



PULSE Winter/Spring 2007

South Carolina

CHAPTER

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STAFF

Geri C. Kinton, Chapter Executive

SC ACC Headquarters
134 Collin Campbell
Beaufort, SC 29906

Phone: 843.252.4709 ~ Fax: 843.846.2366

Email: info@sccacc.org

Web: www.sccacc.org

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Letter From the President



By Michael R. Gold, MD, PhD, FACC

The holidays are over, winter has set in and my yard, and probably yours as well, is dormant. These conditions often lead to complacency and inactivity. However, the world of cardiovascular care is never inactive. Last month, the Board of Governors met in Washington to discuss mutual challenges and new initiatives. It is clear that South Carolina is like most other states, facing problems with declining reimbursement, manpower shortages and continuing challenges from other subspecialties for imaging privileges. However, it was also refreshing to note that many of the issues facing the cardiac community elsewhere are less critical here, such as shortages of cardiac surgeons, tort reform or legislative issues limiting "self referrals" of procedures. Clearly, the proactive actions of our constituency, lobbying efforts in the legislature and rationale decisions of third party payors have helped mitigate the magnitude of problems seen elsewhere.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the meeting last month for me personally was the warm greeting and hug I received from one of our ACC national administrators. As some of you may know, at the joint SC/NC ACC annual meeting on Kiawah last October, this representative from the home office was present. Unknown to us, she has adult congenital heart disease and suffered a cardiopulmonary arrest at the Oyster Roast. Through the heroic actions of several of our members, including Donald Saunders and Grady Hendrix, she was resuscitated and brought to MUSC. Emergency catheterization and several other procedures were performed but she remained comatose for over a month. Under the joint care of the Adult Congenital Heart Service, the Pediatric Cardiology Service and the CCU team coordinated by Peter Zwerner, she stabilized, awoke, was discharged, underwent further surgery for a shunt revision and is now back at work! Such experiences remind us why we are in this business, and they certainly help to make the day to day hassles of practicing medicine much more acceptable.

(Continued on page 2)

(Letter from the President, continued from page 1)

As I noted previously, one of the great achievements in medical care over the past decade is the reduction of cardiovascular mortality. South Carolina has outperformed the rest of the nation during this period, and we are now ranked 26th nationally in coronary heart mortality. While encouraging, there is still room for improvement. The ACC sponsored D2B program to minimize door to balloon time for acute myocardial infarctions is an example how our organization is working to improve outcomes. Other programs, such as Get With the Guidelines and Pay for Performance initiatives will focus even more attention and resources on cardiovascular outcomes. This will be another opportunity for South Carolina to distinguish itself and dispel misconceptions about the quality of care in our state. A statewide network for hypertension already exists, which is very successful for helping to achieve blood pressure targets. In addition, a network for early detection and management of congestive heart failure is now being formed, supported in part by a state lottery matching Center of Economic Excellence. The SC ACC will continue to focus its efforts in 2007 to improve outcomes and compliance with these important guidelines.

Since the last newsletter we have successfully replaced our administrator as promised. An interviewing team of both local and national members unanimously chose Geri Kinton over several other candidates including out of state professional "trade group" administration companies. Geri lives in Beaufort and is very familiar with the state and local issues. She did a wonderful job organizing the annual meeting in Kiawah and the transition to a new administrator has been seamless.

The ACC Councilors will be meeting in Charleston in April. Please contact one of us directly if there are any issues that you would like placed on the agenda and discussed. Moreover, to improve communication we are both mailing and sending this newsletter electronically. We hope to use email more in the future to communicate rapidly with the constituency. If you have not received ACC communication electronically, please email us at info@sccacc.org with your appropriate contact information. Thanks again to everyone for your support of the ACC, and I hope to see you in New Orleans next month for the ACC annual meeting. **Michael**

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of our 2006 Annual Joint Meeting Patrons

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13th Annual SC/NC Chapters ACC Joint Meeting

The 13th Annual Joint Meeting of the SC & NC Chapters ACC was held October 6-8, 2006 at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort. Over 60 physicians and medical practitioners, along with their guests, enjoyed a weekend of informative educational sessions and social activities. Special thanks to all the speakers for their time and efforts. Excellent feedback was received on everyone.

