Message from the Chair

Greetings. I hope everyone has enjoyed a good summer. The summer certainly started off well for our Council with another successful Scientific Sessions in Toronto. It was a great meeting in a beautiful city, and I think all the attendees who participated in the Pediatric/Congenital Heart Disease Track came away impressed with both the content and quality of the speakers. I would like to personally thank Meryl Cohen, MD as Pediatric Program Chair and Ben Eidem MD, FASE as Co-chair for their excellent work in creating a topical and varied program that both engaged and entertained the audience. A special congratulations to Dr. Norman Silverman, who was awarded the Pediatric Teaching Award at the meeting. It was richly deserved. We can all look forward to the Scientific Sessions next June in Washington DC; I know that Ben Eidem, MD, FASE and his Co-chair Leo Lopez, MD, FASE have already been hard at work on that program. The Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council is a vital and important part of ASE, with 2,120 of the 14,000 ASE members joining the Pediatric Council (15%) and 1,660 ASE members indicating that their primary area of practice is pediatric echo. In addition, of the 2,634 attendees at the Scientific Sessions this year, 385 indicated that their primary area of practice is pediatric echo.

As the major voice for pediatric echo, support of and participation in ASE activities remains a critical part of membership. Opportunities to become involved in committee work and task forces are available every year, and I would encourage anyone who is interested to apply when the nominating process opens in November (watch the ASE website for details about the process). Important challenges lie ahead, including maintenance of fair reimbursement for the hard work we do each day and appropriate support (both in personnel and equipment) to get that work done. ASE is a committed advocate in addressing reimbursement, and it is critical for all members to stay informed and involved in advocacy; please make it a point to read the advocacy updates provided on the ASE website. The Pediatric Echo Workforce Survey should help clarify the work environment in our labs and hopefully provide data that we can all use to validate our staffing and equipment needs. I know how busy everyone in our subspecialty is, and I’m continually both amazed and energized by the enthusiasm and good humor I see in my pediatric colleagues despite the challenges. Keep up the good work! As always, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns about the Council. Have a great fall and winter.

Peter Frommelt, MD, FASE
Chair, ASE Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council
pfrommelt@chw.org

2008 ASE Pediatric Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching

Norman Silverman, MD, FASE, was presented the Second Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching of Pediatrics at the recent Scientific Sessions in Toronto. Dr. Silverman graduated from Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he also completed his pediatrics training. He then joined the University of California-San Francisco as a fellow in cardiology in 1972. After spending one year on faculty at Stanford University, he returned to UCSF, where he spent 28 years on faculty before he retired and joined the faculty at Stanford University, where he now holds the Marvin and Roma Auerback Endowed Scholar in Pediatric Cardiology. Dr. Silverman was recognized for his tremendous impact upon pediatric cardiology, both in terms of his clinical and research productivity, but primarily for his impact upon the field through his teaching activities. He has mentored and trained over 75 pediatric echocardiographers in his career.

In his address during the Pediatric Council meeting on Monday, Dr. Silverman discussed the aspects that have made him successful as a teacher and a mentor. This includes a passion for echocardiography, a respect for his trainees, a love of teaching, an inclusion of “life experiences” into the teaching process and the delight in seeing his trainees “surpass” his accomplishments. He described how his mentors molded his career path and affected his career choices. He cited the influence of Drs. Abraham Rudolph, Julien Hoffman and Nelson Schiller for their positive influence on his career.

Dr. Silverman was recognized and awarded the official plaque acknowledging his accomplishments during the ASE business plenary session on Monday.
ASE Scientific Sessions 2008 Pediatric Sessions Summaries

iCongenital, Toronto, Canada
By Meryl S. Cohen, MD

The pediatric congenital track of the 19th American Society of Echocardiography Scientific Sessions this year was entitled iCONGENITAL in keeping with the “i of Imaging” theme. The sessions were well attended with over 3000 attendees at the peak of the meeting. The faculty this year was made up of echocardiographers, surgeons, sonographers and nurses. The sessions were launched on Sunday morning; an outstanding group of faculty participated in a “Mentoring Workshop for Pediatric Physicians and Sonographers.” The Pediatric Echo Bowl that followed was attended by over 700 people with the winners being Carrie Altman, MD (Texas Children’s Hospital) and Reenu Eapen, MD (Children’s Hospital, Southwestern Medical Center) from the Mid-United States Team.

Other sessions on Sunday included “Applications of Novel Imaging Modalities in CHD” and “The Fetus in Distress.” On Monday, we had a session on corrected TGA with Echo and MRI perspectives and a surgeon’s point of view. Six pediatric oral abstracts were then presented with an outstanding question and answer session. A “How To” session followed with tag teams of physicians with sonographers or nurses presenting their topics. The end of the day session focused on lesions that challenge the echocardiographer such as ALCAPA, LV non-compaction and additional VSDs in complex CHD. An excellent panel discussion followed. Tuesday morning opened with a breakfast session on HLHS. The highlight of the “Controversies” session was the debate about how to approach imaging lesions by echocardiography. No one will forget Dr. Frommet’s presentation of the Subxyphoidians vs. the Parasternalistas. Many of our junior faculty and sonographers presented excellent cases in these two sessions with spectacular overviews of pathologic specimens highlighted by Dr. Weinberg compared to corresponding lesions by echocardiography. The pediatric/congenital track of the 19th Annual Scientific Sessions of the ASE began with an exciting one-day session on Saturday June 7, 2008. This full day session started with a state-of-the-art review of valvar cardiac lesions in adults with congenital heart disease and included discussions on the echocardiographic, surgical, and clinical management approach to adults with these lesions. The second morning session addressed imaging pearls in patients with complex congenital heart lesions presented in a practical “case-based” format. The afternoon sessions featured cardiac pathologist Dr. Paul Weinberg from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. An interactive “echocardiographic-pathology” review of congenital and acquired valvar heart lesions was featured in these two sessions with spectacular overviews of pathologic specimens highlighted by Dr. Weinberg compared to corresponding lesions by echocardiography.

