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IN THIS ISSUE

Messages from Headquarters

- Letter from the Editor: "A Fond Farewell"
- Executive Director's Corner: "KUDO's to US"

AACVPR Conferences

- AACVPR 2008 Annual Meeting
- AACVPR Program Director’s Conference

Member Resources

- Certification/ Recertification Updates
- Referral Enhancement Toolkit
- Member Survey on Cardiac Rehabilitation Performance Measures
- Member Discounts

Inside the Industry

- Disease Management: It’s all about Value!

Pulmonary Point of View

JCRP Highlights

Affiliate Society News

- Arkansas Affiliates prepare for annual state meeting
- Rocky Mountain Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Association update
- SACPR Joins in the Celebration!
- Texas Association for Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation update

2008 Calendar of Events

AACVPR National Office Contact Information

Messages from Headquarters

Letter from the Editor: A Fond Farewell

Linda K. Hall, PhD, FAACVPR
This is the last “letter from the editor” that I will write as it is time for me to step aside for some new ideas, thoughts, and a fresh perspective. I
became the editor of News and Views by complaining to Jon Porcari in November of 2003 – he told me to stop complaining and get to work. So for the last 4 years I have been a part of the AACVPR news network.

I became a member of the AACVPR in 1985 and have served as Secretary, President, Editor of the first and second set of National Guidelines, and finally Editor of News and Views. I have loved every minute of my association with AACVPR for a number of reasons.

1. The people! Every year, every meeting, planning sessions, committee assignments and telephone calls and emails brings me into contact with vital and engaged people who are committed to what they do and how they do it.
   a. Anyone who has gone to or goes to a national meeting comes back energized and engaged.
   b. People from outside the organization comment on the warm and friendly atmosphere of our meetings and I have not been to a national meeting for other organizations where they can sit down all of the attendees for a banquet that is as much fun and enjoyable.

2. The ability to get involved. Committees, presentations, panels, political action, writing, and becoming a player in your organization – because it is your organization. The important thing is – to get involved.
   a. If you walk out of a meeting or a presentation and are saying to yourself, “I could have done a better job, their information is old, or they have not tried anything new.” Then you should be putting forth your name as a speaker for the next meeting or getting on the planning committee. Because as Gandhi said, “We must be the change we want to see in the world.” With few exceptions, all people want to achieve, contribute, and be a part of something special. Our inherent drive challenges us to achieve.
   b. Every state, regional and national organization needs involved people, who are not afraid to step out on a limb and take a chance at leading.

3. The chance to learn and try new things. Disease Management for example, is a train that is leaving the station – are you on it? Do you know the latest methods, information and implementation processes? AACVPR has a Disease Management task force, get involved.
   a. Certification – is your program certified? If not why not and what do you need to do to get it certified?

4. Support from recognized leaders who will help you:
   a. Develop a common (shared) definition for “intelligent risk taking” to be used as a guideline for future activities.
   b. Turn failures into developmental experiences by asking, “What’s positive about this? What have we learned that will help us do better in the future?” Bottom line: Make it okay to fail.

So, I have much to be thankful for. This organization has served me well as a professional, with enduring and lasting friendships, challenges and rewards. And one final last word-

...the only thing that stands between a person and what they want in life is the will to try it and the faith to believe it possible!

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**Executive Director’s Corner: “KUDO’s to US “**

**Marie Bass, MS, CAE**

At this time of year we are frequently asked the question: What did you do on your summer vacation? This year, you have an amazing reply. You, as a member of AACVPR, have successfully supported and contributed efforts toward passage of a federal bill. Congress recently passed the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, now the law of the land. This is truly a momentous occasion - for AACVPR members, for the profession of cardiac and pulmonary rehab, for our cardiac and pulmonary rehab programs and especially for the millions of patients who will benefit from CR and PR services.

This is a huge accomplishment and one that each and every member of AACVPR can be proud of. Recently you received a press release that you can forward along to your hospital or facility public relations department. Click HERE for a copy of that press release. Please use that information to spread the good news. A special thanks goes to the leaders of AACVPR for their steadfast determination to promote and support those successful advocacy efforts. Phil Porte, Karen Lui, members of the Health, Policy and Reimbursement Committee, and the participants at Day on the Hill were the catalysts for this outstanding achievement.

