Governor's Welcome & Introduction

Dinesh Kalra, MD, MBA, FACC, FNLA, FSCCT, FSCMR, FASPC, FAHA

Division Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine
Professor of Medicine & Endowed Chair in CV Innovations
Director Advanced Cardiac Imaging, Lipid Clinic & Infiltrative Heart Disease Program
University of Louisville School of Medicine
Louisville, Kentucky

President, NLA
Governor, KY ACC Chapter

Chair-elect, ACC Board of Governors
Editor-in-Chief, JACC: Advances
dinesh.kalra@louisville.edu
@DineshKalra

10-17-26, 8:30-8:45 AM

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE®

ACC Mission:
The mission of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.

Enduring Purpose:
The ACC strives to achieve its enduring purpose: to improve cardiovascular health through education, research, quality care and health policy.

Vision:
The members of the College will dramatically reduce the incidence, severity and complications of cardiovascular disease as we promote prevention, reduce disparities in health care, and improve personal and population-based cardiovascular health.

Core Values:
- Professionalism: The interests of patients are primary.
- Knowledge: The College must promote growth, dissemination and application of knowledge about cardiovascular medicine.
- Value of the cardiovascular specialist: The cardiovascular profession makes a distinct contribution to medical care that should be recognized and enhanced.
- Integrity: Honesty, compliance with legal requirements, and ethical behavior are essential in all activities.
- Member driven: The College and its major activities must be led by active members and must promote volunteerism.
- Inclusiveness: The College involves a broad range of volunteers that reflects the composition of its membership

Welcome to Louisville!

- Louisville is the disco ball capitol of the world. 90% of the disco balls are produced in Louisville

- The Old Fashioned was invented in Louisville at the Pendennis Club downtown in the 1800s. Not to be confused with the Mint Julep that is the official Kentucky Derby cocktail—where over 100,000 Mint Juleps are served.

- The Kentucky Derby is the longest-running sporting event in the country, dating to 1875, held at the iconic Churchill Downs

- Louisville is the hometown of Jennifer Lawrence and Diane Sawyer and of course, Muhammad Ali

- The cheeseburger was invented right here at Kaelin's restaurant in 1934

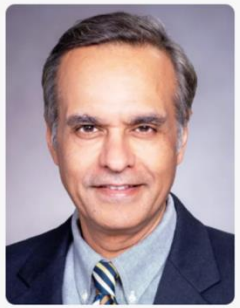
Welcome to Louisville!

- Louisville's signature dish is a comfort food called the Hot Brown, invented in 1926 at the Brown hotel downtown by chef Fred Schmidt. It's an open-faced sandwich with thick sliced turkey and bacon smothered in Mornay sauce (butter and heavy cream), topped with Parmesan cheese and roma tomatoes, on a thick Texas toast and oven-broiled till bubbling hot. Served with a free referral to my prevention clinic!

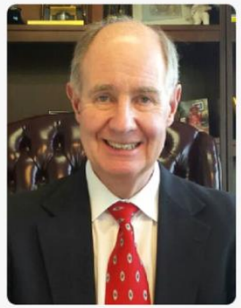
- The oldest operating Mississippi-style steamboat is in Louisville. The Belle of Louisville is over 100 years old

- The 'Big Bat' outside of Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory is the world's largest baseball bat. Standing 120 feet tall, made of steel, and weighing only 68,000 pounds, it is a full-scale replica of the bat used by Babe Ruth

KY ACC Board of Directors



Dinesh Kalra, MD
Governor
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY



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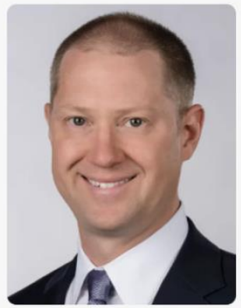

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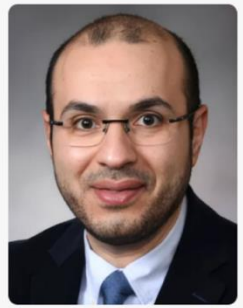

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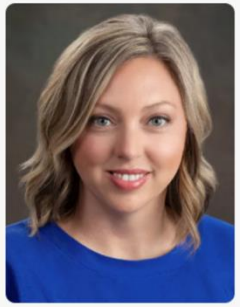

