Greetings! I write this quarter’s introduction full of the optimism of spring at the progress of the largest, most unprecedented vaccination drives in the history of this nation. To date, almost 70 million Americans have received at least one vaccine dose almost exactly 3 months to the date since the first dose was administered. As a nation, we now lead the world by a significant margin in the number of vaccines administered and are 5th in the percentage of population vaccinated, trailing only much smaller countries: Seychelles, Israel, the United Kingdom, and Chile with 21% of Americans who have received at least one dose. Arizona has kept pace and almost 1.6 million Arizonans have received at least one dose. We are well on our way to recovery.

During the last year, the world simultaneously shut down and expanded as the pandemic acted as a catalyst to stimulate online learning modalities.
ACC 2020 was the first fully digital conference in the history of the College and despite our hope that 2021 would be a return to an in-person conference, this year’s event will once again be fully digital. Even though articles on how to combat Zoom fatigue are everywhere, I have found on-line learning to be a vast improvement. The accessibility of meetings is now only limited by your willingness to log on. Working complicated schedules to make sure you make a session is a thing of the past. Linking experts is now also much easier, and convening an expert panel from anywhere in the world has become commonplace.

Building on this future trend, we are very excited to introduce a new web-based bi-weekly series to ACC Arizona: Conversations in Cardiology, showcasing Arizona cardiology healthcare professionals. We aim to feature timely, hot-button, and controversial issues.

Each session will feature a brief lecture by a featured local speaker summarizing the state of knowledge, followed by a round-table discussion by a carefully curated national panel of experts.

To these sessions, we would like to invite participation from Arizona ACC members to serve as Designated Discussants, who we hope will ask questions in a town hall format and stimulate debate and conversations around the chosen topics.

Catch up on our first session at the end of February, which featured a lively conversation around the provocative assertion that coronary CT imaging should replace functional stress testing as the initial testing modality in suspected stable coronary artery disease and risk stratification.

We look forward to engaging you in Conversation!

Kwan S. Lee MD FACC FSCAI
Associate Professor of Medicine
University of Arizona, Banner University Medical Group
President, Arizona Chapter American College of Cardiology

View our first session here.
Hello fellow Cardiovascular Team colleagues. I want to introduce myself: My name is Cecilia Tagle-Cornell. I am a nurse practitioner from Phoenix, Arizona and working at the Mayo Clinic. My passion for cardiology and caring of cardiovascular patients span 20 years. I am so excited and grateful to be your new AZ ACC Cardiovascular Team Liaison Chair.

First, let's start by acknowledging that 2020 was stressful and trying for all of us – particularly the medical community battling the pandemic. We were all affected by the COVID-19 in so many ways both professionally and personally. Some have endured loss of loved ones, families and friends. Many have endured economic impact through furloughs, job loss and business closings. Some are still recovering from the ravage that the COVID-19 infection inflicted on us.

While we are still faced with enormous challenge and adversities, one thing is clear: The cardiovascular community is resilient and innovative. We have learned and adapted to new ways to live our lives in physical and social isolation. We found ways to adapt, innovate and deliver care to our patients through telemedicine. We continue to persevere, to seek and advance our knowledge through virtual learning. With the rollout of vaccines backed by science, and with the tireless efforts of our front-line workers - who not only take care of COVID-19 patients but also deliver vaccines especially to the most vulnerable - we will get through this. But the community of cardiovascular professionals needs your help.

We need your involvement, engagement and participation - to make an impact on how we shape our future. Increasing our CVT memberships give us more opportunities to network, educate and learn from our colleagues. Our collective voices can help shape up legislative policies that affect, not only our cardiovascular community, but also how we deliver evidenced-based medical care to our patients and their families. We need to work together, support each other and learn from each other: Sharing of knowledge, education, expertise and life experiences make us better prepared for challenges to come. We need to be part of the solution.

I am looking forward to serving our cardiovascular community as the Chair for AZ ACC CVT. Our mission is to educate, innovate and advocate for our members. We welcome suggestions on various topics and interests. Please email me any time at marcelletaglecornell@gmail.com.
With the continued high prevalence of COVID-19, the slow rollout and acceptance of the vaccine and concordant extension of travel restrictions from health care institutions, academic medical centers and industry partners, ACC.21 leaders and the Board of Trustees have made the decision to transition from a hybrid model to an entirely virtual experience from May 15-17. Building on the success of last year’s meeting, the ACC.21 virtual experience will be a world-class program delivered through an innovative digital platform built for learning, collaboration, and networking. It will also offer a robust virtual Expo with both exhibits and education from our signature Learning Destinations and, last but not least, more opportunities for attendees to engage and interact with colleagues from around the world. For more information visit the ACC.21 website.

ACC.21 FIT Jeopardy State Chapter Finalists Announced

Congratulations to our AZ ACC FIT Jeopardy Finalists!

We’ll be cheering you on in the national FIT Jeopardy: Battle of the Chapters competition during ACC.21 Virtual, May 15-17. #ACCFIT #ACC21

Arizona Finalists:
Anand Senthil, MD
Hasan Ashraf, MD
Katie Murphy, MD

Want to view the full article on all State Chapter Finalists?