What will the leadership of AACVPR be working on next? There is always more to accomplish and the leadership will be focusing on payment for CR and PR services through CMS. Another major initiative is a process redesign for AACVPR Program Certification and a renewed emphasis of the value of earning the designation “AACVPR Certified Program”. Watch for more information on this important initiative.
AACVPR’s Program Certification already serves as the standard for high quality cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services and it continues to be recognized by “payors” as a measure of high quality patient care.

**AACVPR Conferences**

**AACVPR 2008 Annual Meeting**

*September 18-21, Indianapolis, Indiana*

Online Registration for the AACVPR 23rd Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana is almost over! The Annual Meeting will be held September 18-21, 2008 at the Indianapolis Convention Center. [Click HERE to register. Time is running out!](#)

The AACVPR Annual Meeting is a four-day event for healthcare practitioners to exchange knowledge regarding cardiovascular and pulmonary rehabilitation from the nation’s leading experts. Take time to improve clinical practice, promote scientific inquiry and advance your education while connecting with colleagues. The meeting will feature state-of-the-art presentations to keep you on the cutting edge of the cardiovascular and pulmonary field. Highlights include:

**The “tracks” are back! Focus your learning in one of four tracks, or “mix and match”**

To better help you choose sessions to meet your particular needs, the AACVPR Program Planning Committee has developed the following series of four program tracks. You may decide to attend sessions in one track only, or “mix and match,” the choice is yours!

- **Clinical Cardiology/Cardiac Rehabilitation**
- **Pulmonary Medicine/Pulmonary Rehabilitation**
- **Leadership and Innovation**
- **Nutrition and Behavior Change**

**Keynote Lectures by some of the leaders in the field:**

- **“ACSM/ AHA Physical Activity Recommendations: Adults and Older Adults”**
  Professor Steven Blair

- **“Does Sleep Apnea Kill You? Can Treatment Save You?”**
  Barbara Phillips, MD, MSPH

- **“Power, Peace, Perseverance: Lessons Learned from Mother Teresa”**
  Anne Ryder

**AACVPR Annual Meeting Exhibit Showcase**

Thursday, September 18 – Saturday, September 20

Learn about the newest products and services available from more than 40 exhibiting companies!

**AACVPR Program Director’s Conference**

*December 5th, 2008 – Baltimore, MD*

**Mark your Calendar!**

The leaders of AACVPR are again proud to announce the next Program Directors Conference later this year. That popular program, presented in the spring of 2008 included the following topics and speakers:

**Managing Contemporary Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programs: Strategies for Success**

**Friday, December 5, 2008**

8:15 AM – 4:15 PM

Baltimore area – Location TBD

AACVPR is proud to present this Popular Program Directors’ Conference. This program is designed for mid-level managers/directors in
established Cardiac and/or Pulmonary Rehab facilities. This intermediate-level program, presented by four nationally-recognized experts in the field, will provide attendees with the most cutting-edge information and best practice recommendations for running successful rehabilitation programs.

Attendees will receive practical, relevant information and tools that can be customized for their individual facilities. Handouts will include sample documents, policies, chart forms, background papers, as well as a take-home checklist to evaluate the status of key items/issues in their individual facilities.

**Program Topics**

**Ensuring Medicare Compliance**
Because the majority of patients in most programs are covered by Medicare, program directors need to have the latest information to meet the CMS rules and documentation requirements. Topics include:

- Latest rules/regulations for billing to Medicare
- Required documentation
- Proper coding/billing to maximize your program reimbursement

**Presented by Karen Lui, RN, MS, FAACVPR**  
Legislative Assistant, GRQ Consulting  
Washington, D.C.

**Applying National Patient Safety Goals**
Patient safety is the top priority for external inspectors and hospital administrators. Are you sure that you have the latest information to ensure that your program meets the criteria for National Patient Safety Goals? Topics include:

- Medication reconciliation
- Hand-off communications
- Fall risk assessment

**Presented by Pat Comoss, RN, BS, FAACVPR**  
Consultant, Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab Nursing Enrichment Consultants Inc.  
Harrisburg, PA