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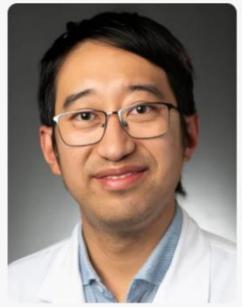


Dongbo Yu, MD
Councilor
Baptist Health
Lexington, KY

Goals & Accomplishments of KY ACC chapter

1. Ensure that KY ACC the #1 CV professional home for all our members
2. Enhance member value: Monthly WIC meetings/coffee clubs/educational offerings & ASM, FIT networking programs, CV team members
3. Deliver actionable knowledge to the busy providers – ~200 attendees in 2023; 250 this meeting; 50 posters 2023 and 70 this year
4. Engage in State & Federal Advocacy
5. Increase partnership with local medical and professional organizations: KMA, GLMS, AHA
6. Mentorship programs
7. Leadership development
8. Networking/Educational events
9. Ambassador Program
10. Organizational and practice growth & sustainability
11. Strategic planning meeting Sunday 10-18-26

KY ACC Quick Stats

- Membership steady increase over the past 5 years
- Total membership: 608
  - 12 AACC (Nurse, PAs, Pharmacist, Technologist, Rehabilitation Professional, or Genetic Counselor)
  - 12 Associate Affiliate (Non-Cardiovascular Physician/Scientist)
  - 93 Associate Fellow
  - 10 CCMA
  - 6 CV team student
  - 117 CV Team
  - 293 FACCs
  - 35 FIT
  - 30 Residents/Med Students
- 80 poster submissions of which 66 will be presented
- Annual budget ~ $150K, assets 324K

2026-2027 goals for Advocacy

1. Sustainable Medicare & Medicaid payment practices
2. Coronary calcium scoring
3. Expanding access & equitable care – rural, telehealth, minorities

Kentucky CHAPTER

About | Annual Meeting | WIC | Resources | News

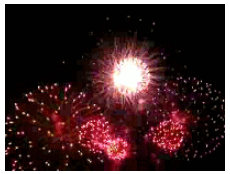
Cardiology in the Commonwealth — An Interview with Kentucky ACC Governor, Dr. Dinesh Kalra

The Kentucky Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (KYACC) is pleased to welcome Dinesh Kalra, MD, FACC, FNLA, FSCCT, FSCMR as the 2024-2027 Governor of the KYACC. In addition to his volunteer service, Dr. Kalra serves as the Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Vice Chair for Quality, Department of Medicine, Professor of Medicine & Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Innovations, and the Director of Advanced Cardiac Imaging, Lipid Clinic & Infiltrative Heart Disease Program at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

KYACC recently had the opportunity to interview Dr. Kalra about his vision for the Kentucky Chapter and the many activities underway!

—

KYACC: What are your primary goals and vision for the Kentucky chapter during your tenure as governor?



Prior Authorization reform – done April 2026

Kentucky CHAPTER

Impacts of Prior Authorization

On average, practices complete

43

PAs per physician, per week

Physicians and their staff spend

12 HOURS

each week completing PAs

More than **1 in 3** or

35%

of physicians have staff who work exclusively on PA

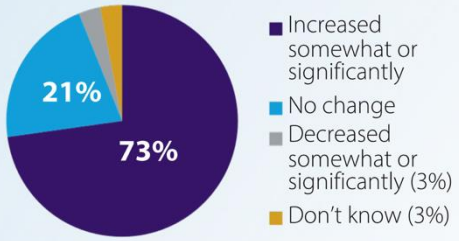
PA denials

More than

1 in 4 (27%)

physicians report that PAs are **often** or **always** denied

Q: How has the number of PA denials changed over the last five years?



95%

of physicians report that PA **somewhat or significantly** increases physician burnout

PA appeals

Fewer than

1 in 5 (18%)

physicians report that they **always** appeal an adverse PA decision

Why don't physicians appeal?

