The ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation held its third Annual Board of Directors Meeting this past April in Houston, Texas. It was a weekend reflecting on how we got to this point, where we are going, and enjoying each others company. President Yadin David was the consummate host planning a variety of rich activities that helped to spur plenty of discussion and passion for the continued mission.

Financially the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation is strong thanks to corporate and individual sponsors, many whom are ACCE members. The Board of Directors is now working hard on strategizing projects and ensuring governance for many years to come. The collective voice of the Board has proven fruitful and there are plans to continue that success.

There were three interesting and constructive aspects of our board meeting:

1. We had a facilitator to help guide us on focusing more clearly on where the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation is going how to address accountability and the management of various endeavors approved by the Board of Directors. One thing is for certain that to succeed there must be serious commitments by serious and productive people, there must be funding and there must be tangible accomplishments.

2. We had the excellent opportunity to have a roundtable discussion with a hospital administrator about the role of Clinical Engineering. What can be done to further the profession in the eyes of other administrators, what successes can be shared, and how do you determine value? The goal was to understand what was necessary from the administrator point of view but to also further educate on various projects and planned endeavors for the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation and what role could that play.

3. There was a second roundtable with a manufacturing representative to discuss protocol standards, patient safety practices, electronic data management, managing equipment failure, upgrades, and interoperability. It was an opportunity to really think outside the box in a futuristic way that could meet the needs of a manufacturer and support personnel alike.

The Public Awareness and Patient Safety Education Committee is working to address specific safety topics. An educational model has been finalized. The next steps include the solicitation
of authors and bids to work on specific modules. Once the modules are developed they can be shared with the public and used for a variety of patient educational activities.

The Clinical Alarm Management and Integration project is also moving forward with many activities in the near future, specifically involving ACCE involvement. There will be a Town Hall Meeting at AAMI on Sunday, May 15th from 7:30am-8:30am. It will provide an overview of ECRI studies, other improvement efforts and new technology. There will be discussion between the moderators, Tobey Clark, Bob Steifel and Jim Keller and the audience on clinical alarm issues. On June 16th Tobey Clark and others will extend the town hall meeting format in an ACCE Teleconference again focusing on the same topics. The goal is to gather as much information in various settings and user groups to develop a white paper on issues, guidance, and best practices.

The Professional Credentialing Committee has been very busy this year. With the help of the Healthcare Technology Certification Commission (HTCC) and the US Board of Examiners for Clinical Engineering Certification 26 people took the exam in Fall 2004. The 18 who passed are currently being scheduled for oral exams during the AAMI meeting. Interestingly 7 were from Hong Kong. Two of the examiners were recently there to administer the oral exam to those candidates. Much appreciation is extended to Caroline Campbell for her leadership and guidance as Chair of the US Board of Examiners. Future plans include continuing to develop questions for the test bank, plan the process for the two exams to be held in 2005, and beginning research on international opportunities and other overall governance issues.

The Clinical Engineering Excellence (CE²) program is heavily into the planning process. Much discussion occurred on the format for identifying clinical engineering programs that demonstrate excellence. There was focus on the development of eligibility and minimum requirements, the excellence criteria, review panels and judges, and the award process. Other programs and guidelines will be researched as well as how to disseminate the lessons learned and provide a unique opportunity for clinical engineering recognition.

Overall it was a truly productive meeting with a wonderful format to encourage discussion and planning of the many activities the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation is moving forward. We would be remiss to not once again thank our supporters who have both contributed monetarily and are working in various capacities on the projects. We ask that you continue this evolution and support the Foundation’s mission either personally or through your daily contacts. More information is available at our website: http://www.accefoundation.org

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