**Measuring Program Quality**
Programs must continually measure quality as well as progress toward patient outcomes. This process depends on data collection, analysis, and response. Topics include:

- Outcome measurement
- Goals & benchmarks
- Performance improvement

**Presented by Bonnie Sanderson, RN, PhD, FAACVPR**  
Research Associate Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Disease - University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL

**Maintaining Vitality and Viability in your Program**
Successful cardiac & pulmonary rehab programs must develop the right standards & skills for their own personnel as well as nurture relationships with patients & physicians. Successful programs depend on people – patients, physicians, & rehab providers. Topics include:

- Staff competencies
- Performance measures
- Patient satisfaction

**Presented by Jody Hereford, RN, MS, FAACVPR**  
Principal Consultant, Hereford Consulting Group  
Boulder, CO

Final program details and location will be announced following the Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Mark you calendars to attend this popular program. Watch for further announcements.
**Member Resources**

**AACVPR Program Certification and Recertification**

**Gayla Oakley RN, Certification chair, Katrina Parker MS, Recertification chair, Mark Senn, PhD, Board of Directors representative**

We welcome new members Bonnie Anderson, MS, Mary Richards, RN, BSN and Christy Baldwin RN, BSN to the Certification Committee. Both committees are dedicated to the review process and we thank them for their commitment and expertise.

The committees are finishing the review of applications and recommendations will be forwarded to the Board of Directors. There were 126 certification programs and 492 recertification programs that were reviewed. We commend all programs that applied.

The new certification application will be available on the AACVPR Web Site September 1, 2008 and recertification application on October 1, 2008. **There will be changes in both applications, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY and follow the instructions.**

Some points to remember for submitting a successful application include:

- More is **NOT** better. Send only the documentation asked for.
- Make narratives **BRIEF** and to the point.
- Be sure your application is HIPPA compliant.
- Ask questions. The committee members are listed on the application and each welcome your calls/emails. It is better to get the correct information in the application before it is submitted.

There will be breakout and best practice question and answer sessions for both Certification and Recertification at the AACVPR national conference in Indianapolis.

The AACVPR Program Certification restructuring Task Force (PCRTF) was appointed by AACVPR President, Larry Hamm to review the existing structure and process of both Certification and Recertification. The Certification process has been offered since 1999 and has been systematically reviewed since it inception. The task force is reviewing the application template, structure and process of the committee, certification quality improvement, systematic approaches to appropriate updates in scientific information, and to ensure a system of communication related to other existing committees and working groups. Task force members include, Mark Senn, Chair, Helen Graham, Lenny Kaminsky, Karen Lui, Gayla Oakley, Katrina Parker, and June Schultz.

**AACVPR Program Certification – Why is it Important?**

Did you know that the leadership of the AACVPR is updating and simplifying the AACVPR Program Certification and Recertification applications? This year, President Larry Hamm developed a task force to review and update the processes for the application, review and approval of AACVPR Program Certification. Stay tuned for more information on the new processes in future editions of News and Views.

Application deadlines for AACVPR Program Certification and Recertification are September 1st and December 1st respectively. If your program was awarded AACVPR Program Certification in 2005, it is time for you to renew this year. Be sure your application for Recertification is received in the AACVPR National Office by December 1st.

If your program is not AACVPR Certified, you need to consider applying for that important credential. Having your Cardiac or Pulmonary Rehabilitation program certified by the AACVPR is important for a number of reasons. Certification provides an opportunity for program directors/managers to review their processes and compare their programs to current standards and guidelines. There are a number of other great reasons that program managers should consider applying for AACVPR Program Certification, including:

- AACVPR Program Certification is recognized by a growing number of insurance companies and contractors.
- AACVPR Certified Programs are listed on the American Heart Association patient resources Web site.
- Program Certification provides an objective assessment of adherence to updated clinical standards and guidelines.
- It requires a systematic approach to clinical care.
- It promotes a culture of quality patient care in the Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation facilities.
- It provides patients with a benchmark to compare CR and PR programs for quality care.
- It provides CR and PR program leaders with benchmarks and best practice guidelines for quality standards.
If your program is not yet designated as an AACVPR Certified Program, consider applying for program certification. New application forms are available on the AACVPR Web site. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2008.

