



## CCA CHAIR COLUMN

–**Linda Tavares**

This has been an amazing 2001 so far. We have just had a remarkable and historic ACC Scientific Conference. The scope of lectures was all inclusive and the CCA tract continues to grow. CCAs were on many platforms of many sessions. The inaugural class of AACCs was inducted in full ACC fan fare. Virginia was pleased to have 3 (Allison Brooks, Deb Croy, and Linda Tavares) CCAs walk in the procession. The ACC recognized 90 inductees.

I encourage each of you who have been an ACC member for 2 years to check out the web site and apply for the designation. It is a huge honor and serves to recognize those members who have achieved board certification.

The CCA group is moving ahead with numerous sub-committees. The newsletter will highlight the activities of these national sub committees. These groups are open to any CCA who is interested. Many of our EC members are on the various committees, so if you are interested in joining a subcommittee, please let us know.

Locally, the Virginia chapter has developed a CCA executive Committee. We are so pleased to have Jan Griffin from INVOA hospital and Liz Hagan from Cardiovascular Associates in the Tidewater joined the team. Since these ladies have joined the team, we now

have a CCA committee with representatives in all areas of the state. Allison Brooks in Lynchburg, Deb Croy in the western part of the state, Sue Waters and Mahesh Murugesan from UVA. and Linda Tavares in Richmond.

The goal of the CCA EC is to coordinate, collaborate, and communicate what CCAs are doing across the state. I would welcome any other CCAs who would like to be a part of this team. We have conference calls once a month, so please let me know.

If your organization is having a meeting and would like the VCACC to assist you with advertising please contact a chapter board member to see how we may make this a reality. Although there are specific guidelines we have to follow, if at all possible we would love to work with you.

Mark your calendars for the Legislative Conference Sept 11-13 in Washington DC and the VA Chapter meeting November 18-20. Please let us know if you want to attend and need a roommate, and we will try assist you with the arrangements

Finally, I want to thank each of you personally for all that you contribute to the care of our precious patients with cardiovascular disease. The work you do every day is making a difference in people's lives. As we assist our patients in lifestyle modification, assist with low cost medications, advocate for health care reform, and help our patients improve their functional status and



quality of life. we make a difference. The Virginia Chapter of the ACC is here to partner with you.

## **ACC-NEWS**

The ACC Scientific Session was held April 2-5, 2011 in New Orleans, LA. We are pleased to share the reflections of Suzanne Waters, Lead Cardiovascular NP at UVA.

### First Impression:

*This is the first year that I attended the ACC Summit and was thoroughly impressed to see physician and mid level provider's (MLP's) from across the world! The program was very organized and the New Orleans community was very inviting and accommodating. Learning and networking opportunities were everywhere! Let me share some of my insights!*

### Learning:

*There was information to glean from a myriad of teaching venues. The program consisted of over 300 lectures, in addition to, the poster presentation hall and an exhibit hall. The latest textbooks were available for viewing or purchase, as well. Each session's course content was available, online, through eScience. This was so helpful, as I wanted to share the information with the rest of my other colleagues, who did not attend the summit. What a wonderful opportunity to continue learning after the conference ended! One could only wish to be able to attend every session, but there was not enough time. Learning could be obtained from various specialty domains within cardiovascular medicine and surgery. The learner could choose to select topics from one specialty*

*area for a more focused learning experience, or choose topics from multiple specialties in order to get a broad overview. Topics were vast and included: lifelong learning, arrhythmias, heart failure, hyperlipidemia, congenital heart disease, imaging, ischemia, quality, technology, valvular, vascular/endovascular, coronary, interventional and surgical. The speakers came from all over the world and most impressive was to hear how clinical practice compared across the world! I was so impressed and really enjoyed the content I gleaned from all the sessions I attended, but most especially liked the pharmacology and core curriculum sessions.*