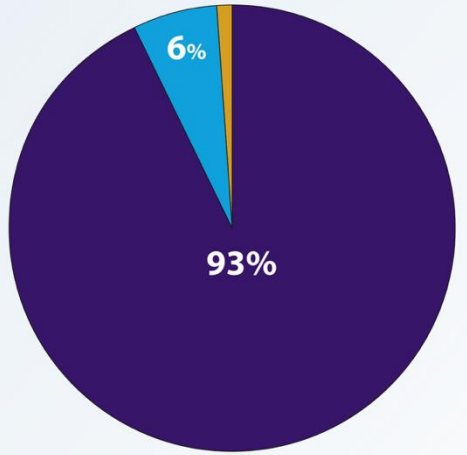
62% report that they do not believe the appeal will be successful based on past experience

48% report that patient care cannot wait for the health plan to approve the PA

48% report that they have insufficient practice staff resources/time

Impact of PA on clinical outcomes

Q: For those patients whose treatment requires PA, what is your perception of the overall impact of this process on patient clinical outcomes?



More than 1 in 3 (35%) physicians report that PA criteria are rarely or never evidence-based

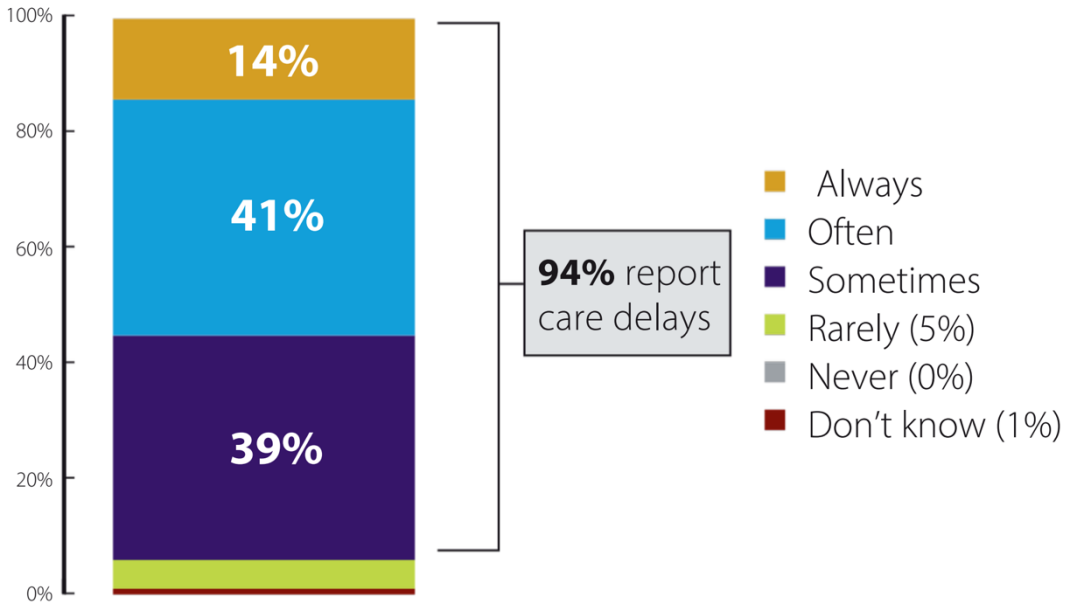
- Somewhat or significant **negative** impact
- No impact
- Somewhat or significant **positive** impact (1%)

(Survey completed by the American Medical Association, 2024)