AACVPR Recertification applications due February, 2009

If your Cardiac or Pulmonary program went through original Certification or Recertified in 2006, then your Recertification application is due February, 2009. Click here to access the Recertification applications. Please send two identical binders to:

Attn: Abigail Lynn
Program Recertification
401 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60611

New – for AACVPR Members only – The Referral Enhancement Toolkit

- Do you struggle with referrals to your cardiac or pulmonary rehab program?
- Wish you had a samples and templates of best practice tools for driving referrals to your program?

AACVPR has addressed this pressing issue and has developed a practical, results oriented toolkit for members-only to be used to drive referrals to use YOUR program. The toolkit, supported by an educational grant from Cardiac Science, is intended to provide AACVPR Members with the tools and templates to stimulate referrals to programs and ensure that those referrals are part of a systematic/automatic referral protocol in your facility.

The toolkit includes a CD that includes recommended protocols for enhancing referrals to your program, as well as practical templates and brochures that can be customized for your facility. The Referral Enhancement Toolkit will be sent to all AACVPR members in October. The toolkit can not be purchased – it is a NEW benefit of AACVPR membership. Learn more about the toolkit at the AACVPR annual meeting.

The AACVPR Referral Enhancement Toolkit is supported by an Unrestricted Educational Grant from Cardiac Science Corporation.

Your input is needed:

AACVPR Member Survey on Cardiac Rehabilitation Performance Measures

Performance measures for cardiac rehabilitation (CR) were published in 2007, in an effort to help improve the use and impact of cardiac rehabilitation services. A key factor in the adoption of these performance measures by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the feasibility of implementing the measures in clinical practice.

In order to better understand the feasibility and current implementation of the CR performance measures, members of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Performance Measures Writing Group is asking that you to take a few minutes and respond to a brief survey related to how your program is addressing the new Performance Measures in your facility. To access the survey, click HERE.

Your responses will be used to help provide important information on the CR performance measures to the National Quality Forum, a group that reviews and endorses performance measures to help guide CMS in deciding which performance measures they will adopt and implement.

Please take a moment to complete the survey!

Member Discounts on ANCC Certification

Another Great Member Benefit:
$50 off Initial Certification and 20% off Certification Renewal with ANCC!
Did you know that your AACVPR membership saves you money on the ANCC Cardiac Vascular Nurse certification exam and renewal?

There are many outstanding reasons to pursue ANCC certification in your specialty area:

- **Professional and personal recognition** – Certification shows your nursing peers, interdisciplinary colleagues, and health care consumers that you are committed to maintaining the highest levels of practice knowledge and competence. Certification helps you be your best!
- **Career progression** – Increasingly, hospitals and other health care entities are attaching strong value to certification when it comes to staffing and advancement decisions. Get certified…and get noticed!
- **Reimbursement and rewards** – The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), along with third-party reimbursers, have mandated certification in order to obtain reimbursement for services. What’s more, certification has been identified in various surveys as having a significant positive impact on potential salary. Certification pays dividends!

**ANCC Certification 2008-2009 Pricing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial Certification</th>
<th>5-Year Renewal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AACVPR Member Rate</td>
<td>$340</td>
<td>$280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Rate</td>
<td>$390</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Be sure to include a photocopy of your membership card (or certificate) with your ANCC certification or renewal application to secure these great rates!

**Inside the Industry**

**Disease Management: It’s all about Value!**

*Mark D. Senn, PhD, FAACVPR*

Value: perhaps the most over-used buzz word in the history of mankind. Like it or not the concept of value drives practically every decision we make, and healthcare is no exception. In our world of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation we are wise to understand where our value lies with our various stake holders (patients, physicians, hospitals, and payers). Traditionally we have focused on the contribution cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation make to customer satisfaction, and positive affect on gaining and maintaining market share for the parent institution. However, a new tide is rising and the field of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation is in a great position to capitalize on a growing focus common among our stake holders. That focus is evidence based outcomes. From private insurance companies, to CMS, to internet savvy consumers all our stake holders are starting to turn toward evidence based outcomes as a metric to determine where their healthcare dollars are best spent. Why you may ask? Because evidence based outcomes have been clearly and strongly linked to significant improvements in morbidity and mortality of CVD. Here are just a few examples. When you look at the possibility of reducing mortality risk (in a CVD population) by obtaining goal values in the risk factors for cardiovascular disease you see the following relationships.