Congratulations to Fellows in Training Case Winner **George Adams, MD**, Duke University, and Interventional Case Winner **William Abernathy, MD**, Asheville Cardiology.

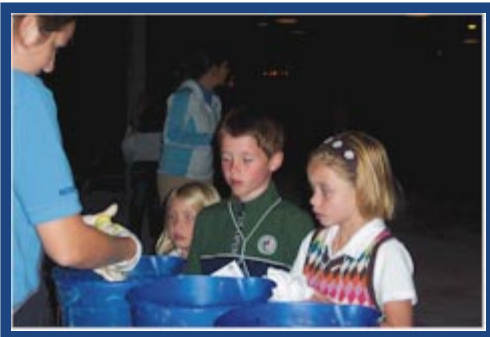
Saturday
Night
Oyster
Roast



Golf
at
Turtle
Point



Kids
Program



Meetings
and
Networking



A RESOLUTION

Whereas: Implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) are widely used for the management of patients with life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias,

Whereas: The indications for ICD therapy are expanding as the results of clinical trials for primary prevention of sudden cardiac death have shown that survival is improved in patients with serious heart disease when ICDs are implanted prophylactically,

Whereas: An increasing number of physicians without formal electrophysiology training are becoming interested in implanting and managing these devices,

And whereas: The Heart Rhythm Society, in its addendum to the clinical competency statement regarding training pathways for implanting ICDs, published in HEART RHYTHM, 08.25.2005, set forth minimum requirements for training and demonstration of competency in managing these complicated devices in a population of very sick patients,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the South Carolina Chapter of the American College of Cardiology endorses these guidelines and strongly encourages that they be incorporated within the credentialing criteria of all hospitals of the Palmetto State.

adopted October 8, 2006
Kiawah Island, SC

South Carolina Chapter ACC
2006 Annual Council/Membership Meeting Minutes
Kiawah Island Golf Resort
Kiawah Island, SC
October 8, 2006

Members Present: Michael R. Gold, M.D., Ph.D.; Fred M. Krainin, M.D.; Donald E. Saunders, M.D.; James R. Story, M.D.; Charlie W. Devlin, M.D.; Arthur L. Eberly, M.D.; Grady Hendrix, M.D.

Guests: Christopher Granger, M.D.; Mayme Lou Roettig; Bev Griffin; Geri Kinton, Chapter Executive

Dr. Gold called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. Minutes from the 9/25/2005 Membership meeting were approved.

Dr. Christopher Granger presented a review of RACE (Reperfusion of Acute MI in Carolina Emergency Departments), North Carolina ACC's Quality Project. He introduced Mayme Lou Roettig, who serves as the project coordinator. The goal of RACE is to improve Reperfusion Care by increasing the number of patients and decreasing the time it takes to get it. It is an interdisciplinary approach, systematically and regionally. It has been a very successful program. RACE is different from other models because it is focusing on small EDs not capable of PCI. ACC is launching a national D2B initiative using RACE as a model for Chapters to use. NC ACC offers their support to bring this initiative to fruition in South Carolina.

Dr. Gold gave a history on concerns of dissemination of information on implantation of defibrillators. South Carolina, unfortunately, has been cited for bad practice in this regard in a recent article in the New York Times. This is a competency issue. Dr. Story authored a Resolution endorsing the guidelines of the Heart Rhythm Society. A motion was made, seconded and passed to adopt the Resolution with the replacement of the word physician for cardiologist in paragraph 3. A copy of the adopted resolution is included as a separate document.

Dr. Devlin presented the Treasurer's report. Total assets as of September 30 were \$127,850.19. Ms. Kinton noted that even with the loss of three corporate sponsors, profits from the annual joint meeting should still be within 10% of the budgeted \$40,000, which will be split between the two

chapters. The proposed FY07 budget was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the budget as proposed.

The slate of nominees for new council members was presented and included J. William Phillips, III; Kenneth Hanger, Jr.; and Barry Huey. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the slate of nominees. Gifts of appreciation were presented to outgoing Council members Dr. Story and Dr. Saunders, as well as Immediate Past President Dr. Krainin. Dr. Collins' gift will be mailed to him.

