



**PULSE**

Spring 2009

# South Carolina

## CHAPTER

### SC ACC LEADERSHIP

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## Get Involved and Stop the CMS Cuts!

On July 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its proposed 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule which includes proposed payment cuts that could cripple cardiology practices and threaten access to services that prevent premature death and disability for millions of Americans with heart disease. Now is the time for American College of Cardiology members to tell CMS and your members of Congress that these cuts are unacceptable.

The August congressional recess presents great opportunities for face-to-face meetings with members while they are home. It is critical that Congress and the administration hear first-hand from ACC members, their support staff and patients about the impact of the proposed Medicare reimbursement cuts. If you cannot schedule an office visit, you are strongly encouraged to phone or e-mail your legislators to point out the serious consequences of the 2010 CMS Proposed Rule. Patient materials and sample letters are available at [www.acc.org/can](http://www.acc.org/can).

Here are ways that you and your practice may have your voice heard.

### **GONZALEZ-ROGERS LETTER TO CMS**

Reps. Charles Gonzalez (D-TX) and Mike Rogers (R-MI) have authored a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, expressing concerns about the proposed rule. ACC members are asked to contact their representative and urge him/her to sign on to this letter. Ask your representative to sign on!

### **SUBMIT COMMENTS TO CMS**

Contact CMS to voice your opinions regarding the proposed rule. Explain how your practice and your patients will be impacted by the Proposed Rule and what you will do if the cuts are implemented. **Comments are due August 31.**

### **STAY UP TO DATE WITH ACC ADVOCACY**

Finally, it's critical that you take advantage of the opportunities provided by the ACC's CardioAdvocacy Network (CAN) and the ACC Political Action Committee (PAC). Both programs are great ways to stay up-to-date on legislative issues and to influence congressional leaders. You can also follow ACC Advocacy on Twitter (@Cardiology) or share your thoughts on health reform at the ACC's online forum, "The Lewin Report."

**One Stop Shopping** for links to all of the above actions:

[www.acc.org/can](http://www.acc.org/can).

*It may never be more important to attend...*

## **ACC's 2009 Legislative Conference**

**September 13-15, 2009  
Washington, D.C.**

Given the drastic payment cuts proposed by CMS, as well as efforts to pass overarching health reform legislation, don't miss this opportunity to help educate Congress about the important work the ACC is doing in the areas of quality improvement and medical imaging. Even more importantly, you can help advocate for fair reimbursement and sound, unobtrusive policies that will ensure that cardiovascular professionals can continue to practice medicine in a manner that provides the greatest benefit for their patients. Registration closed on Friday, August 14th. **Register at [www.acc.org](http://www.acc.org).**

### **Councilor Election September 13th**

At the SC ACC Councilor Retreat on June 6, the nomination of Amy Epps, MD, FACC to replace Joe Lawton, MD, FACC on the Council was unanimously accepted.

Dr. Lawton's tenure on the board expired after serving two consecutive terms. Dr. Lawton was an active Councilor, devoting much energy to the Chapter. Among his many contributions, he served as chair of the Quality Committee and advocated on the Chapters' behalf at ACC Legislative Conferences. Many thanks and well wishes are extended to Dr. Lawton.

Dr. Amy R. Epps is a native of Columbia, SC. She received a B.S. degree in Biology and Neuroscience from Duke University in 1993. In 1998, she completed her M.D. at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. During her studies, she received the Gross Anatomy Teaching Assistant Award (1994). Dr. Epps then went on to finish her residency in Internal Medicine at MUSC in 2001, and during her residency, she was awarded the Genetech CF Resident Enrichment Grant (1999). In 2002, she became the Chief Resident in Internal Medicine at MUSC and then from 2002 to 2005, she completed an Adult Cardiology Fellowship at MUSC. While undergoing this fellowship, she researched gender differences in patients with ST elevation during Myocardial Stress Perfusion Imaging, in addition to echocardiographic patterns in post-ETOH septal ablations in HOCM patients. Before joining Columbia Cardiology in 2007, Dr. Epps was an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at MUSC.



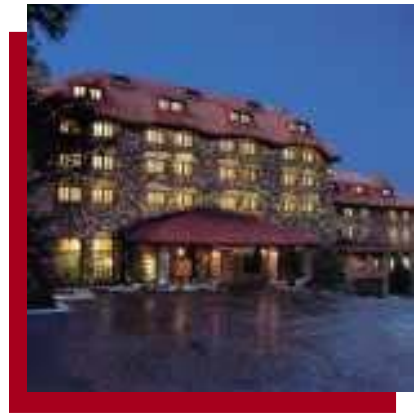
Her practice interests at Columbia Cardiology include invasive, non-interventional cardiology, women's heart disease, and preventative heart disease. She is a member of the American College of Cardiology and the South Carolina Medical Association, and is board certified in Internal Medicine and cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Epps previously served a one-year term on the Board as the FIT representative in 2004.

