



The ACC International Twinning Program

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The British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) is delighted that we are now twinned with the California Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) as part of the ACC's International Twinning Program. Over the years, there has been much fruitful collaboration between British cardiologists and colleagues in the United States, and we are confident that the formal links that are now established between our 2 organizations will do much to further transatlantic cooperation over the years to come.

The BCS was founded in 1922 and has evolved into a complex organization that plays a pivotal role in the delivery of cardiovascular health across the United Kingdom. There are currently more than 1400 members of the BCS. The membership is growing steadily and includes the overwhelming majority of UK cardiologists and many other professionals with an interest in cardiovascular medicine. The society's website is <http://www.bcs.com>.

BCS aims to support and represent all those working in the fields of cardiovascular care and research.

To help achieve this aim, BCS is affiliated with 17 unique organizations that work in various specific areas of cardiovascular medicine, health, and patient care. In addition to BCS members, there are now more than 8000 members of these affiliated groups who are associate members of the BCS. These include clinical and basic scientists, general practitioners, junior doctors, nurses, and cardiac physiologists. Together with our affiliated groups, BCS shares a mission to improve care for patients with cardiovascular disease and to provide a powerful voice for UK cardiovascular health care professionals.

Our mission statement states that the Society will:

- Set standards of excellence for individuals, organizations, and the care of patients with cardiovascular disease.
- Be committed to training and education, and support the practice of professionals working within cardiovascular health, science, and disease management.
- Be the primary source of professional advice and advocacy to

government, funding bodies, and industry.

- Deliver these objectives in collaboration with patients, the public, and partner organizations.

Each year, the BCS runs an Annual Conference and Exhibition. The 2009 conference and exhibition will be held in the ExCel Centre in London, and details are available on the website. The conference has an informative and comprehensive program that includes a joint plenary session by the BCS and the ACC on Heart Failure (on Tuesday, June 2). We extend a warm welcome to all members of the California Chapter of the ACC and the US cardiology community at large.

We appreciate the opportunity to interact with our American colleagues through the highly regarded journal *Reviews in Cardiovascular Medicine*. By further "internationalizing" this publication, it affords cardiologists on both sides of the Atlantic the opportunity to share experiences even more, which, it is hoped, will lead to greater cross-pollination of ideas and concepts that should lead to the improved care of our patients. ■