- **Lipids treated to goal**: 30% Mortality risk reduction
- **Blood Pressure**: 30% Mortality risk reduction (goals are risk group specific)
- **Blood Glucose A1C**: 24% Mortality risk reduction (when maintained under 7%)
- **Tobacco Free**: 35% Mortality risk reduction
- **Beta blocker post MI**: 23% Mortality risk reduction

And these are just a few of the risk factors that we can and should impact through a well designed and managed cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation program.

So, now I ask the hard question. If a payer or physician is looking for a program to send their clients to and asks how well your program performs in helping each patient achieve goal values in the risk factors for CVD how will you answer? Can you show data that demonstrates YOUR PROGRAM (not cardiac rehab in general) makes a difference in clients reaching goal values?

If the answer is no, but you want it to be yes then I would like to invite you to the 23rd Annual Meeting of AACVPR September 18th -21st. There will be many opportunities to learn practical steps helpful in moving a traditional cardiac rehabilitation program into an effective disease management program. Among the many useful sessions will be a presentation by the Disease Management Task Force on a Disease Management Data Registry that will be rolled out for a pilot phase in early 2009. The DMTF envisions creating a product that will be useful to programs in managing disease specific data and demonstrating the effectiveness of a program in reducing the risk for future CVD events.
If you are not able to attend this informative Annual Meeting please stay tuned to the News and Views as we will be speaking more to the Disease Management Data Registry and other useful tools to help your program in the management of CVD risk.

Pulmonary Point of View

Gerilynn L. Connors, BS, RRT, FAACVPR
Taking a methodical look at the 2007 National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Guidelines

The focus of the 2007 Guidelines is on disease assessment noting it's severity to include the monitoring and control of the asthma with evaluating the risks and impairment is causes. Just as comprehensive pulmonary rehabilitation is individualized to the patient's needs, so too is asthma management. Early asthma diagnosis is emphasized to knowing the four components of asthma management. The Guidelines stress control, not just severity. Control impacts quality of life! Through healthcare workers use of the national guidelines, a systematic approach is recommended for the twenty million people in the United States with asthma. Visit: http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/ for more information.

Everything you always wanted to know about:
Alpha-1 antitrypsin (Alpha-1) and now, know where to go.
Mark your calendar for June 5-7, 2009 in San Francisco, CA. The site of the 18th Annual National Alpha-1 program. Other conferences coming up are: Sept. 27th in Las Vegas, Nevada and on October 4th in Boise, Idaho. Go to: www.alpha1.org for detailed information for you and your patients.

Pulmonary Hypertension and now, know where to go.
Mark your calendar for June 19 – 21, 2009 for the 6th Annual California Pulmonary Hypertension Forum in San Francisco, California for the latest medical news on care and treatment of PH. Another conference to mark you calendar with is: the PHA’s 9th International PH Conference and Scientific Sessions. June 25-27, 2010 in Orange County, California. PHA would like to thank all attendees for making PHA’s Conference the unique and meaningful event that it is. We hope to see everyone at the 2010 Conference June 25 – 27 in Orange County, California! Go to: www.phassociation.org

For detailed information for you and your patients.

JCRP Highlights

Mark A. Williams, PhD, FAACVPR, JCRP Editor-In-Chief

JCRP Highlights – September/October 2008

- This issue is highlighted by a Featured Review entitled “Pathophysiology of Obstructive Sleep Apnea” and the abstracts from the CACR Annual meeting. Manuscripts are presented from throughout the world including Australia, Japan, Canada, and the United States.

