Challenging Transitions for the VA

Dear Friends,

I would like to use this opportunity to update you on the current challenges affecting Cardiologists practicing within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

One of the most significant changes that we will see in the next decade is the transition from VA's very own "home-grown" electronic medical record (EMR), known as CPRS, to a commercial system – Cerner's EMR. The cost of this contract is estimated at $10 billion! Among many reasons to switch from the current system is the need for interoperability between the Department of Defense EMR and VA's EMR which, at this time, is essentially nonexistent.

The interoperability issue puts us right in the middle of the next vast change affecting the VA – namely the VA Choice Program which extends covered services to the Veterans into the private sector in order to address wait times and other perceived barriers to access to care within the VA system. It goes without saying that moving from the current closed system where all patient records, inpatient, outpatient, and pharmacy data is centralized, to a "Choice-based" system where Veterans may get some care within the VA and some
outside, interoperability remains particularly important.

Whether the VA will be able to successfully transition from the current CPRS EMR to a commercial system and whether the cost will remain within the planned $10 billion is a critical question for VA cardiologists. Our needs go far beyond EMR and include PACS-based imaging studies, ECG-storage systems. At the same time, the IT world in health care seems to be moving in a parallel direction with Amazon, Apple, Google, and others moving in with variety of wearables and new approaches putting patients in the center of the data storage solutions.

It is quite conceivable that the EMR in 10 years will look quite different what we are currently used to. Patient-centric smartphone systems will likely play a significant role in our daily routines.

To discuss these burning EMR topics, the ACC Federal Section will be hosting a fascinating discussion during ACC 2018 where we will bring expert speakers to dive deeper in this challenging topic. I invite you to join us on Sunday, March 11th from 12:00 pm to 2 pm at the Hyatt Regency Orlando in the Plaza International Ballroom I.

Get in touch with BOG Chair Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC via email at Hadley.Wilson@carolinashealthcare.org or call/text him at 704-564-8044.

CardioSmart Launches Cardio-Oncology Resources for Patients
A new Cardio-Oncology resource center on CardioSmart.org aims to provide patients with information on common types of cancer treatments that cause heart problems; lifestyle tips designed for cancer patients; and lists of questions to aid in care discussions during office visits. Additionally, in-depth resources addressing Radiation and Heart Disease and Breast Cancer Treatment and Heart Disease are available for patients, with other topics coming soon. The Cardio-Oncology center is a collaborative efforts with the ACC and the Eastern Cooperative Group-American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ECOG-ACRIN) Cardiotoxicity Working Group members.

BOT Approves ACC's Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
The ACC is committed to improving diversity and inclusion within the cardiovascular workforce and the College's membership. To augment the College's charge to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health, ACC's Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the proposed vision and goals of the College's diversity and inclusion strategy, including the definition of underrepresented cardiovascular professions, at its January meeting.
Learn more about the strategy on [ACC.org](http://ACC.org) or join the interactive, town hall-style forum at ACC.18 on March 9 from 4 – 5 p.m. (updated time) at the Hyatt Regency Orlando in Regency Ballroom T. Led by Pamela Douglas, MD, MACC and Kim Allan Williams, MD, MACC of the ACC Task Force on Diversity, the forum will provide an opportunity to learn more about ACC's recently Board-approved diversity and inclusion strategy, and attendees are invited to share ideas, ask questions, offer suggestions and become involved in ACC's work to expand the role of diversity in the cardiovascular workforce, the College and the workforce pipeline. Pick up one of ACC's new pins promoting #TheFaceOfCardiology during the session and plan to wear it throughout ACC.18 to show your support for ACC's diversity strategy. [Register for the session here](http://ACC.org) by Feb. 23 and contact Stephanie Mitchell with questions.

**CardioSmart Content to be Incorporated in Outcome Health Patient Education Resources**

A new partnership between ACC and Outcome Health will provide [CardioSmart](http://CardioSmart.org) patient-education materials to practices and health systems across the country. As part of the collaboration, Outcome Health will incorporate CardioSmart resources into its digital health education offerings, including waiting room screens, patient tablets and interactive wallboards. The collaboration kicks off this month with the deployment of CardioSmart's [high blood pressure resources](http://CardioSmart.org) as part of Heart Month. The goal: to educate patients and providers about the [recently released high blood pressure guideline](http://CardioSmart.org) and ensure patients are aware of their cardiovascular risk. "Educating patients on their heart disease risk and the steps they can take toward preventing heart disease are among the highest priorities of the ACC," said Martha Gulati, MD, FACC, editor-in-chief of CardioSmart.org. "Through this partnership, we'll be able to extend our reach to patients in the Outcome Health network at most risk and give them the tools they need to live a heart healthy lifestyle." Practices that use Outcome Health digital offerings should keep an eye out for additional CardioSmart content throughout the year. [Read more](http://CardioSmart.org).

