

Subject: ACHL?

November 2, 2015

Jesse Adams, MD, FACC (jadams03@bluegrass.net)

I hope that this finds all on the BOG list-serve doing well! I want to get some feedback on a potential project that we are evaluating.

Our chapter has been exploring additional CME offerings for 2016, and I have had a discussion with the Academy of Continued Healthcare Learning (ACHL). Two topics that our chapter are specifically considering: either an update on Heart Disease in Women (potentially held in conjunction with another meeting of the WIC section) and/or Cardio-Oncology. ACHL has an interest in seeking funding for these (funding sources I understand may well include Pharma, etc) and then helping to create the program in conjunction with ourselves. We are tentatively leaning towards an evening 3 hour session.

Questions:

1. Anyone have any knowledge of ACHL? Any problems/concerns? If there are issues with this company we won't go any further.
2. If no problems, is there any interest from any other chapters about also utilizing such a program in your state as well after it is created? I understand there would probably be no cost to the chapter.
3. Is there a particular interest in either of these topics (or alternatives- we are just at first steps and open to alternative topic suggestions).

Also, if we elect to proceed with this and anyone has an interest in working together let me know- would love to make this a collaborative effort.

November 3, 2015

Janice Sibley, ACC Staff (jsibley@acc.org)

Good morning, Jesse, and we appreciate you posting your inquiry about CME. The national ACC organization's Lifelong Learning Oversight Committee has set its 2016 ACC educational curriculum and I am pleased to let you know that we are planning a live course focusing on cardio-oncology for the upcoming year. This course is an outgrowth of the very successful 4-hour intensive session in cardio-oncology held at ACC.15 in San Diego this past spring. We are repurposing and extending that content to deliver a full ACC live course next year.

ACHL is classified as a medical education company (a MEC), typically a profit-based entity that offers CME and other forms of continuing education to a wide variety of different groups. They often seek funding from pharma and other supporters to deliver this education for free to program attendees. Some MECs offer high quality, unbiased education and others less so. This inconsistency in quality and/or bias has been a general criticism of MECs in the past. I have not personally evaluated the education delivered by ACHL so I cannot comment on where they fall in the continuum.

At ACC national, we do follow a similar model for seeking grant funding to support CME programs that can be offered at a local or regional level, and we have successfully delivered locally-based CME programs in FH, aortic stenosis and AF and adult congenital HD in the past couple of years. An ongoing part of our educational strategy is to seek funding for local and regional programming for such efforts. Recently, we have been working with ACC-affiliated chapters to integrate potential funded programming into their annual chapter meetings and other venues. We would be happy to discuss your Chapter's

educational needs and see if there is an opportunity to work within our own ACC system to deliver CME to your members.

Please feel free to contact me or Amy Dearborn (adearborn@acc.org) if you wish and we can discuss further. Thanks!

November 3, 2015

Jesse Adams, MD, FACC (jadams03@bluegrass.net)

Thanks Janice- this is very helpful! We are certainly more interested in working with the ACC Education Committee than ACHL for a variety of reasons. I didn't realize that you had been offering stand-alone meetings (in addition to working with annual chapter meetings) that could be utilized by individual chapters. That is very useful information, and I'll certainly follow-up with you to learn more.