INVITED REVIEW

- Pathophysiology of obstructive sleep apnea. Richard L. Horner, PhD (Canada)

CARDIAC REHABILITATION

- Aerobic exercise improves fitness and heart rate variability after an implantable cardioverter defibrillator. Cynthia M. Dougherty, PhD, ARNP (USA)
- Changes in depression in the immediate postdischarge phase in a cardiac rehabilitation population assessed by the Cardiac Depression Scale. Patricia M. Davidson, MED, PhD, RN, ITC, et al (Australia, USA)
- Prognostic ability of resting periodic breathing and ventilatory variation in closely matched patients with heart failure. Robert L. Bard, MA, et al (USA)
PULMONARY REHABILITATION

- Physical activity of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: Implications for pulmonary rehabilitation. Fumi Hirayama, PT, MPH, et al (Australia, Japan)

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIAC REHABILITATION – SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

Affiliate Society News

Arkansas Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation Association

Arkansas Affiliates prepare for annual state meeting

Norene Chancellor
Arkansas Affiliates are preparing for their annual state meeting entitled Prescription for Progress on Friday September 12 in Little Rock. The program includes lunch sponsored by Cardiac Science. Among the presenters will be Gayla Oakley, RN, FAACVPR, Brian Coyne, M.Ed., RCEP, University of Louisiana, Monroe. A total of 7.0 CE's will be provided for RN's and EP's. For more information contact Glen Lusby, RN (501) 202-3704. Our affiliate bids a fond "farewell" to Ronda Gaither, RN who provided several years of excellent leadership as both a member and officer. She is pursuing her CRNA degree. We all wish her the best!

Rocky Mountain Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Association (RMCRA)

Denise LaRocca, MS, RCEP, FAACVPR, President RMCRA
The Rocky Mountain Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Association had its Annual Meeting in Greeley, Colorado at North Colorado Medical Center on May 2 and 3, 2008. The meeting was successful and highlighted Karen Lui, RN, MS, FAACVPR as the guest speaker on Performance Measures and Reimbursement. She was among other distinguished speakers from the Rocky Mountain area. Our next annual meeting will be held on May 1 and 2, 2009 in Colorado. For more information, please email me at: Denise.LaRocca@uch.edu or visit our website at www.rmcra.org

The Board is working diligently to upgrade member benefits including establishing outcome measurements for the region, development of an upgraded Web Site, and improving offerings at the annual meeting. The RMCRA membership for three states is growing and we are developing a strategic plan to help increase membership. Regional Vice Presidents for Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico have been an important part of spreading the word about RMCRA in this area.

Southern Association for Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AL, MS)

SACPR Joins in the Celebration!

Kathe Kelley Briggs, MS, FAACVPR
Our phenomenal efforts pay off as the Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Act is voted into law. With 100% co-sponsorship in Mississippi, and nearly that in Alabama, we are proud to have done such a great job in our states and to have had the opportunity to work with such a committed group from AACVPR and our fellow affiliates from all around the country.

Congratulations are also in order to Bonnie Sanderson, FAACVPR, who has been a longtime SACPR board member and committee chairperson. She is now a member of the Board of Directors for AACVPR. Anita Jones, FAACVPR, will continue her efforts on the AACVPR Health Policy and Reimbursement Committee. As MAC 7 and 10 roll out in our states, she will be at the forefront of that initiative. Thanks to both of these dedicated members!

We are also working on increasing membership and program certification. In the planning phases are one-day regional "how-to" workshops designed to help programs begin the certification process.

The 2008 SACPR Annual Spring Conference, held in Fairhope, AL was a great success. We were so fortunate to have keynote speaker Murray Low share his expertise on “Heart Disease in the 21st Century” along with 6 other speakers, a variety of vendors, networking opportunities and social events. The 2009 conference will expand to two days and take place in Tupelo, MS on April 17 & 18.
The Texas Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (TACVPR) currently has 197 members. The association promotes AACVPR certification of its programs. At this time, we have 39 cardiac rehab and 5 pulmonary rehab programs that are AACVPR certified.

Our 18th annual conference—“Rodeo, Ropin’ and Rehab: Deep in the Heart of Texas” was held April 25-26 at the Campbell Centre in Dallas, Texas. We had 164 members in attendance. Keynote speakers included: John Foreyt, M.D., Richard Casaburi, M.D., Mark Iberg, MSIS, RRT, and Eve Lowry, RD. In addition, Charles Haley, M.D., the Medical Director for Trailblazers participated in a panel discussion on Reimbursement and Legislative updates. We had a great time networking with cardiac and pulmonary rehab professionals from around the state.