The election will take place on September 13, 2009 during the annual membership meeting in Asheville, NC, at the Grove Park Inn.

# ***Register TODAY!***

## **16th Annual Joint Meeting of the NC/SC Chapters ACC**



*Returning to Asheville, NC and The Grove Park Inn ~  
one of the South's most famous and venerable resorts.*

## **September 11-13, 2009**

Academic Agenda can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Complete conference details are at **[www.nccacc.org](http://www.nccacc.org)**.

***Once again offered to attendees  
immediately prior to the Annual Meeting...***

**Reimbursement & Coding Workshop for Advanced Cardiology**

**Grove Park Inn ~ Asheville, NC  
Friday, September 11, 2009  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm**



**McVEY**  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

Nikki Vendegna, CPC. is scheduled to lead this informative program. CEU's are available for attendees. Register through **McVey Associates, Inc.** at [www.mcveyseminars.com](http://www.mcveyseminars.com) or call 800-227-7888.

*Vist us on the web: [www.sccacc.org](http://www.sccacc.org)*

# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Meeting Academic Program

**SAT. 9/12**

## **ACADEMIC SESSION I**

*Moderator: Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC*

- 8:00 – 8:20am 25 Years of Primary PCI and Looking Forward  
**Bruce Brodie, MD, FACC**
- 8:20 - 8:30am NC Race Program: A Giant Leap forward for AMI  
**Jamie Jollis, MD, FACC**
- 8:30 - 9:00am Drug Eluting Stents: Patient Selection and Long-Term Management  
**Robert Applegate, MD, FACC**
- 9:00 –9:30am Carotid Intervention: Who and How?  
**Jim Zidar, MD, FACC**

**SAT. 9/12**

## **ACADEMIC SESSION II**

*Moderators: Bruce Brodie, MD, FACC & Tom Stuckey, MD, FACC*

- 10:00 – 10:40am Interventional Options for Valvular Heart Disease  
**Andrew Wang, MD, FACC**
- 10:40 – 11:20am Surgical Options for Valvular Disease  
**L. Wiley Nifong, MD**
- 11:20 – 11:50am CHF Management: Changing Prognosis and Emerging Therapies  
**Dan Bensimhon, MD, FACC**
- 11:50 – 12:00pm Questions & Answers

**SUN. 9/13**

## **ACADEMIC SESSION III**

*Moderator: Todd Hansen, MD, FACC*

- 7:45 – 8:15am CT Angiography: Current Status  
**Peter Zwerner, MD, FACC**
- 8:15 – 8:45am Atrial Fibrillation: Roles of Medical Therapies and Ablation  
**Paul Mounsey, MD, FACC**
- 8:45 – 9:15am Is it Time to Retire LDL as our Main Target of Therapy?  
**Dan Wise, MD, FACC**
- 9:15 – 9:30am Questions & Answers

**SUN. 9/13**

## **ACADEMIC SESSION IV**

*Moderator: Bill Hathaway, MD, FACC*

- 10:00 – 10:40am The Convergence of Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease  
**Elizabeth Jackson, MD, FACC**
- 10:40 – 11:00am Invasive Case of the Year  
**Moderator: Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC**
- 11:00 – 11:20am Non-Invasive Cases of the Year  
**Moderator: Bill Hathaway, MD, FACC**
- 11:20 – 12:20pm NC/ SC Chapter Membership Meetings

## Practice Administrators Join the Team

Last year, the ACC Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a new membership category to address the business aspects of practice management. The Mission of the Practice Administrator membership is to:

1. Provide practice administrators with clinical guidelines and tools to improve clinical care management.
2. Provide practice administrators information on important advocacy, reimbursement and policy issues affecting cardiovascular practice management.
3. Provide practice administrators the opportunity to shape the future of cardiovascular practice management.

For more information on this newest membership category, visit the ACC website or contact Debjani Mukherje, Associate Director, ACC Member Strategy:  
E-mail: dmukherj@acc.org, Ph: 202-375-6212, Fax 202-375-6842

## CardioSmart

CardioSmart is a patient education site of the ACC. Our mission is to engage, inform, and empower patients to better prepare them for participation in their own care. We are committed to providing visitors to our website with accurate, un-biased information in an advertising-free environment. We encourage you to add the CardioSmart logo/link to your own website. Visit [www.CardioSmart.org](http://www.CardioSmart.org) for link info.



South Carolina  
CHAPTER

*“To improve the health and well being of South Carolinians through the support of cardiovascular specialists.”*