

For Immediate Release
November 17, 2010

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**ACC President Says, “Give Our Patients Something to be Thankful For”
*Calls for Congress to pass a 13-month positive update to SGR before Thanksgiving***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American College of Cardiology (ACC) today joined other physician groups to ask Congress to pass, before Thanksgiving, a 13-month positive update to the flawed sustained growth rate formula (SGR) that governs how physicians are reimbursed through Medicare.

“Give our patients something to be thankful for,” said ACC President Ralph Brindis, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I. “The looming threat of a 23-percent cut can’t become reality to the millions of Americans fighting heart disease nor to the thousands of cardiologists treating them.”

By passing a 13-month fix, the next Congress will have the chance to start with a clean slate and work through all of the various options to make Medicare sustainable for future heart patients by permanently repealing the SGR.

“The ACC will continue to push for meaning payment reforms that repeal the SGR and put into place innovative solutions that reward quality care and patient-centered outcomes,” Brindis concluded. “Until then, Congress must act quickly to stop these devastating cuts from taking effect on December 1.”

About the American College of Cardiology

The American College of Cardiology is transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health through continuous quality improvement, patient-centered care, payment innovation and professionalism. The College is a 39,000-member nonprofit medical society comprised of physicians, surgeons, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists and practice managers, and bestows credentials upon cardiovascular specialists who meet its stringent qualifications. The College is a leader in the formulation of health policy, standards and guidelines, and is a staunch supporter of cardiovascular research. The ACC provides professional education and operates national registries for the measurement and improvement of quality care. More information about the association is available online at www.cardiosource.org/ACC.

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