



## Puerto Rico CHAPTER

State of the States 2017

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Governor

### MEMBERSHIP VALUE, ENGAGEMENT AND PURPOSEFUL EDUCATION

#### Annual Chapter Meeting

- During the first quarter of 2017, we held our 28<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting. Attendance throughout the two-day academic sessions was very crowded granting over 200 CME certificates this year. We were pleased to welcome physicians and CVT members from across the Island and received extraordinary reviews of the meetings' organization and scientific content. The meeting offered 6 different educational tracks, plus a half-day session bringing the most relevant parts of the ACC National CV Summit to our members. We were able to learn the importance of working together in this new regulatory and payment environment in order to be able to deliver quality care to our patients. Being able to implement and comply with MACRA requirements in an environment where EHRs are still not fully developed or integrated remains a challenge.
- During the meeting, we awarded the "Best in Care" award to one of our members who has developed educational tools and programs designed to improve early recognition of STEMI. These programs have had a very significant impact on our community and include a website and app that are both frequently updated sending monthly e-blasts testing one's ability to recognize STEMI electrocardiograms.
- The CVT convention was held simultaneously with the Annual Chapter Meeting, and focused on optimization of advanced nursing(?) practice in the cardiovascular patient and included focused sessions on pre hospital care of STEMI patients, cardiac arrhythmias and updates on all relevant ACC/AHA guidelines. Open format lectures were well appreciated by the audience and allowed for integration of the CVT members.
- Satellite meetings of the chapter leadership were held during the second day to introduce new elected council members, delineate roles and responsibilities, and empower participation, including that of our staff. Participation and increased engagement of members is another of our challenges.
- To improve on membership value, we expanded our educational portfolio and planned a one-day special session on cardiac arrhythmias. Meeting pre-registration, industry interest and faculty participation was very encouraging, but after the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria, we were forced to postpone the meeting until Q3 2018, so as not to interfere with our Annual Meeting, to be held during Q1 2018.

### POPULATION HEALTH

- Our chapter was charged with developing and delivering the educational component during the largest patient oriented event in Puerto Rico (CardiDay), attended by more than 10,000 people. This year, as a pilot program, we encouraged our FITs to take charge of this activity, and they performed up to the task. The Chapter also had volunteers throughout the day screening patients for hypertension and providing patient education materials in coordination with the CardioSmart team.
- The Chapter continues to work with our CVT members in an effort to design a pilot project to teach CPR to the community of influence of two of our main metropolitan area hospitals. We also held meetings aimed at improving education and teaching CPR to regular audiences of sports competitions.

#### DATA AND QUALITY

- We held our fourth NCDR satellite meeting with designated leaders from each participating site in an effort to evaluate the difficulties of implementing registries. As registry participation is now mandatory for several disciplines, we have seen a slight expansion on the program, though institutions continue to struggle with the workload and staffing requirements that registries demand. As some centers have advanced in their operational capacity as it relates to registries, we offered training onsite at leading institutions for teams that require a head start or a better understanding of the registries nuances.

#### ADVOCACY

- During the 2017 Legislative Conference our chapter held meetings with our house representative and planned for a local strategy to help reorganize our legislative efforts at the state and national levels.
- During the very early aftermath of Hurricane Maria we reached out to the College leadership for help, primarily related to assuring the adequacy of federal funding for relief and assistance in the health care sector. The response was immediate and Dr. Walsh herself asked the Health Affairs Committee to be directly involved in overseeing and coordinating efforts. I was personally overwhelmed by the rapidness of response and the organization that was put in place to assure the federal relief package was sufficient. Dr. Thad Waites maintained personal communication with us and kept us abreast of valuable information. This effort continues active at this point.

#### TRANSFORMATION OF CARE

- We held the Annual Transition to Practice Forum; an opportunity for our FITs and early careers to interact with senior faculty and key players in the local health care system. This year we were fortunate to have Dr. Robert Guyton attend the forum and explain to members the more current views and intersections of career type choices and market facts as well as practice models in light of newer regulations and payment reform.
- We offered mentorship Award to our FITs to attend the National meeting and be mentored by a member of the leadership team. We also hosted various Journal Clubs for all FITs at the Chapter offices.

Last year, it was rather simple to itemize the challenges our Chapter faced when putting our strategic goals in front of us and laying out our agenda for the upcoming year. This year however, the situation is quite different. As the Chapter was getting ready to host its fourth cardiac arrhythmia symposium in early October, a meeting traditionally heavily attended, we were hit with two back-to-back devastating hurricanes, Irma and Maria. The depth of devastation left behind was unimaginable and no broadcasted image can effectively relate the feeling of loss that we all felt when those winds finally died down.

As we continue to fight to regain stability, we are all faced with the challenges of a new reality. At this point, the priority is to reopen practices. Some will have to be relocated, as many communities still lack power and many hospitals and office buildings have been rendered inoperable by the severity of structural damages. Many practices are facing the acute challenges of depleting populations and the exodus of physicians. As each individual practitioner resettles, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our members to make resources available for their individual needs.

Finally, we are planning an invigorating 2018 Annual Meeting offering both academic and business related education, as well as a more engaged social agenda encouraging greater interaction amongst our members as we move forward together as a unified chapter in rebuilding a stronger community.