Impacts of Prior Authorization

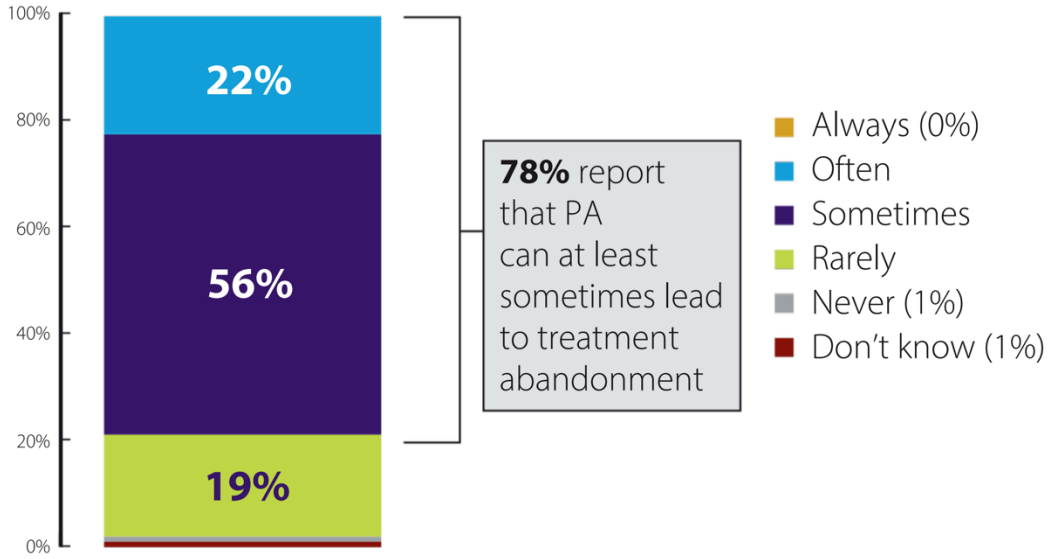
Care delays associated with PA

Q: For those patients whose treatment requires PA, how often does this process delay access to necessary care?



Treatment abandonment due to PA

Q: How often do issues related to the PA process lead to patients abandoning their recommended course of treatment?



Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

KMA House Bill 423

Kentucky General Assembly

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Legislation / 2026 Regular Session / House Bills / House Bill 176

House Bill 176

Actions | Amendments

Last Action	04/13/26: signed by Governor
Title	AN ACT relating to prior authorization.
Bill Documents	Current/Final Introduced
Fiscal Impact Statements	Actuarial Analysis Health Mandate Local Mandate State Employee Health Plan Impact
Bill Request Number	119
Sponsors	K. Moser, R. Duvall, C. Aull, B. Chester-Burton, D. Grossberg, B. McCool, S. Stalker

Signed into law 4/13/26

Calcium Scoring for ASCVD prevention through insurance coverage

4 states mandate insurance coverage for appropriate pts - TX, NM, CT, MD

Resolution adopted by GLMS and KMA fall 2024.

HB 642 introduced 2024 by Rep. Susan Witten

- One of 2024 KMA Resolutions
- Encourages and supports legislation that requires coverage of Coronary Calcium Scoring CT testing
- Kentucky is the 6th highest state with atheromatous heart disease
- Clinical ASCVD in Kentucky is 12.4% vs. national average 9.1%
- Risk factors are common for Kentuckians with 24.6% smokers and 37% obese

2024-

RESOLUTION

Subject: Coronary Calcium Scoring Coverage by Insurance Companies
Authored By: Dinesh Kalra, MD and Aneeta Bhatia, MD
Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society
Referred to: KMA Reference Committee

WHERAS, Coronary artery disease is the number one cause of death in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

WHERAS, Kentucky is the 6th highest state with Atheromatous heart disease in the Nation

WHERAS, compared to the National average of 9.1%, 12.4% of adults in the Commonwealth have a diagnosis of coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction (heart attack), or stroke

WHERAS, Kentucky has some of the highest risk factors that lead to heart disease in the country - 24.6% are smokers, 37% Obese.

WHERAS, Heart disease mortality in the Appalachian region was 45% higher than the national rate and 32% more than non-Appalachians.

WHERAS, Screening for prevention of disease is a public health measure. Coronary Calcium Scoring (CACS) has the potential to identify individuals at higher risk of coronary artery disease

WHERAS, The American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Guidelines on prevention recommend the use of CACS to better understand risk of future CV events

WHERAS, The Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Task Force of Kentucky, in partnership with the KY Department of Public Health's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program, recommends preventive screening of lipids (cholesterol) and CACS for earlier identification of at-risk individuals

WHEREAS, AHA forecasts annual health care costs for cardiovascular disease to quadruple, from $393 billion to $1490 billion, and productivity losses to increase by 54%.

WHEREAS, Coronary Calcium Scoring is not yet required to be covered by insurance companies as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010; and

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA) encourages and supports legislation that requires coverage for Coronary Calcium Scoring CT testing.

