

FROM THE ACC

President's Page: Transformation, Transmogrification, Transfiguration, et al.

“Transformation, transmogrification, transfiguration, et al.” relates to fundamental changes in the way we view the world and the way we think and act, and in so doing, shape the future that occurs each day. Organizations and societies that do not participate in these processes drift and circle endlessly into the backwaters of irrelevance. We, your American College of Cardiology (ACC), choose not to spend time in these backwaters.

In particular, the ACC remains determined to transform one of its primary missions that has characterized its purpose from the time of inception in 1949—namely, science and education. This is a thoughtful response to tremendous advances in science and technology and radically changing education strategies. (One needs only to sit at the kitchen table and try to help the next generation master the so-called “new math” to see these educational shifts.) Key changes include recognition of learner needs (wherein what is taught focuses on what the learner needs rather than what the teacher wants to teach), the urgent need to optimize quality medical care for all patients, and the burgeoning requirements for life-long learning.

Most recently, these issues have led to a transformation of the ACC.12 program, led by Drs. Rick Nishimura and Pat O’Gara in concert with the ACC Educational Division. ACC.12 will concentrate on: 1) promoting the science; 2) facilitating physician competence; 3) using alternative long-distance learning strategies; 4) collaborating with subspecialty societies within the family of cardiology; and 5) using cutting-edge technology to more fully engage younger, more facile members who not only have mastered the new math but can also “surf the Web.”

These areas of concentration will be showcased in several ways:

1. First and foremost, the meeting is undergoing a radical change in scheduling. There will be 1 full-access registration for all attendees that will include the new interventional pathway—ACC-i2 with Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics—and the ACC.12 Exposition. The meeting will kick off on Saturday, March 24, 2012, at 8:00 AM, with the opening session. In addition, a new format will run throughout the whole meeting, promoting the concept of science in the mornings followed by practical applications of that science, reviews, and maintenance of certification (MOC) in the afternoons.
2. MOC sessions will combine the educational importance of new science with the fulfillment of MOC credits. Using video links and webcasts, overseas partners from international chapters and other individuals and organizations will be fully and integrally involved. We will be providing highly-desired MOC credits to thousands of people through this novel instructional design.
3. A lifelong learning individual portfolio will provide the ability to build a personalized lifelong curriculum based on specific learner needs. This portfolio will be integrated with a point-of-care search capability that will allow access to Self-Assessment Programs (SAPs) and guideline data at the point-of-care. This will facilitate evidence-based care and will also allow assessment of one’s practice.

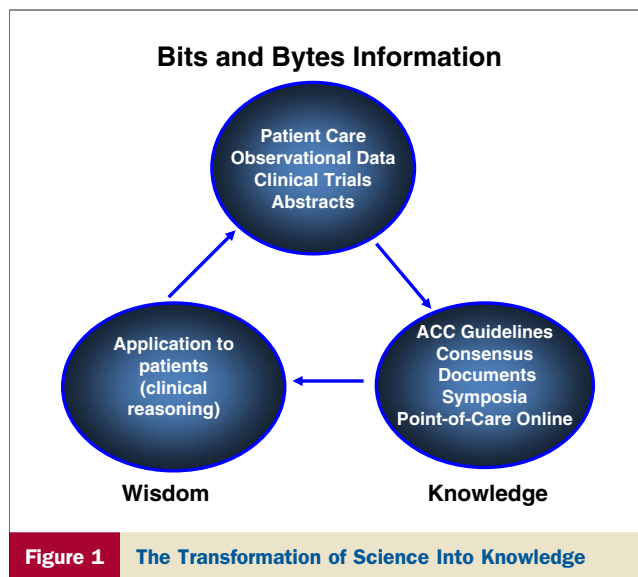


David R. Holmes, Jr., MD, FACC
ACC President

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4. "ACC here, there, and everywhere" will be a simultaneous webcast of ACC.12 sessions in select U.S. and international cities. This program will incorporate new science and allow physicians to identify areas they need to master as part of lifelong learning. Such an approach with long-distance learning will be a model for the future.
5. Cobranded sessions with cardiovascular societies, such as the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, will include both education and scientific abstracts and will emphasize not only leading-edge concepts but also the interface of technical data with general cardiology interests and needs.
6. A new "Legends in Cardiovascular Medicine" concept will involve legendary intellects, teachers, and creative giants focusing on their specific areas of interest through invited lectures and interactive discussions.
7. Dedicated content for Fellows in Training will include a "Master Clinician" session, exposure to information about ways technology will change the way cardiovascular medicine is practiced, a roundtable meet-and-greet with thought leaders, and a session on finding the right job.

The overarching goal of all of these changes is to continue the transformation of education and science—the underpinnings of your ACC. The field in which the College plays a central role can be thought of as a triangle, with bits and bytes of information, followed by data that is collated and synthesized into knowledge, which is then applied—along with individual and aggregate experience—as wisdom to treat the patient at



hand (Fig. 1). ACC.12 will be unlike any ACC meeting seen before, as we showcase and teach the art and science of reasoning. Transformation, transmogrification, transfiguration, et al. grows stronger. Excitement builds.

From the ACC to You!

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