Click Here
Tell Us Who You Are!
Participate in the ACC Census

ACC is collecting information of its members through the ACC Census. Responses help us decide where resources, energy and funds are allocated. Be counted and update your profile to ensure that your education and communication preferences are heard! Let’s shape the future of cardiovascular care together:

Update your profile today!

NCDR Accepting 2021 Research Proposals Through April 9th

Are you planning to submit an NCDR research proposal this year? Don’t miss the April 9 deadline! Last year, NCDR changed its Research & Publications (R&P) cycle to offer one research proposal deadline annually, with one annual review meeting for all NCDR programs except the STS/ACC TVT Registry.

All research proposal applications will be scored by the same R&P Committee member and will receive the same consideration.

Learn more and submit your proposal by April 9.

JACC Journals Accepting Manuscripts for 2021 Focus Issues

To grow the body of literature surrounding diabetes and heart failure, JACC: Heart Failure is accepting submissions for a focus issue on this topic planned for August of this year. Submissions are due on or before April 2. Responding to the need for expanded knowledge on emerging trends, novel treatment approaches and outcomes for patients with AL and ATTR amyloidosis, JACC: CardioOncology is inviting research for a special issue planned for Winter of this. Submissions are due on or before April 15. Learn more and access tips for publishing in the JACC.org Author Center

Current Key Questions on COVID-19 and CVD

Looking for more clinical guidance on the cardiac implications of COVID-19? ACC's latest FAQs on COVID-19 summarize current evidence and insights that address considerations for cardiomyopathy and heart failure in COVID-19; long-term management of COVID-19-related myocarditis; thrombosis risk and management in COVID-19; workplace exposure; clinical wellness; and more. Approved by ACC’s Science and Quality Committee and written by leading experts in each area, find them here.
Call for Applications: ACC EchoSAP Editor-in-Chief

The ACC is seeking a qualified candidate to serve as Editor-in-Chief of EchoSAP, ACC’s self-assessment program on echocardiography. EchoSAP helps users prepare for the initial or recertification exam in echocardiography, stay abreast of new advances in the field, teach others, and earn continuing medical education credit. Interested candidates are encouraged to review the position description and complete the application form.

A cover letter highlighting interest and credentials as well as a curriculum vitae should be submitted along with the application to Helene Goldstein, hgoldste@acc.org, by Sunday, April 4th at 11:59 p.m. ET. Learn more about the position.

Brush Up on the Basics of Precision Medicine

The era of precision medicine in cardiovascular disease is here. With the advent of high throughput technologies, big data analytics and the expansion of digital health tools, the concept of personalizing therapies to maximize benefits and minimize risk for patients is within reach. However, most health care providers have had little to no exposure to the data, platforms, methods and clinical applications that form the foundation of precision medicine. ACC’s new Evolving Practice of Cardiovascular Precision Medicine Virtual course, held April 16, will equip cardiovascular providers with the core knowledge and skills to understand and apply evidenced-based genomic medicine and digital technologies to patients at risk for and with established cardiovascular disease and to recognize the current limitations of each approach. On-demand access will be available for three months following the course. Learn more and register today.

Three New CardioSmart Infographics on Women and Heart Disease

Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the U.S., causing more women’s deaths than all cancers, including breast cancer. At the same time, women often ignore symptoms and are less likely to get optimal treatment for heart conditions. The CardioSmart team has developed a series of Women and Heart Disease Infographics, showing how women can stand up for their health and watch for symptoms of heart disease before, during and after pregnancy.

Download for free these infographics and find out more about heart disease in women at CardioSmart.org/Women.

Benchmarking Cost of Care For PCI May Help Hospitals Improve Quality, Value of Care

A better understanding of variations in total cost of care for PCI, when evaluated against related quality of care measures in ACC’s CathPCI Registry, may help facilities improve the value of care delivery, according to an abstract presented at ACC’s Cardiovascular Summit Virtual. Researchers benchmarked the average total cost of care, in terms of the amounts charged and allowed for reimbursement, for elective and nonelective PCI procedures. The ACC partnered with FAIR Health, a convener of claims data, to identify 134 procedure codes that indicate a PCI occurrence, as well as related resource utilization codes. The results may help cardiovascular clinicians better understand the total cost of care, which can guide them in identifying opportunities to address costs, while also optimizing outcomes. The Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Cost of Care Study will be available to sites participating in the CathPCI Registry in March. Read more.
Upcoming Events

April 13, 2021

**Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Best Practice for Diagnosis and Management**

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 PM PST
Location: Online
Complimentary CME and post event discussion of ACC, wellness, and you!

**Register Now!**

May 15-17, 2021

**70th Annual Scientific Session & Expo**

The American College of Cardiology’s 70th Annual Scientific Session & Expo is now an ALL VIRTUAL Experience streaming live May 15 – 17, 2021, with On Demand access.

**Register for the Silver or Bronze Package — with rates as low as $99 — by March 31 to SAVE!”**