KMA Advocacy 11-1-25

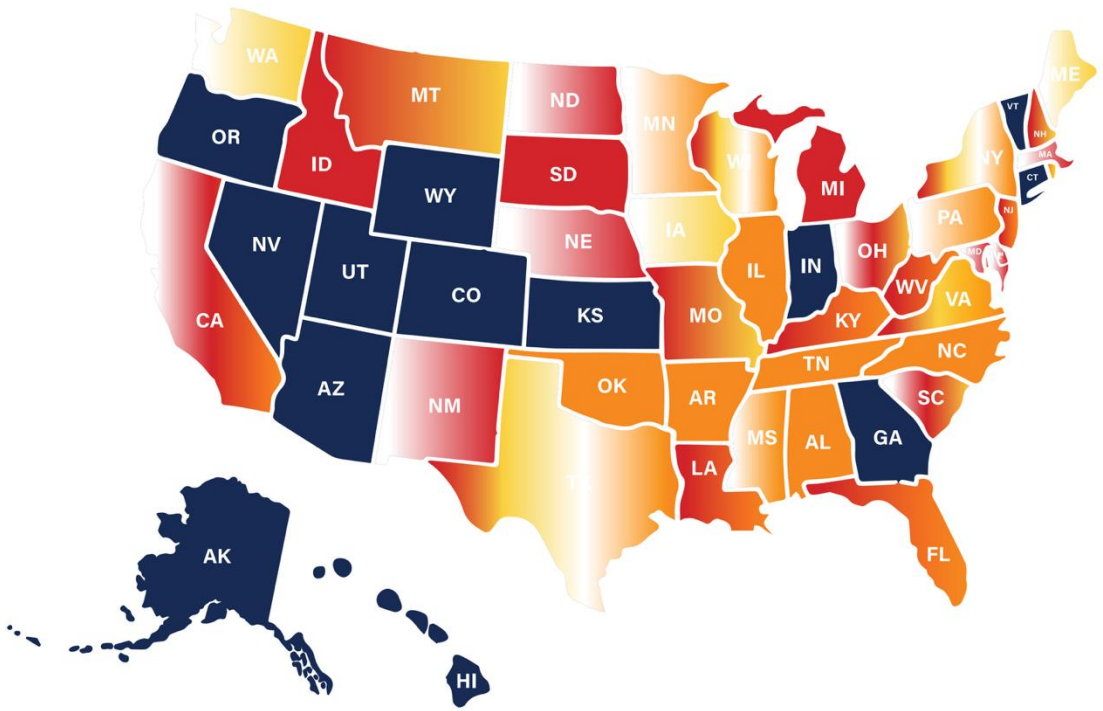
KMA
KENTUCKY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Physicians Caring for Kentucky

Advocacy Day Frankfort 2-18-26

Advocacy

Trending Issues 2026

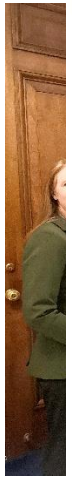
This map shows which ACC priority issue(s) Chapters have worked to advance at the state level.



Map Key

- Prior Authorization
- SCA Preparedness
- Prevention & Health Equity
- Non-Competes

Advocacy ACC: October 2026



ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE MEDICARE PAYMENT PRACTICES

UPDATE THE BUDGET NEUTRALITY THRESHOLD

ESTABLISH SUSTAINABLE MEDICARE PAYMENT PRACTICES

IMPLEMENT A PERMANENT INFLATIONARY UPDATE

FOSTER CARE TRANSFORMATION AND OPTIMIZATION

STREAMLINE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PRACTICES

CHAMPION ACCESS TO CARE FOR ALL

ADVANCE PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION FOR WOMEN

BOLSTER THE CLINICIAN WORKFORCE NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS

BOLSTER THE CLINICIAN WORKFORCE NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE

PROTECT ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE LOANS FOR THE CV CARE TEAM