### Networking:

*Networking was another valuable opportunity for the participant. I met people I never knew before and was able to get other perspectives on clinical practice across the country. Learning was contagious as it occurred not only in the classroom, but also on the streets in New Orleans and on the ride to or from the convention center or airport. The poster presentations added to the whole learning experience and categorized by specialty so it made looking for a certain topic easy. The poster presentations were evidence based and without bias. The presenters were helpful in sharing their research and always willing to answer any questions one on one. I will be able to share this knowledge and apply the information to my own practice. I even brought back the newsletter to share with my colleagues back home some of the spotlights from the previous days sessions.*



Collegiality:

*Mid level providers (MLP's) had the opportunity to network with other Cardiac Care Associates (CCA's) on both a regional chapter and national level. They were encouraged to support the mission and vision of ACC by volunteering for CCA work groups. Some workgroups included: political action, advance practice nursing, publication, advocacy and others. The feeling of welcome and collegiality was further heightened with attendance to the all chapter reception and sixteenth annual convocation of new inductees from all over the world. Recognition for research was applauded and awards were presented. This year was the first year that CCA's were inducted into the ACC and the president of ACC was enthusiastic and welcoming to all.*

*The ACC is a great organization and I am proud to be a member. We can do so much to help our patients by sharing knowledge and in supporting one another in our research. I look forward to sharing what I learned, continuing to learn from the online content for those lectures I wasn't able to attend and plan to attend the national conference next year!*

**AACC designation:** It is finally official; the ACC has recognized CCAs with the designation of Associate of the American College of Cardiology. This is such a prestigious designation that our CCA leaders and physicians who know the value CCAs add to their practice, has been made available. So far there have been over 90 CCA's to be award the designation. Please check the website for the application and details. If you meet the qualifications be sure to apply!

**Cardiosource Community ACC** recently implemented a networking site for different subgroups within the College. There is a CCA group, you may join by going to [www.cardiosource.org](http://www.cardiosource.org) if you are a member of ACC use your log-on credentials.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **2011 VHAC/Mission: Lifeline Stakeholder's Summit**

Please join us on Saturday, June 11, 2011 Eanes Pittman Public Safety Training Center, 6610 Public Safety Way Chesterfield, VA Join us to hear the latest on the Virginia Heart Attack Coalition/Mission Lifeline STEMI initiative. Open to STEMI care providers of all levels. **Featured Speaker:** Dr. Eric Powers, South Carolina Mission Lifeline Director

**September 11-13, 2011 Legislative Conference. Fairmont Hotel. Watch the website ACC.org for details and to register.** This is a wonderful time to learn about the legislative process and is an excellent opportunity to discover how you can make the most effective impact for change.

**November 18-20, 2011:** Virginia Chapter Conference. Boars Head Inn, Charlottesville, VA. A wine tour is being planned for the Saturday of the chapter meeting.

### **March 24 – 27, 2012 ACC.12 and i2 Summit 2012 in Chicago, IL**

Registration for the hotels usually open early September for ACC members to get the most desirable rooms it is important to register early! the CCA events usually start the Saturday prior so plan to arrive by Friday pm.



### **CCA SPOTLIGHT**

In upcoming editions of the newsletter, we will be featuring our CCA members.

*This month, it is an honor to introduce one of our CCA Committee members, meet one of our newest members of the VA executive council Suzanne Waters in her own words:*



*I have been a nurse for 36 years and am a graduate from New York State. I have worked in New York, Hawaii and Virginia. I have had extensive experience in several director level positions for large healthcare systems. I have overseen administrative, supervisory, educative, and financial responsibility for large medical centers, including a multi-hospital health care system. As a nurse leader, I have partnered with senior organizational leadership to meet identified strategic initiatives and worked with staff to hardwire excellence into their daily workload. I have been a member of the AONE (American Organization of Nurse Executives). My administrative experience has been focused*

