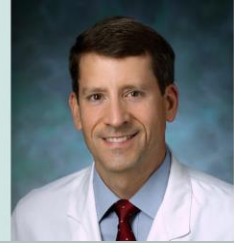




Maryland
CHAPTER

Message from the President

Joseph Marine, MD, FACC



President's Message

March 2019

CV Summit, Board of Governors Meeting, and Annapolis Update

February is the shortest month, but it was a busy one for Maryland ACC. I attended, with our Chapter Executive, the 2019 CV Summit in Orlando Feb 14-16. This annual event starts off with a half-day Leadership Forum, which began with an inspiring talk from [Dr. Heval Kelli](#), a Syrian Kurdish refugee who is now a cardiology fellow at Emory leading a program to encourage, inspire, and enable young people to enter health care fields. It concluded with an insightful talk by leadership coach and organizational psychologist [Tasha Eurich](#) teaching us the value of "self-awareness". The [CV Summit](#) was filled with useful, practical information on the business of cardiology in 2019, including how to work with health systems, maximizing data analytics, working toward more same-day discharges for CV procedures, and optimal use of HCC (hierarchical coding categories).

We concluded with the Board of Governor's meeting, where we heard about the [ACC 2019-2023 Strategic Plan](#). We will hear much more about this in the coming months, as the Chapters will have an important role in implementing it. We also discussed the ACC's recent acquisition of [MedAxiom](#), a leading cardiovascular membership, services and consulting firm which has partnered with ACC on many projects over the past 12 years. This new [partnership](#) is expected to help advance ACC's goal to be the professional home for CV service line leaders and managers as well as clinicians. Finally, Maryland ACC was formally recognized for participating in a successful Chapter Grant application which will help to fund and turbocharge our next MACCS meeting in November 2019 – more on this in future postings.

On the Annapolis front, on the evening of February 5 we co-sponsored with the AHA a legislative dinner with members of the House Health and Government Affairs (HGO) Committee and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (EHEA) Committee. We had an excellent turnout of legislators and plenty of one-on-one time with them to discuss issues facing cardiologists in Maryland, including the workforce issues in cath labs and harms of smoking in young people.

We also did significant work to advance [HB924/SB733](#), which would allow Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS) professionals to work in Maryland cath labs and assist with fluoroscopy, as they are allowed to do in every other state in the US. Recall that we worked with Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) to propose a bill last year that received a chilly reception and did not advance. We participated in a lengthy workgroup over the summer which resulted in a consensus compromise proposal for a 5-year pilot program allowing RCIS to work under a narrowly tailored exemption to current law. Our MedChi liaison, Marty Albornoz, and I presented this bill to MedChi Legislative Council on February 18 and received a qualified endorsement. We then participated in a panel presenting the bill to the MGA legislative committees in Annapolis on February 26, this time without any opposition and only a few suggestions for amendments. We are hopeful for passage during this session. Please take the time to [contact your legislators](#) and ask them to SUPPORT HB924/SB733.

Finally, I spent the morning of February 27 in Annapolis on MedChi's House Call on Annapolis, advocating for important "[House of Medicine](#)" issues such as maintaining existing malpractice caps on non-economic damages and requirements for qualified expert witnesses, striving toward parity of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for E&M services, and regulating times when insurers may make formulary changes affecting patients.

Advocacy takes time and effort (and funds) but it is how our democracy works. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our ACC advocacy efforts this year.

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

Joseph E. Marine, MD, MBA, FACC

PS – Hope to see many Maryland ACC members at [ACC.19](#) in NOLA March 16-18.