Today's Agenda

Gillian Leung, PharmD

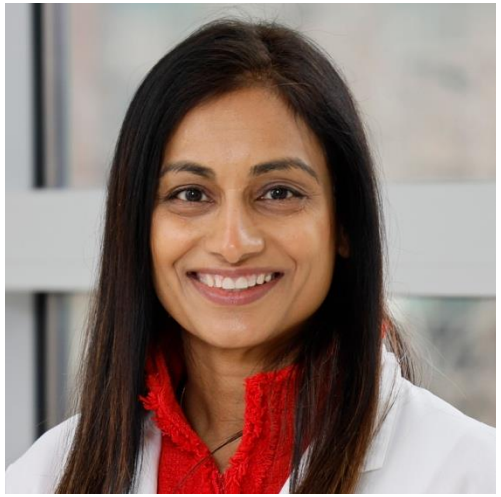
Dong Bo Yu, MD

10:20 AM - 10:35 AM	Sponsor Symposia: FFRct & Plaque Analysis ★ Sponsored by: Heartflow Speaker: Allen Taylor, MD FACC, FAHA Representative: Henry Thomas Moderator: Gillian Leung, PharmD, BCCP
10:40 AM - 11:10 AM	Break with Exhibitors, Demos, and Poster Viewing/Judging - 1
11:10 AM - 12:10 PM	Track 1: Better Together, Echo and Nuclear Cardiology in Everyday Practice: PET, SPECT, Stress Echo, and Amyloid Speakers: (PET) Eric Adams, RT (N); (SPECT) Rachel Walker, CNMT, CNT; (Stress Echo) Paul League, RDCS AE, PE; (Amyloid) Dong Bo Yu, MD, Ph.D., FACC and Robert Evers, RDCS, FASE Moderator: Talal Alnabelsi, MD Track 2: Atrial Fibrillation Ablation - 2026 Update Speakers: Aaron Hesselson, MD; George Davis, MD Moderator: Ganesh Keshav Thirunavukkarasu, MD
12:10 PM - 12:20 PM	Pick Up Lunch
12:20 PM - 01:00 PM	Women in Cardiology Lunch Women in Cardiology Lunch - Sign-up here! Speaker: Tamar Polonsky, MD Moderator: Michele Friday, MD, FACC, FSCAI
01:00 PM - 01:25 PM	Break with Exhibitors, Demos, and Poster Viewing/Judging - 2
01:25 PM - 01:40 PM	Sponsor Symposia: Transcatheter Therapy for Mitral Annular Calcification - Where are we in 2026? ★ Sponsored by: Edward Life Sciences Speaker: Puvi N. Seshiah, MD Moderator: Gillian Leung, PharmD, BCCP
01:40 PM - 01:55 PM	Sponsor Symposia ★ Sponsored by: Pfizer Speaker: TBD Moderator: Gillian Leung, PharmD, BCCP
02:00 PM - 02:45 PM	Keynote: The 2026 ACC/AHA Multisociety Dyslipidemia Guideline — A High-Level Overview Speaker: Laxmi Mehta, MD, MBA Moderator: Dinesh Kalra, MD, MBA, FACC, FAHA, FNLA, FSCCT, FSCMR, FASPC
02:45 PM - 03:00 PM	Sponsor Symposia: Yutrepia ★ Sponsored by: Liquidia Speaker: Julie Moock, PACS Moderator: Gillian Leung, PharmD, BCCP
03:05 PM - 04:05 PM	Track 1: Tips for Putting Dyslipidenia Guidelines in Practice Speakers: Dinesh Kalra, MD, MBA, FACC, FAHA, FNLA, FSCCT, FSCMR, FASPC; Laxmi Mehta, MD, MBA; Tamar Polonsky, MD Moderator: Dong Bo Yu, MD, Ph.D., FACC Track 2: Structural Heart Disease: Current Approaches to Aortic, Congenital, and Mitral/Tricuspid Intervention Speakers: Hisham Hirzallah, MD; Andrew Leventhal, MD; Daniel Rothschild, MD Moderator: Chris Semder, MD
04:10 PM - 04:50 PM	Oral Abstract Presentations and Awards Speakers: Matthew Dyer, MBA; Carrigan Wasilchenko, MD
04:50 PM - 05:45 PM	FIT Jeopardy / "Stump the Attending" Happy Hour Moderator: Steve Leung, MD

kyacc.cmecertificateonline.com – 7 AMA PRA 1 credits, 7 ANCC hours

Special Events

ACC plenary lecture:
Akshay Khandelwal, MD
BOT, ACC
Interventional Card
Chair of Cardiovascular
Medicine at AHN
Cardiovascular
Pittsburgh, PA



Keynote lecture:
Laxmi Mehta, MD, MBA
Director, Prevention &
Women's Heart
Program and Professor,
OSUMC, Columbus, OH

Jeopardy:
Steve Leung, MD &
Fellows from

- UK Lexington
- UK Bowling Green
- UofL

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