



Top Chapters Honored for 2010 Contributions

ACC's annual gathering of College leaders in January played host to the fifth annual ACC Chapter Awards Reception, which honored five top chapters in categories representing the four pillars of the College. Winning chapters earned the top spots after exemplifying success in their states in advocacy, education, quality and membership and community.

For the first time in any category, two deserving chapters earned the Chapter Recognition Award for Advocacy. The North Carolina Chapter, led by Governor **Oscar Jenkins, M.D., F.A.C.C.**, and Chapter Executive **Beth Denny**, designated the 2010 chapter mission to focus on advocacy. The



chapter named September "Active in Advocacy" month, which included a successful cardiology week in North Carolina that engaged 22 state and federal elected officials and their staff in five locations across the state to discuss issues like the financial impact of the Medicare payment cuts on cardiology and electronic medical records.

"Thanks to all of the very hard work by the members of our state chapter," said Jenkins. This award marks the fifth win for the North Carolina Chapter in the Chapter Recognition Awards Program history.

The Indiana Chapter also received the Chapter Recognition Award for Advocacy under the leadership of Governor **John S. Strobel, M.D., F.A.C.C.**, and Chapter Executive **Gwen Goldfarb**. The chapter held a Legislative Lobby Day that included appointments with 39 legislators focused on smoke-free issues, access to care and medical liability reform, followed by visits to Senate district offices to discuss the 2010 Medicare rule. Indiana emphasizes the importance of building and maintaining relationships with legislators by sending the entire cardiac care team to Capitol Hill visits during ACC's Legislative Conference.



"We are grateful to our many members whose hard work brought us this recognition," said Strobel. "We will not rest on our laurels, however, and have already begun to initiate new advocacy projects, so that the voice of the cardiology community continues to be heard and that positive change can be achieved."

Both chapters emphasize the importance of the ACC Political Action Committee in bringing about change for cardiology.

The Chapter Recognition Award for Education went to the Puerto Rico Chapter, led by Governor **Luis F. Rodríguez-**



Ospina, M.D., F.A.C.C., and Chapter Executive **Eurencia Georgina Olmo**. For 11 years, the chapter has been holding successful communitarian symposia with attendance reaching as high as 500 and requests to hold sessions at multiple locations across the island.

Attendance at and participation in educational chapter events are on the rise with more outreach to the cardiac care team, FIT members and island residents.

"We would like to thank our members and patients as this award reflects their commitment to education and patient care," said Rodríguez-Ospina. "Without their support and participation, this award would not be possible."

The Oregon Chapter was awarded the Chapter Recognition Award for Membership and Community under the guidance of Governor **Sandra Lewis, M.D., F.A.C.C.**, and Chapter Executive **Alan Morasch**. Priding themselves on not operating in silos as the geographic and cultural diversity of the state would naturally allow, the Oregon Chapter has instead built a community focused on the commitment to quality patient care, clinical excellence, education and lifelong learning. Chapter leaders are committed to mentoring the future leaders in cardiology and hold social events to foster relationships between council members and FITs.



Awarded for their successful, inclusive quality program that spans across the entire care team, the Ohio Chapter received the James T. Dove Chapter Recognition Award for Quality. Led by Governor **Robert E. Hobbs, M.D., F.A.C.C.**, and Chapter Executive **Gwen Goldfarb**, the Chapter organized the NCDR Cath-PCI Hands-On Skills Workshop along with the Ohio Thoracic and Cardiovascular Data Management Group. Seventy-two participants from multiple states attended the event set to help participants gain understanding and competence surrounding data definitions in the NCDR Cath-PCI database.



"The goal of our project was to clarify data interpretation and provide a clear understanding of the registry elements that are frequently misinterpreted," said Hobbs. "The importance of good data and registries is critical during these challenging times in health care delivery."

For more information about ACC Chapters, visit CardioSource.org/Chapters.