
ACC GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1999

THIS IS MY FINAL NEWSLETTER, GIVEN RECENT COMPLETION OF MY THREE-YEAR TERM AS ACC GOVERNOR AND CHAPTER PRESIDENT. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN COVERED BY NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO UPDATE YOU WITH RESPECT TO LOCAL IMPLICATIONS.

➤ RECENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

At the fall chapter meeting, the Board of Councilors voted to amend the bylaws to facilitate the nominating and election process for the Board. These proposed changes need to be ratified by the ACC Board of Trustees.

The electrophysiology working group has met on several occasions and has recently drafted and circulated guidelines for institutions where defibrillators are implanted and tested.

A working group has been created but is yet to report regarding training and/or experience requirements for the evaluation and treatment of patients with complex congenital heart disease.

The chapter is now midway through its five-year donation of funds to the Halle Heart Center

and the University Heart Center. The bulk of funds have been donated with smaller amounts anticipated in the next few years. The donation to the Halle Heart Center was given in order to develop an educational kiosk about the artificial heart.

➤ PARTICIPATION IN A NATIONAL UNION BY CARDIOLOGISTS

As many of you are aware, interest has been expressed among some of our members in joining a national union for advice and representation in dealing with managed care. Our chapter is sponsoring Jack Seddon, Executive Director of the Federation of Physicians and Dentists, for a discussion regarding this topic on Monday, April 19, 1999. A separate notice is enclosed regarding this meeting. During the recent national ACC meeting, I discussed this issue with various officers and administrative staff of the ACC. As long as the union follows appropriate legal

guidelines, the ACC has no formal objections, and they do express their frustration with the failure of other approaches in dealing with the complexities of managed care. I encourage attendance at this meeting.

➤ **STATEWIDE CATH LAB
PARTICIPATION IN THE ACC
NATIONAL DATA BANK**

The ACC is encouraging all of its members to support a national effort to have cardiac catheterization laboratories participate in the ACC national data bank. The ACC feels that it is in the best position to gather local and national data regarding outcomes in diagnostic and interventional procedures rather than being forced to accept models from outside sources. The Board of Councilors has reviewed the ACC program and recently voted to encourage all state members to support the participation of all

catheterization laboratories within Arizona in this data base. Please complete and return the enclosed ballot on this issue.

➤ **WEB PAGE**

An independent web page will soon be up and running under the address of www.acc-az.com. It has been designed with the assistance of the ACC and complements the College's site. The site will list the officers and Board of Councilors, recap local CME activities, and display the most recent newsletter. Some future options, if member interest warrants it, will be a directory of members accessible through password codes, or a display of photographs of local members participating in or receiving recognition at national meetings. Ideas are welcome. Please contact Patrice Hand by phone at 602-246-8901 or by E-mail at patriceh@armadoc.com.

I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO OUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. FUTURE QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE OR OTHER ISSUES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO KARL KERN, MD, 1501 N. CAMPBELL AVENUE, UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, SECTION OF CARDIOLOGY, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85724; TELEPHONE NUMBER 520-626-2477, FAX 520-626-0967, OR E-MAIL AT kernk@u.arizona.edu.

THOMAS F. ROSS, MD