As we enter 2021, we are so excited to celebrate our 30 years of education and impact. From the first newsletter in 1991 to the establishment of our Centers of Excellence in 2012 to our current work with the FDA on Anticoagulation Stewardship, the AC Forum has been a leader in the field. Our team of experts work to provide guidance and clarity on clinical best practices for multidisciplinary care teams with the goal of improving the quality of patient care.

In kicking off our celebration, we’d love to hear from our members.

- What do you love about the AC Forum?
- How has the AC Forum impacted your practice?
- What would you like to see from the AC Forum in our next 30 years?

Win AC Forum compression socks for your department!

All members who submit comments by February 28 will be entered into a drawing to receive 10 pairs of very special AC Forum compression socks.

Save the Date
AC Forum’s 30th Anniversary Virtual Celebration
Wednesday | April 14, 2021 | 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET
Registration link coming soon

OUR HISTORY . . .

In the early 1990’s, there were few resources on how to properly implement systematic care for patients taking anticoagulants. Dr. Jack Ansell had a vision to improve anticoagulation management by creating a network of healthcare providers to share information and best practices.

The first National Meeting on Oral Anticoagulation Therapy was held in Boston, Massachusetts in the spring of 1991. Attended by 100 individuals representing 60 clinics from across the country, this one-and-a-half-day conference solidified the need and desire for an anticoagulation network.

In December of 1991, Dr. Ansell gathered several of his colleagues to form a multidisciplinary
Steering Committee of physicians, pharmacists, and nurses and began the formal process of creating an organization. They developed a mission statement and a name: The Anticoagulation Forum. This name denotes an arena for the dissemination and exchange of information and ideas, for mutual growth and development, for continuing education, and for improving the quality and safety of patient care. The Steering Committee decided to publish two newsletters per year to begin the process of communication and networking.

Over the past 30 years, the Anticoagulation Forum has grown from a few dozen members to over 12,000. We remain committed to Dr. Ansell’s vision of a multidisciplinary team and recognize the critical role of pharmacists, nurses, and physicians in the care of patients on anticoagulants.

As the Anticoagulation Forum celebrates and reflects on our 30 years of history, our sights remain on the future, our dedication to providing valuable guidance to our members, and continuing to serve as leaders in the field of anticoagulation management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Should patients taking anticoagulants receive the COVID-19 vaccine?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical experts are recommending for patients prescribed anticoagulants to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Many of these patients have underlying health conditions putting them at increased risk for serious illness if infected with COVID-19. There are no known pharmacological interactions between components of the vaccine and oral or parenteral anticoagulants. There is a risk of light bleeding, bruising, or hematoma at the injection site but the vaccine is not associated with a serious risk of bleeding. For patients taking warfarin, there is guidance to suggest that the INR should be below 4.0 or below the upper threshold of a person’s therapeutic range prior to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine to reduce risk of bleeding complications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients receiving the COVID-19 vaccine should make the vaccinator aware they are taking an anticoagulant. Anticoagulated patients should be vaccinated with a fine-gauge needle (23-gauge or smaller caliber) followed by firm pressure on the injection site for 2-5 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Vaccine Administration: Intramuscular (IM) injections: Adults 19 years of age and older (cdc.gov)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- COVID-19 and Blood Clotting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- COVID-19 Vaccination While on a Blood Thinner (wpcomstaging.com)</td>
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</tbody>
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Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and Dual Inhibition Therapy: Vascular Protection in Patients with CAD/PAD

Tuesday | February 16, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET

Patients with peripheral artery disease are at risk for major cardiovascular and limb events. Recently, two trials have demonstrated a reduction in major cardiac and limb events when patients with PAD are given aspirin plus rivaroxaban.

This webinar will review the evidence behind the use of a “dual pathway inhibition” strategy and introduce a new ACE Rapid Resource.
Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities: A Presidential Advisory from the American Heart Association

Thursday | March 18, 2021 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

Structural racism has been and remains a fundamental cause of persistent health disparities in the United States. This presidential advisory by the AHA reviews the historical context, current state, and potential solutions to address structural racism in our country.

Join representatives from the American Heart Association, American Society of Health System Pharmacists, and the Anticoagulation Forum for a discussion of the article in the first of a four-part series on racial disparities in health care.

Guest Speakers
Edwardo Sanchez, MD, MHP, FAAFP
Anjail Z. Sharrief, MD, MPH, FAHA
Paul Walker, PharmD
Terri Wiggins, MS

AC Forum Moderators
Tracy Minichiello, MD
Sara Vazquez, PharmD, BCPS, CACP

Read AHA's Call to Action here

Hear from Dr. Sara Vazquez, Co-Chair of AC Forum's new IDEA Committee, on the importance of this topic and relevance to every AC Forum member.
Despite improved safety with direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) compared to vitamin K antagonists, a significant number of patients in Phase III clinical trials had major bleeding. Guidance has been offered by the Anticoagulation Forum, American College of Cardiology, American College of Chest Physicians and American Society of Hematology for the treatment of this population.

Please join us for a webinar highlighting key information from the newest AC Forum Rapid Resource on Current Reversal & Treatment Strategies for DOAC-Related Bleeding, which includes recommendations, cautionary advice, and considerations for patient care.

