

## E-News & Updates

December 20, 2011





#### A Year of Thanks to All Who Helped SCA-ve a Life

As the holidays are upon us and a new year will soon begin, SCAA extends heartfelt thanks to all of our <u>sponsors</u>, donors, chapter leaders, advocates and other volunteers who worked tirelessly in 2011 to expand awareness of SCA and help save lives from the nation's leading cause of death. This year has seen an increase in legislative developments expanding CPR/AED use, good Samaritan protection and school AED deployment. As an organization, we've also been fortunate to launch several new initiatives - from the *Keep it Beating* program, to *COPE* to the *First on the Scene Toolkit*. Still, we continue to lose

loved ones to SCA. As you enjoy time with family and friends over the next few days, please know how greatly we appreciate your financial help and volunteer support this year. It truly takes a village to mount a campaign against SCA, and we are all neighbors in this fight. We wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday and look forward to a promising new year!



### FDA Issues Major Recall for ICD Lead

A November 28, 2011, device advisory letter sent to doctors about the performance of St. Jude Medical's Riata and Riata ST defibrillation leads is now a <u>class I recall</u> – the agency's most serious declaration indicating a potential risk of injury/death. Malfunctions of the wires in the leads could result in unnecessary shocks and/or failure to deliver shocks in ICD patients. "Until more data are collected, physicians should follow standard of care to manage their patients with Riata silicone leads," said Dr. Anne Curtis, University of Buffalo, NY, in a statement issued by St. Jude. Approximately 80,000 of the

Riata and Riata ST leads are currently active in patients across the U.S, though according to St. Jude, the lead problem remains under one percent. Patients with these specific devices are advised to contact their physicians with any questions/concerns.



#### **Rural AED Program Stays Alive in 2012**

It's official: Congress passed a Fiscal Year 2012 Conference Report funding the Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices program at \$2.5 million. The program provides grants to state and rural communities for the deployment and training of lifesaving devices like AEDs. SCAA applied to the competitively awarded grant program last year citing the need for devices in rural areas of Wisconsin, Montana and other states. Unfortunately, the program was unable to award any grants at that time.

"Residents of rural areas are often hit hardest with poor SCA survival rates due

to geographic locations hindering delivery of prompt emergency medical care," said Lisa A. Levine, CAE, president of SCAA. "This program is crucial to ensuring that all Americans have the same chance to survive SCA regardless of where they live."



## One Step Forward, Two Steps Back in U.S. Heart and Stroke Data

When it comes to the country's overall heart and vascular health, the news is mixed with good and bad. New data released by the American Heart Association in the "Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2012 Update" and published in *Circulation* reveal that:

deaths from cardiovascular disease have declined over 30 percent between 1998 and 2008.

stroke death rate fell nearly 35%, dropping it from the third to the fourth leading cause of death

- over 67% of American adults are overweight or obese
- over 31% of children are overweight or obese. Moreover, half of U.S. children from 12 to 19 years old meet four or fewer criteria for ideal cardiovascular health

"By monitoring health, as well as disease, the update provides information essential to public health initiatives, patient care and for people to take responsibility of their own health," said Veronique L. Roger, MD, MPH, lead author of the update and professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.



#### SCAA Chapter Marks Holiday with Lifesaving Gift for Kids

The <u>Fredericksburg</u> chapter of SCAA donated an AED to the Alice C. Tyler Village of Childhelp in Lignum, Virginia, on Saturday, December 10, 2011. Chapter members presented their donation to the staff of Childhelp at their annual Christmas celebration at the Village. Dr. Debbie Mack, Medical Director and Lorraine Highlander, RN-BC, Director of Nursing accepted the donation for the Village. The AED will truly be a lifesaving gift if ever needed since the Village is in a remote location and about 30 minutes travel time for the nearest

rescue squad. The residential village for abused children has a staff of over 150 people and approximately 60 children who receive care.

For more information about SCAA and how you can help save lives, visit www.suddencardiacarrest.org.

# Mark Your Calendar and be there with SCAA for these Exciting Events!

NAEMSP Annual Meeting: January 12-14, 2012

Parent Heart Watch Annual Conference: January 13-15, 2012

EMS Today: February 28-March 3, 2012 American College of Cardiology: March 24-27, 2012

Heart Rhythm Society Annual Conference: May 9-12, 2012

Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update: September 11-15, 2012

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