

Subject: Advocacy in State Capitols: Update on contract lobbyists; staff assignments for chapters

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Dear Chapter Executives and Governors: What follows is an update on a few projects. We are here in San Diego and available to discuss. As noted below, we will host conference calls a few weeks after Annual Session for those interested in discussing the project further.

CONTRACT LOBBYIST – CONGRATULATIONS NORTH CAROLINA!

North Carolina-ACC was selected to receive funding for a contract lobbyist. Harry Kaplan of the firm McGuire Woods has been selected. He will not only lobby the legislature on behalf of the chapter but will also connect chapter leaders with key lawmakers in our effort to establish long-term relationships and raise cardiology's profile with other stakeholders. Harry is a seasoned political and policy expert and was recently voted the #5 lobbyist in North Carolina.

You are probably wondering who the second chapter is. As often happens in politics, intervening events forced us to shift strategy. Due to an influx of tort reform proposals and opportunities in virtually all states, we decided that it was more cost-efficient to direct the remaining resources to deploy an outside experts to:

--Develop tort reform advocacy resources for all chapters --Provide enhanced support in states with immediate needs and opportunities. Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Florida and Illinois have been approached by lawmakers and other stakeholders to provide support. Throughout this two year project other chapters will become the major focus as needed.

--A few weeks after annual session we will be hosting conference calls to explain the project further.

CUSTOMIZED SERVICES FOR STATE ADVOCACY

As reported earlier, State Government Affairs staff have been assigned to serve as state advocacy liaisons for chapters. Below you can find the staff member assigned to your chapter. Every state has different needs, so our job is to ensure that you get as much support as possible for issues or projects that involve your state's legislators and your state health departments. We look forward to working with each chapter to not only react to legislation, but to take a proactive approach to state advocacy so chapter members will be relied upon by state legislators as expert constituents. Issues and projects that involve the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate will, as always, be handled by our federal PAC and lobbying team (Nick Morse, Liz Shaw, Lucas Sanders and Charles Cascio)).

While you have been assigned a staff person for state advocacy, please note the the entire advocacy division is ready to support you or direct you to the staff expert who can best meet your need.

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Best,
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