View the Rapid Resource here!

Watch Now and Download the Slides!

To Claim Credit (active now)
Click and review the applicable Learner Notification and then click on claim cme!

LIVE CREDIT
ENDURING CREDIT

Interested in viewing other enduring webinars?

Visit our website

We are pleased to provide live & enduring accreditation for some of our webinars!

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Amedco LLC and the Anticoagulation Forum. Amedco LLC is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physicians
Amedco LLC designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses
Amedco LLC designates this activity for a maximum of 1.0 ANCC contact hours.

Pharmacists
Amedco LLC designates this activity for a maximum of 1.0 knowledge-based CPE contact hours.
Thursday & Friday, April 15th & 16th

Course will be broadcast live with 30-day access until May 15th

Only $249 per person.

REGISTER NOW

Accredited for Nurses, Pharmacists and Physicians. We anticipate a minimum of 10.75 contact hours; course counts as live credit for pharmacists.

Preliminary program:

**Thursday, April 15**
- Essentials of Coagulation Cascade and Hemostasis
- Pharmacology of Anticoagulants and Critical Drug Interactions
- Common Indications: Atrial fibrillation
- Common Indications: Venous thromboembolism
- Patient Education
- Invasive Procedure Planning
- VTE Prophylaxis
- Special Situations

**Friday, April 16**
- Cardiac Valves and Circulatory Support
- AC Forum Centers of Excellence
- Managing Bleeding & Other Unexpected Situations
- Anticoagulation in Pediatric Population
- Transitions of Care
- Quality improvement and Benchmarking

Daily Chalk Talks will provide live Q&A with our faculty so bring your toughest questions and cases!

**Faculty**
- Arthur Allen, PharmD
- Geoff Barnes, MD
- Marilyn Blumenstein, MSN, CRNP
- Nathan Clark, PharmD
- Mark Crowther, MD
- Adam Cuker, MD
- Scott Kaatz, DO
- Sara Vazquez, PharmD
- Diane Wirth, ANP
- Dan Witt, PharmD

Here's what some of our 2020 attendees had to say:

"Absolutely a fantastic conference! You hit the ball out of the park with the virtual format and I'm tremendously thankful."

"Excellent Job! Of all of the virtual conferences I have attended, this was the most engaging."

"Diane’s strategies for transfer of care were helpful. Geoff’s review of the different types of valves was a great review and filled in some knowledge gaps I had."
View our newest Rapid Resource:

- Reversal and Treatment Strategies for DOAC-Related Bleeding
- Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and Dual Inhibition Therapy

As the field of anticoagulation continues to quickly evolve and become more nuanced, Rapid Resources aim to provide succinct one-page to two-page summaries to help providers stay informed.

This library of compact info sheets is housed in the ACE Rapid Resources section located on the left of our ACE Resource Center. New materials are added regularly!

View All Rapid Resources

Don't miss the over 500 resources in our Library.

Literature Resource Updates!

Special thanks to Dr. Bishoy Ragheb who updates our literature search by topic!

Here is the breakdown of new articles:

- 1-31-21 update, 67 new articles, including 14 related to COVID-19
- 1-17-21 update, 84 new articles, including 9 related to COVID-19

Supporting our Partners

The Anticoagulation Forum is dedicated to supporting our partners. Information about partner events, activities, and programs are listed below.

Want to know how you or your organization can partner with the Anticoagulation Forum? Email us at info@acforum.org
Don’t miss this opportunity to engage in a small-group virtual discussion led by Scott Kaatz, DO, MSc, FACP, SFHM, to examine the latest approaches to anticoagulation management in patients with COVID-19

Topics to include:

- Potential mechanisms of COVID-19 coagulopathy and microangiopathy
- Evolving guidelines on use of anticoagulation therapy and treatment: where they align and where they differ
- COVID-19 VTE risk and prophylaxis by patient setting

Register Now

Should you be unavailable on these dates and/or would like to schedule a site-specific virtual discussion with Dr. Kaatz, please contact Bedford Scientific at BedfordCOVID19@thelockwoodgrp.com.

We hope you will consider participation in this timely program.

These virtual discussions, Anticoagulation Management in the COVID-19 Era, are brought to you by Bedford Scientific through an Independent Medical Education Grant from Pfizer Inc and are not affiliated with the AC Forum.

Open Position: Thrombosis Specialist Partner
Intermountain Medical Center, Salt Lake City, UT

The Intermountain Healthcare Thrombosis Division is seeking a board certified / board eligible internist or specialist partner to join an established team focused on Thrombosis and Anticoagulation at Intermountain Medical Center. 70% of time will be committed to Thrombosis clinical care, and the other 30% of time will be committed to academic/administrative responsibilities. Will have 1/3 share of thrombosis call and partner with developing a thrombosis telemedicine program. Academic roles will include participating in all Thrombosis Research Group meetings, joining all active thrombosis research group projects as co-investigator, and application for a faculty appointment. Prior research experience and clinical trial experience is preferred.

For details please contact Dr. Scott Woller directly at scott.woller@imail.org.

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