In 2007, we initiated a Recruit-A-Pal program. This program starts on January 1st each year and continues to the start of the TACVPR annual conference. TACVPR members earn points for each person they recruit to join the association or attend the conference. Points can also be earned for an approved poster presentation. A total of five points earns the member a free membership with the TACVPR for one year and a total of seven points qualifies them for a free conference the following year. This year, we had four winners of free conferences for 2009, and one person won a free membership.

We are currently in the process of adding a job posting page to our Web Site as a member benefit. You can visit our website at www.tacvpr.org

We are already looking forward to our 2009 conference to be held in Houston on April 3rd and 4th. “A Season for Change: Making Your Rehab Program Bloom” will be the theme for the conference.

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### 2008 Calendar of Events

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| September 18-21, 2008 | AACVPR 2008 Annual Meeting  
Indianapolis, Indiana                                           |
|                       | For more information: [http://www.aacvpr.org/meeting/](http://www.aacvpr.org/meeting/) |
| September 22-26, 2008 | Comprehensive Cardiac Rehabilitation Workshop  
Sponsored by the La Crosse Exercise and Health Program  
Meeting Location: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI  
For Further Information: Call 608-785-8683 or visit [www.uwfax.edu](http://www.uwfax.edu) |
| October 13-15, 2008  | Comprehensive Pulmonary Rehabilitation Workshop  
Sponsored by the La Crosse Exercise and Health Program  
Meeting Location: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI  
For Further Information: Call 608-785-8683 or visit [www.uwfax.edu](http://www.uwfax.edu) |
| October 17, 2008     | Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Treatment Medical Education Conference  
Center City Crowne Plaza • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, in conjunction with the Heart Rhythm Society and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association, is sponsoring a one-day medical education conference entitled “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Treatment: Strengthening the Chain of Survival.” The session will be held on Friday, October 17 at the Center City Crowne Plaza in downtown Philadelphia. For more information and online registration, please visit [www.suddencardiacaarrest.org](http://www.suddencardiacaarrest.org) |
| October 28, 2008     | MACVPR will be holding its Fall Program Development Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008 at the AHA in Framingham, MA. Wayne Westcott will be our featured speaker. Please contact Molly Kim at [admin@macvpr.org](mailto:admin@macvpr.org) for more information. |
| December 5, 2008     | |
Program Director's Conference
Baltimore, Maryland
More information to come.

**Ongoing:**

*Health Coach Training and Certification*
Sponsored by Wellcoaches Corporation
For more information: [www.wellcoach.com](http://www.wellcoach.com)

*Continuing Education Programs on CABG, Heart Failure (three-part series), Best of Sessions 2005, Women & Heart Disease, and the newly released PAD*
Offered by the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association
For more information: [www.heartcmeprograms.org](http://www.heartcmeprograms.org)

*Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) Educational Program*
This Fall, the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) will be hosting free half-day regional educational programs in nine cities across the U.S. These programs will include continental breakfast as well as three credit hours of continuing education. Session topics include:
- Series 1:
  - ACS & MI Treatment
  - Point-of-Care Testing Strategies
  - HDL/TG and Residual Risk
- Series 2:
  - Managing Heart Failure
  - Stroke Prevention
  - Home Blood Pressure Monitoring

Visit the PCNA website for program details and online registration: [www.pcna.net](http://www.pcna.net)

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**AACVPR National Office Contact Information**

*Please continue to send your questions and comments to AACVPR News & Views via aacvpr@aacvpr.org. Don’t hesitate to suggest how AACVPR News & Views can continue to provide you access to information about our profession and AACVPR.*

**AACVPR Administrative Staff:**
Marie Bass, Executive Director
Abigail Lynn, Association Coordinator
Meredith Bono, Sr. Associate
Molly Werner, Associate
Linda Schwartz, Marketing & Communications
Michelle Mills, Marketing & Communications
Eric Johnson, Convention Services
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