will present many pertinent topics to your practice

We will be sending you a Survey Monkey to get feedback on next year’s course as we plan speakers, topics, days of week and length. Please feel free to let us know how we can improve and meet your professional development needs.
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has just released the proposed 2018 Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP) rule, addressing participation requirements for 2018 and future years under the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and the Advanced Alternative Payment Model (Advanced APM) pathways created by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). Under the proposal, CMS will continue to treat the 2018 performance year as another transition year of QPP and maintain program flexibility.

Based on 2018 performance, clinicians and groups will be eligible to receive up to +/- 5 percent in bonuses or penalties on Medicare Part B services provided in 2020 under MIPS. Qualifying participants in an Advanced APM will be eligible to receive a five percent lump sum bonus.

Highlights of the proposed rule include:

**MIPS Weighting For 2018 Performance Year/2020 Payment Year**

- Maintain 60 percent weight for Quality
- Maintain 15 percent weight for Improvement Activities
- Maintain 25 percent weight for Advancing Care Information; clinicians can use 2014 or 2015 certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT), with a bonus for using 2015 CEHRT
- Maintain zero weight for Cost; however, CMS seeks comments on introducing this category at 10 percent. CMS continues to develop and test episode-based measures which will be introduced over time.

- Increasing the low-volume threshold to less than or equal to $90,000 in Medicare Part B allowed charges or less than or equal to 200 Part B patients to allow more small practices to qualify for MIPS exemption.

- Implementation of virtual groups, allowing small groups and solo practitioners under two or more tax payer identification numbers to participate in MIPS as a single group for both 2018 and 2019. Technical assistance will be made available to these practices.

- Implementation of facility-based measures in MIPS to allow clinicians to be assessed based on their facility’s performance.

- Continued recognition of qualified clinical data registries such as the NCDR PINNACLE Registry and the Diabetes Collaborative Registry as MIPS data reporting options.

**Advanced APM**

- Maintenance of the nominal risk and qualifying participant thresholds for the Advanced APM pathway
- Implementation of the ‘All-Payer Combination Option’ for the Advanced APM pathway starting in the 2019 performance year

- CMS seeks comments on broadening the definition of Physician-Focused Payment Models to include Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program beneficiaries.
I had the unique and distinct privilege of attending the “Teaching Tomorrows Teachers” (3T) program at ACC’s annual Big Sky Cardiovascular Update in Montana.

This is an innovative program within the conference where cardiology fellows learn how to teach others from master educators. Led by Dr. Kim Eagle and Dr. Patrick O’Gara, fellows are given the opportunity to learn from and interact with expert educators in a casual environment. Surrounded by the beautiful and rustic terrain that is Big Sky, Montana, the focus is placed on teaching fellows how to effectively deliver a presentation. Each morning, trainees were given the opportunity to have breakfast with leaders in cardiovascular medicine who shared their path to success. After attending the didactic sessions each day, fellows were engaged in specialized workshops each evening designed to sharpen their presentation skills. Another terrific aspect to the seminar was the ability to build camaraderie with other fellows and learn as a group. Small group sessions facilitated constructive discussions on how to improve individual teaching styles.

I am so thankful the leadership within the American College of Cardiology is invested in developing the next generation of cardiovascular educators. After spending time with these renowned experts as well as my colleagues in training, I am even more inspired to be a better clinician and educator.

Sincerely,

Santosh Desai, DO
Arizona ACC FIT Chair
Cardiology Fellow
Mayo Clinic Arizona

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Amarnauth Singh MD has been selected for the 2017 Phoenix Awards for Doctors, Physicians & Surgeons!

For details and more information please click below:

2017 Phoenix Awards - Doctors, Physicians & Surgeons
UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG
3rd - 6th  CARDIOLOGY UPDATE: THE HEART OF THE MATTER 2017
Location: Enchantment Resort | 525 Boynton Canyon Road, Sedona, AZ 86336
More information CLICK HERE
Stay tuned at: ACC-AZ.com/information

OCT
5th-6th  CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE MANAGEMENT: A CASE-BASED APPROACH
Location: Arizona Biltmore | 2400 E Missouri Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016
To Register CLICK HERE
Stay tuned at: ACC-AZ.com/information

NOV
7th  5TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN CARDIOLOGY
Location: SAVE THE DATE | More details coming soon!
Stay tuned at: ACC-AZ.com/information

7th - 10th  28TH ANNUAL CARDIOVASCULAR INTERVENTIONS 2017
Location: Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines | 10950 North Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037
CLICK HERE to register
Stay tuned at: ACC-AZ.com/information

16th - 17th  CONTROVERSIES & ADVANCES IN THE TREATMENT OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE
Location: Montage Beverly Hills | 225 N Canon Dr, Beverly Hills, CA 90210
More Information CLICK HERE
Stay tuned at: ACC-AZ.com/information
Congratulations to the following CVT Conference Poster Session Winners!

**Poster Presentation Winners:**

1st Place: Jane A. Linderbaum, RN, MS, CNP  
2nd Place: Michelle L. Alland, MSN  
3rd Place: Amanda Stumpf, RN, BSN, PCCN

**Oral Presentation Winners**

1st Place: Kathryn Sisterman, RN, BSN, MSN, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC  
2nd Place: Jane A. Linderbaum, RN, MS, CNP  
3rd Place: Christen R. Waddell, DNP, RN, CMC, FNP-C
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CONGRATULATIONS

CVT Liaison of the Year - Marci Farquhar-Snow, NP, AACC

Future Leader Award - Kwan Lee, MD, FACC

Cardiologist of the Year - Sarika Desai, DO, FACC

Fellow in Training of the Year - Santosh Desai, DO