



Puerto Rico CHAPTER

State of the States 2016
Juan C. Sotomonte, MD, FACC
Governor

MEMBERSHIP VALUE, ENGAGEMENT AND PURPOSEFUL EDUCATION

Annual Chapter Meeting

- In 2016 we held an extremely successful meeting, reaching **record attendance** (over 230 participants) for a two-day meeting. We offered 8 different educational tracks, including a session on practice reform. Members were able to learn about optimization of their cardiovascular service lines and how to incorporate quality metrics into daily practice. The meeting also offered lectures on the impact of registries and performance metrics in cardiology. Understanding the need to be ready to comply and adapt to new regulations affecting the delivery of care in our current fiscal situation is our **#1 challenge**. ⁽¹⁾
- During the meeting, we awarded the **first “Best in Care” award**, to the founding members of the PRINCE project for their leadership. We also reinforced the importance of early MI recognition with a special lecture on different tools and apps locally developed to help diagnose myocardial infarction across the spectrum of providers.
- The **CVT** convention was held simultaneously with the Annual Chapter Meeting, and focused on **evidence based care on cardiovascular medicine**. Lectures on opportunities to collaborate to improve patient care as outlined in the Puerto Rico Nursing Practice Act were given as well as a thorough review of current cardiovascular topics ranging from hypertension, TAVR, new advances on electrophysiology, syncope, heart failure and the impact of the rapid response teams among others.
- 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 our **#2 challenge**.

POPULATION HEALTH

- Our chapter was charged with developing and delivering the educational component during the **largest patient oriented event in the Puerto Rico** (CardiDay), attended by more than 10,000 people. 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 reached out to 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 and encourage

compliance with recommendations on CPR instructions to patients and families at risk of sudden cardiac death.

DATA AND QUALITY

- We held our third NCDR satellite meeting with designated leaders from each participating site in an effort to evaluate the difficulties of implementing registries. It was clearly noted that pricing is an impediment in the local economic environment and pay structure. President Elect Dr. Mari N. Walsh helped us reach out to NCDR leadership trying to achieve a “discounted” rate for institutions that are willing to join for the first time or add on their existing registries. These talks were followed by a face to face meeting during the 2016 Legislative Conference, and we were able to **secure bilingual technical assistance**, which was instrumental in helping one of our local institutions achieve 100% compliance with expected submissions. **Increase use of NCDR initiatives is our #3 challenge.**

ADVOCACY

- During the 2016 Legislative Conference, our chapter reached a **record number of meetings** in great measure due to the extraordinary work of the ACC advocacy team. We met with 6 of the 7 members of the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth on Puerto Rico to lobby for increased funding, transparency and quality. In these meetings we explained how through specific initiatives, the health care sector as a whole can be fundamental in helping revitalize the local economy. We were honored to count on the assistance of three other Chapters (Florida, New Jersey and Utah), whose powerful voices helped us make a stronger call for parity in Medicare and Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico. A **formal document formalizing our positions and requesting participation was submitted to the Task Force**. Solidifying our advocacy efforts nationally and locally is our **#4 challenge**.
- In the second semester of 2016, we launched an Island wide advocacy effort, inviting participation from all academic and regulatory entities to assure that **newly licensed nurse practitioners be allowed to practice within all expected areas of cardiovascular care** (which was not previously allowed) and to remove unnecessary regulations and hurdles that limit their potential impact in patient care.

TRANSFORMATION OF CARE

- 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. Ed Fry 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.
- Awarded a Mentorship Award to one of 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.

(1) Challenges are numbered in no particular order.