Dr. Gold noted attendance at this year's Joint meeting. Registered attendees (185 total including program participants) included approximately 60 physicians and their guests, 10 non-physicians and representatives from 26 sponsors. He shared a comment from a former Illinois Chapter ACC member concerning industry sponsored meetings. Worried that sponsors will lose interest, Illinois scheduled longer breaks and facilitated members visiting the exhibit rooms to talk with sponsors. There was discussion that sponsors at this year's meeting were pleased with opportunities provided, but careful consideration should be taken at future meetings to ensure a positive and productive experience. Additional suggestions included 'sandwiching' the Chapter meeting between educational sessions to increase attendance, and to market to CCA's.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geri C. Kinton, Chapter Executive

Save the Dates!

September 28-30, 2007



14th Annual Joint Meeting
NC & SC Chapters ACC

The Grove Park Inn
Asheville, NC

More Meetings...

31st Annual Cardiology Update for the Primary Physician

May 30 - June 2, 2007

Doubletree Guest Suites
Charleston, South Carolina

sponsored by MUSC

ICD-9 ♦ CPT ♦ HCPCS

Advanced Reimbursement & Coding Workshop
Exclusively for Cardiology

June 12 (Columbia, SC) June 13 (Raleigh, NC) June 14 (Charlotte, NC)

Locations TBA

sponsored by McVey Associates

ACC.07 All Chapter Reception

We hope you have made plans to attend **ACC.07** in New Orleans March 23-27, 2007. We look forward to seeing you at the

ALL CHAPTER RECEPTION

Sunday evening. The reception will take place at the New Orleans Marriott (Canal Street in the French Quarter) at 5:30 p.m.



We wish to thank Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for their generous support of the 2007 ACC All-Chapter Reception.

Delegates Needed at SCMA

The South Carolina Medical Society will once again host its annual meeting in Hilton Head Island and is looking for SCACC members to serve as Specialty Society Delegates for Cardiology. The 159th meeting will be held at the Marriott Beach & Golf Resort ~ Ocean Front at Palmetto Dunes, May 3-6, 2007. Visit the SCMA website (www.scmanet.org) for meeting details and registration. If you can represent SCACC as a Delegate, please contact Geri Kinton, Chapter Executive, at info@sccacc.org or (843) 252-4709.

ACC Partners With MedAxiom

The ACC and MedAxiom have announced a strategic partnership that offers ACC members significant discounts on MedAxiom membership, now through March 31, 2007! MedAxiom provides products and services for cardiology practices nationwide and is a leader in networking, benchmarking and performance improvement. All ACC members are eligible for a 10% discount off MedAxiom membership levels from now through March 31, 2007. The discount is available to first-time memberships in MedAxiom. Visit MedAxiom (http://www.medaxiom.com/about/acc_partnership.html) today. Find out what this partnership means for you and sign up your practice — at a 10% discount!

CV News Digest Debuts

ACC recently unveiled a new e-newsletter titled *CV News Digest* which replaced the Heart Health News. *CV News Digest* is a daily compendium of cardiovascular news which culls major stories from the mainstream media. *CV News Digest* offers ACC members a quick read on what their patients are seeing in the media. It is prepared exclusively for ACC in affiliation with *U.S. News & World Report*. As with the existing newsletters, members have the ability to subscribe or unsubscribe via their Cardiosource profile or via the ACC Member Directory online application.

Don't Forget Chapter Dues!

When your ACC Dues Statement arrives at your office, please remind your administrative staff to select the South Carolina Chapter Membership option. The dues statements have two parts ~ one is your **National Dues**, the other is **Chapter Dues**. We appreciate the financial support your payment of Chapter dues (\$95) has provided to our local Chapter and encourage you to advise your Administrator of the value in supporting the local Chapter and to approve payment of the National and Chapter portion of the dues. Thanks!



South Carolina
CHAPTER

Vision Statement: *"To improve the health and well being of South Carolinians through the support of cardiovascular specialists."*