

Dear Colleagues,

It's almost here! We have been eagerly anticipating taking our annual meeting up a notch, and this year we have a couple of enhancements for our Friday, August 2nd, meeting in Riverhead, NY, in The Hamptons, which is just one week away!

First and foremost, we will be holding our first-ever NYACC Shark Tank Competition. We will have two guest speakers start us off. Dr. Regina Druz, an NYACC member and also the Section Chair for the ACC Innovation Section, will be introducing us to the innovation programs within the ACC and how to become more involved. Our second speaker will be Dr. Irfan Khan, the CEO of Circuit Clinical, who will be delivering a talk on physician entrepreneurship.

Next, we have seven individuals competing in the main event, which is our Shark Tank Challenge! Drs. Druz and Khan will be joined by Jack Abid – patent attorney, engineer and shareholder in the patent procurement group at Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, & Gilchrist – to serve as our judges/Sharks for the evening. Each contestant will get a chance to pitch an idea or prototype to our judges and audience, and the judges will choose the winners of the competition for cash prizes and the title of “2019 NYACC Shark Tank Champion!”

This event will be extra special, as it is being held in the Long Island Aquarium's Shark Tank Room! Also, to liven up the event, one lucky applicant will be chosen to do *a cage dive in the live-shark aquarium tank* to kick the event off while we all watch! Assuming our cage dive contestant doesn't become dinner for our finned friends, we will then enjoy dinner during the competition and finish the night out with our annual FIT Jeopardy Competition to determine the championship team that will represent NYACC at the ACC.20 Fellows-in-Training Jeopardy competition in Chicago. This will definitely be a don't-miss event, so plan to join us for what promises to be an exciting addition to the NYACC calendar!

In addition, I want to let all of our members know that we have heard loud and clear from you about the need and importance to bring greater value to membership both within the Chapter and at the national level. To this end, I would like to update you on a couple efforts underway. In my last newsletter, and in several communications since, we highlighted our focus on utilizing [the ACC PARTool](#) to log our experiences with prior authorization requirements with the various payers across the state. I want you to know that this has provided invaluable information, and I have been able to use some of this data in recent discussions with Representative Joe Morelle, one of our House Representatives from Upstate NY who sits on the House Committee on Rules and the Committee on Budget – both of which have some oversight in the prior authorization discussion. He was very responsive and appreciative for the real-world data.

Also on this front, New York had such a significant response that we now have a narrow lead over Indiana as the state with the most contributions to the PARTool, so our voice is being heard! I ask that you continue to submit cases through the PARTool over the next few months so that we have even more information for our upcoming advocacy efforts during the ACC Legislative Conference where we will be meeting with many of our Representatives and Senators, and this topic will most definitely be a focus. I also encourage you all to plan to accompany us for the Legislative Conference in November, to be held in Washington D.C. November 3-5, 2019. The larger our attendance, the louder our voice!

An additional conversation that occurred recently at our New York ACC Chapter Board meeting was that we need to find a way to deliver more educational and enhanced care delivery content to membership in local/regional conferences, rather than relying solely on large conferences held once or twice a year. To this end, we would like to begin planning a series of evening dinner conferences, perhaps with 1-2 invited speakers for each, centered around topics important to you and your patients and practices.

We want to engage more members in the offerings that the Chapter provides, and we realize that traveling to large conferences can be difficult with family and work demands. Therefore I encourage you to reach out to Norma Keller and myself (your Chapter Governors) or to your regional Councilors on the NYACC board to propose topics, suggest holding a conference in your area, or even offer to host a smaller meeting in your local region with NYACC's support. Your feedback and contributions help us to make the Chapter stronger and the benefits greater for all members.

Finally, it is time for Dr. Keller and I to begin to think about the election of our eventual replacements. As we are nearing the halfway point of our term, it is customary that we solicit nominations for the next Upstate and Downstate Governors for our Chapter, which is already well underway. The election will be in the next month or so, but there is still time if you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague to fill the positions that will lead us starting in 2021.

I think I speak for Norma and I both when I say this position has been one of the great honors of my professional career, and I highly recommend it for anyone looking to get more involved and take a leadership role within the ACC. As a member-run organization, the Chapter and the College depend upon those willing to take the helm and steer the practice of Cardiology forward. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out soon!

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your feedback and contributions, and I encourage you all to get more involved within the Chapter, even if it is to just send an email letting us know of issues of perceived need or recommendations for topics for regional meetings. Over the last few years, ours has become a thriving Chapter within the national ACC, and we have gained significant recognition for the things we have been able to do and accomplish together.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the rest of my remaining 20 or so months as Governor, and I look forward to handing the reins of Chapter President over to my partner in crime, Dr. Norma Keller, when she and I change hats in October and I become President of the New York Cardiological Society and she as President of NYACC. While the titles will change, our collaboration and continued investment in the Chapter will not, so continue to look out for big things ahead!!

Your Colleague,

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