

Dear ABC Member



Gerald L. DeVaughn, MD

I hope you have already made plans to:

1. Attend our Congress on the Treatment of Cardiovascular Diseases on Saturday, November 3, starting at 7:00 am. A very intellectual CME program is offered.
2. Participate in our conference in Ghana (December 26 – January 6). Pam and I booked our air travel online. If you wish to use Palace Travel, please call 800-683-7731. I am particularly looking forward to this trip because five ABC members (including Drs. George Mensah and Kwami Osei) were born in Ghana and will be traveling with us. They have offered an audience with the President and the Chief of the Ashanti people. This will be a unique experience that you could never experience if you went otherwise.

There is a looming 9.9% reduction in Medicare reimbursements for 2008 and a 5% reduction for 2009. The ABC, you in your individual capacity and everyone on the healthcare provide side MUST apply political pressure to repeal the Medicare reductions. This is not good for patient care. You're your Congressional representatives that you'll gladly trade the 1.5% PQRI bonuses for eliminating the Medicare reductions.

We need to raise a minimum of \$300,000 from the membership before the end of the year. With 300 cardiology members, the Board voted to ask each "cardiology" member to contribute at least \$1,000 each. The Board has already stepped up to the plate. Just about all the members of the Board contributed at least \$1,000. In addition, Dr. Joe Quash contributed \$20,000, Dr. Eric

Taylor and Dr. Paul Underwood contributed \$10,000 each and Dr. James Carter gave \$5,000. That is a good start. We are now up to \$70,000 towards our \$300,000 goal. This would be a good time to stand up and be counted.

If you ever wonder about the amazing things we do to lower the unacceptably high rate of cardiovascular disease in our community, please take note of the following: 1) we are preparing a new video and pamphlet on our "Seven Steps to Good Health"; 2) the Office of Minority Health is considering a grant to ABC to implement a church-based program in Mississippi; 3) our "Generations" program that is being funded by the HHS Office of Women's Health, is making a significant difference in the lives of ten congregations; 4) our Community Health Advocates Program will empower people from all over the country to promote health and wellness in their communities; 5) our advocacy to train more African American cardiologists is getting traction and will become a public issue in the next few months; and 6) we annually give away \$300,000 in scholarships for medical students, cardiology fellows and post graduate training. Our CME programs are the most innovative and scholarly. These are just a few of the amazing things that the ABC does.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Orlando. As usual, if you have questions about the organization, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Waine Kong (404-201-6600) or Ms. Cassandra McCullough (404-201-6621) for education purposes.

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THE ABC NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY:

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