"Do Your PART" to Improve Prior Authorization

Help improve the prior authorization process by submitting your difficult cases or inappropriate denials through ACC's [PARTool](http://PARTool.org). Through robust data collection, ACC members and their staff can help the College track trends and identify exhaustive administrative burdens. The BOG is encouraged to spread the word and get membership involved. To get started, access ACC's PARTool communications toolkit on the [Leadership Portal](http://LeadershipPortal.org) for social media content, talking points and more. Do your PART to improve prior authorization. Submit your data at [ACC.org/PARtool](http://ACC.org/PARtool) today!
Latest Issue of Cardiology: Interventions Looks at Inflammation for the Cardiologist; Trends in Cardiovascular Medicine for 2018; ACC.18 Sneak Peek, and More

The cover story in the latest issue of Cardiology: Interventions examines the emerging role of inflammation in cardiovascular disease including findings from the CANTOS trial. Read more on this topic from Editor-in-Chief Peter C. Block, MD, FACC. Learn what leading experts think will most impact cardiovascular medicine in this new year. And learn about catheter-directed management in pulmonary embolism in the FIT perspective by Brett Carroll, MD. The ACC.18 Sneak Peek will help you start planning your best meeting now.

Get the full issue at ACC.org/CardiologyInterventions.

Are You Reading Cardiology?
Your ACC member publication, Cardiology, outlines relevant and timely topics for cardiovascular professionals each month. Easy to read online or in print, Cardiology is your not-to-miss source for clinical, professional and policy news. Engaging images, articles, scientific journal highlights, member profiles, expert commentary, and more are combined in a comprehensive round-up of news and resources for the entire cardiovascular community. Watch for a survey from Kantar Research this spring intended to gauge awareness and use of this publication among cardiovascular professionals. Catch up on the latest issue and browse archives at ACC.org/Cardiology.

Heart House Happenings

ACC.18 BOG Schedule. All time are Eastern.

Friday, March 9th
All events on this day will be at the Hyatt Regency Orlando (9801 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819)

8 – 10 am – BOG Mentorship Breakfast (by invite only) – Celebration 5
10 am – noon – BOT/BOG Town Hall – Plaza International Ballroom I/J/K
Noon – 1 pm – BOT/BOG/CV Team State Liaison Joint Luncheon – Orlando Ballroom M/N
1 – 4:30 pm – BOG/CV Team State Liaison Meeting – Orlando Ballroom I/J/K

• Immediately following: BOG Photo – foyer of Regency Ballroom R/S

4:30 – 6 pm – BOG Reception – Ballroom N
6 – 8 pm – Annual ACCPAC Reception (open to all 2018 PAC donors and non-member guests) – **Orlando Ballroom M**

**Saturday, March 10th**
9:45 – 11:45 am – FIT Jeopardy Preliminary Rounds at the **Engage @ ACC. Studio, Hall A/B, Orange County Convention Center**

- 9.45 – 10.15 am Group 1: New York, Florida, Massachusetts, Connecticut (AFC East)
- 10.15 – 10.45 am Group 2: Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia (AFC North)
- 10.45 – 11.15 am Group 3: Texas, Indiana, Tennessee, Virginia (AFC South)
- 11.15 – 11.45 am Group 4: Colorado, Missouri, California, Kansas (AFC West)

1:45 – 3:45 pm – FIT Jeopardy Preliminary Rounds at the **Engage @ ACC. Studio, Hall A/B, Orange County Convention Center**

- 1.45 – 2.15 pm Group 5: New Jersey, Oklahoma, Delaware, DC (NFC East)
- 2.15 – 2.45 pm Group 6: Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Utah (NFC North)
- 2.45 – 3.15 pm Group 7: Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi (NFC South)
- 3.15 – 3.45 pm Group 8: Arizona, Hawaii, Washington, New Mexico (NFC West)

Noon – 1 pm – BOG Lunch in the **ACCPAC Lounge, Orange County Convention Center, Hall C**
5 – 6:30 pm – Champagne & Science at ACC.18, Young Investigator Awards Competition in the **Poster Hall, Hall A/B**

**Sunday, March 11th**
7 – 9 am – Joint BOG/CV Team Breakfast in the **CVT Lounge, Orange County Convention Center, Hall C**
9:45 – 11:45 am – FIT Jeopardy Preliminary Rounds at the **Engage @ ACC. Studio, Hall A/B, Orange County Convention Center**

- 9:45 am – 10:15 Group 9: Iowa, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Canada

10:45 – 11:45 am – FIT Jeopardy Semi-Finals at the **Engage @ ACC. Studio, Hall A/B, Orange County Convention Center**
10:45 am – 12:15 pm – Session 675 – Achieving the Quadruple Aim in Healthcare at the Orange County Convention Center, Room 209 B
2:15 – 3:15 pm – FIT Jeopardy Finals at the **Orange County Convention Center**
6 – 8 pm – All-Section Meeting & Reception at the **Hyatt Regency, Orlando Ballroom**
Monday, March 12th
8 – 9:30 am – Session 610 – Payment Reform: Update From the Trenches, Orange County Convention Center, Room 312 C
5:30 – 6:30 pm – Gowning and seating at the Orange County Convention Center – Main Tent, Hall C (current Governors-Elect and Governors)
6:30 – 8 pm – 67th Annual Convocation at the Orange County Convention Center – Main Tent, Hall D
8 pm – President’s, New Fellows’ and Associates’ Reception at the Hyatt Regency, Plaza International Ballroom G/H

Additional Resources

- MOC Information
- Member Benefits
- Journal Club
- Live Courses
- Advocacy Highlights
- BOG Directory
- Leadership Portal
- ACC Prior Authorization Reporting Tool

Our Mission

The ACC Board of Governors is an advisory committee to the Board of Trustees. The mission of the Board of Governors is to ensure bi-directional communication between the members of the College and its Leadership, while promoting the core missions of the College through actions at the Chapter, non-Chapter and member level.

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