*at growing system wide educational service lines within multi-facility acute care health care systems. I have supervised and mentored specialty specific advance practice nurse educators in the development and implementation of unit specific, competency based and evidence based training programs system wide nursing departments. I have created a 4 hospital, system - wide, simulation laboratory and have functioned as a consultant for other organizations looking to create the same. As collegiate faculty, I have worked to develop nursing professionals at all levels of nursing programs, most recently in training advance practice clinicians (nurse practitioners) at the University of Hawaii. As a clinician, I have exemplified clinical excellence within my own practice by being board certified in family practice and by expanding my clinical expertise in wound care, cardiology and emergency medicine. I have worked with cardiology for approximately 18 years. I currently am the lead interventional nurse practitioner at the University of Virginia which encompasses care of both electrophysiology and cardiac catheterization patients. I have expanded the role of the nurse practitioner service on both the inpatient and outpatient side. On the inpatient side, I have expanded the role of the NP with the development of a new "Inpatient Service." On the outpatient side, I have expanded the role of the NP in the development of a "cards urgent" drop in clinic, expanded NP coverage in the EP pre-procedure clinic and the electrophysiology cardiology clinics. I have always focused at maintaining excellence physician relationships, excellent patient care, and quality outcomes. I am involved in process*



*improvement activities that focus on improving patient flow, patient satisfaction and patient safety. I am proud to be a member of the VCACC -CCA and HRS for the last 2 years. I heard about the CCA by my collaborating cardiology supervisor. I have attended several seminars at the Heart House in Washington, DC and most recently in New Orleans. I have found the ACC to be a quality professional organization whose mission is to educate and grow new cardiology practitioners, in addition to supporting research and development. The opportunity to learn is always available either by attending chapter and national ACC conferences, and reading updates in Cardiosource, ACC Advocate, ACC News Digest, ACC Quality First SmartBrief, or through [resource@acc.org](mailto:resource@acc.org). The CCA networking is beneficial for new and seasoned members alike. There are opportunities to make a difference by participating in workgroups within the ACC - CCA. The organization is welcoming to new members and encourages all to become actively involved. I have recently joined the advance practice workgroup which is a national workgroup. Opportunity knocks as this is an organization that encourages one to participate both regionally and nationally, while endorsing self growth through leadership opportunities and professional development through evidence based research.*

### ***The VCACC and ACC need you!***

The Virginia Chapter of the ACC's CCA team is one of the more active chapters, we know we have CCA members who have yet to volunteer who are very knowledgeable and their contributions would be invaluable. We

encourage you to contact Jennifer Beckman or Linda Tavares to learn how you can help our chapter grow even stronger!

### **ACC COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES**

How often do you get the opportunity to be on the forefront of such a respected organization the following committees of the College are seeking new members to serve on a number of committees, task forces and working groups including: advocacy, publications, guidelines please see [cardiosource.com](http://cardiosource.com) for a complete list.. Interested in becoming active in the College? Visit ACC's [Get Involved](#) page or email Kelli Bohannon at [kbohanno@acc.org](mailto:kbohanno@acc.org)..

We highly encourage you to sign-up. This is an exciting time to become involved in the growth and expansion of the College on both the state and national level. Your contributions can make a difference

#### **CCA COMMITTEE**

*John Dent MD FACC-Chapter President*

*Linda Tavares, ACNP-AACC-Chair & CCA Representative to the Council*  
[L3RHYTHM60@aol.com](mailto:L3RHYTHM60@aol.com)

*Allison Brooks, FNP-AACC Representative to the Council*  
[alburseslc@aol.com](mailto:alburseslc@aol.com)

*Debbie Croy, ANP-A.A.C.C. CLS Newsletter & Facebook*  
[bdcroy@suddenlink.net](mailto:bdcroy@suddenlink.net)

Sue Waters FNP (UVA Charlottesville, VA)

Mahesh Murugesan NP (UVA Charlottesville, VA)

Jan Griffin, NP (INOVA Fairfax, VA)

Liz Hagan, NP (Tidewater)

*Jennifer Ray Beckman-Executive Director*  
[jlrbeckman@verizon.net](mailto:jlrbeckman@verizon.net) or telephone: 877-793-8171