



Maryland
CHAPTER

Message from the President

Joseph Marine, MD, FACC



President's Message

December 2019

Legislative Conference and Advocacy

Dear Maryland ACC Colleagues,

I hope that everyone had a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends and enjoyed a long weekend.



November was a very active month for our Chapter, starting with the [ACC Legislative Conference](#) held in Washington, DC, November 3-5, 2019. The conference attracted a record attendance of 505 from across the US, including 94 Fellows-in-Training (FITs). Our Maryland Chapter contributed our fair share of 13, including 5 FACCs, 6 FITs, and 2 CV team members. During the educational session on Monday, we learned about key issues from Members of Congress, Congressional and ACC staff, and ACC leaders in advocacy. Our Chapter had the opportunity to present our experience with legislation for RCIS cath lab staff at a featured session on state advocacy. You can see all the presentation materials from the conference [here](#).

On Tuesday, we were blessed with a perfect, sunny fall day to visit legislative offices on the Hill, including those of Senators Cardin and Van Hollen and Representatives Raskin, Ruppersberger, and Sarbanes. We advocated for 5 issues this year:

1. **Decrease Administrative Burdens and Promote Clinician Well-being** through co-sponsorship of [HR 3107](#), which would streamline and rationalize prior authorization practices in the Medicare Advantage program, hopefully serving as a model for private insurers.
2. **Promoting the Successful Transition to Value-based Payments** through co-sponsorship of [HR 2282/S 966](#), which would modernize old self-referral and anti-kickback laws in order to facilitate physician participation in value-based payment programs.
3. **Increase Patient Access to Cardiac Rehabilitation Services** through co-sponsorship of [HR 3911](#), which would allow NPs and PAs to begin supervising cardiac rehab in 2020 (rather than 2024 under current law) and would allow them to refer patients for these services.
4. **South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act of 2019** [HR 3131](#). This bill would fund grants through the NIH and CDC to increase research on CV disease in people of South Asian ancestry living in the US.
5. **Combat the Youth Tobacco Epidemic** by co-sponsoring several bills which would raise the age for tobacco purchase to 21 years nationally [HR 2411/S 1258](#) and impose restrictions on flavored e-cigarettes.

It was another exciting and enjoyable event. Please mark your calendars for the next Legislative Conference being held at the usual time in early October 4-6, 2020. And there is still another month in 2019 to give to the ACC Political Action Committee ([ACCPAC](#)). This organization participates in developing the Legislative Conference and increases the political power and reach of the College by opening doors for ACC members and staff to educate key members of Congress on cardiovascular issues important to our members and our patients. In the

2017-18 election cycle, ACCPAC raised \$895,000 from 5% of ACC members. That puts us in the top 10 of medical PACs, but still far below the anesthesiologists (\$4.5 million with 21% participation), orthopedic surgeons (\$4 million with 28% participation) and radiologists (\$2.6 million with 13% participation). ACCPAC hopes to break \$1 million in this election cycle – help us reach this goal and increase our participation rate with any donation you can [here](#).

MACCS 2019, our regional ACC meeting at Heart House, was held November 23-24 and was another smashing success – more on that in the next President’s message in January. Happy Holidays to all!

As always, please send MDACC leadership and staff your comments, questions, and suggestions to president@marylandacc.org.

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President, Maryland ACC

Missed last month's message? [Click here](#).

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