Overall, the faculty was outstanding. I want to thank everyone for their hard work and informative presentations. Importantly, everyone stayed on time which allowed for stimulating panel discussions that occurred after every session.

I would also like to thank Dr. Ben Eidem for all of his help this year as my Co-chair. He will be putting the program together for the 2009 scientific sessions with the help of his Co-chair Dr. Leo Lopez. See you in Washington, DC next year!

CHD Symposium, Toronto, Canada
By Benjamin W. Eidem, MD, FASE

The iCongenital Pediatric Track of the 19th Annual Scientific Sessions of the ASE began with an exciting one-day session on Saturday June 7, 2008. This full day session started with a state-of-the-art review of valvar cardiac lesions in adults with congenital heart disease and included discussions on the echocardiographic, surgical, and clinical management approach to adults with these lesions. The second morning session addressed imaging pearls in patients with complex congenital heart lesions presented in a practical “case-based” format. The afternoon sessions featured cardiac pathologist Dr. Paul Weinberg from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. An interactive “echocardiographic-pathology” review of congenital and acquired valvar heart lesions was featured in these two sessions with spectacular overviews of pathologic specimens highlighted by Dr. Weinberg compared to corresponding lesions by echocardiography.

All of these sessions were very well attended and provided an excellent overview of echocardiographic and pathologic anatomy to the adult & pediatric sonographers and cardiologists in attendance. An equally outstanding Saturday symposia is being planned for the upcoming ASE meeting in Washington, DC in June 2009 – we look forward to seeing you there!!

ASE Call for Science
Don’t Miss the January Deadlines!
Visit www.asecho.org for more information.

2009 ASE Research Awards
Submission Opens: Saturday, November 1, 2008
Submission Deadline: Monday, January 19, 2009
Notification of Funding Decision: March 2009
Funding Period: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

2009 ASE Scientific Sessions Abstract Submission
Submission Opens: Friday, November 14, 2008
Submission Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2009
Notification of acceptance status: Friday, February 20, 2009
Presentation: June 6-10, 2009 at the 20th Annual ASE Scientific Sessions in Washington, DC

List of 4th-Year Fellowships
Children’s Hospital Boston
Children’s Hospital (Denver), University of Colorado, Denver
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Children’s National Medical Center
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
Duke University Medical Center
Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital
The Heart Institute for Children
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Medical College of Wisconsin
Medical University of South Carolina
Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York
Primary Children’s Medical Center/University of Utah
UT Southwestern Medical Center – Children’s Medical Center of Dallas

Please contact acoats@asecho.org if your facility should be listed above.
Collaboration on Course in Fetal Echocardiography between the American Society of Echocardiography and the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine to be held at the SMFM Meetings in 2009

By Jack Rychik, MD

Interest in fetal cardiovascular imaging is rapidly expanding. Technological advances and improved operator skill in fetal ultrasound has allowed for an ability to understand, manage and treat a myriad of diseases of the cardiovascular system before birth. Not only is the ability to accurately diagnose disease using fetal echocardiography continually improving, but the timeline for potential detection is moving earlier and earlier with first trimester imaging now possible.

Perinatologists who are experts in fetal medicine as well as pediatric cardiologists share a strong interest in fetal echocardiography. Each discipline brings a slightly different but complementary perspective when approaching the fetal echocardiogram. Within this spirit and for the 2nd year in a row, the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine and the Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council of the American Society of Echocardiography will collaborate in putting together a postgraduate course on fetal echocardiography. This year, a full day course will be held at the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Annual Scientific Sessions in San Diego, California in January of 2009. The preliminary program includes expert speakers from the realms of both pediatric cardiology and maternal-fetal medicine. Topics will include lectures on (1) how to perform the comprehensive fetal echocardiogram, (2) diagnosis and outcome for complex lesions such as conotruncal anomalies, hypoplastic left heart syndrome and Ebstein’s anomaly, (3) 4D fetal echo imaging, (4) Doppler evaluation of growth retardation, (5) cardiovascular manifestations of twin-twin transfusion syndrome, (6) fetal heart block, (7) impact of cardiovascular disease on brain development, and (8) future directions for the field of fetal echocardiography from one of the leading founders of the field.

This joint activity between the ASE and SMFM continues to expand the foundation for collaboration between the two disciplines, pediatric cardiology and maternal-fetal medicine, with the goals of expansion of knowledge in the field of fetal cardiovascular science.

Z-Score Writing Project

By Leo Lopez, MD, FASE

The Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council has received approval from the ASE to formulate the following document: “Recommendations for Quantification Methods during the Performance of a Pediatric Echocardiogram: A Report from the Pediatric Measurements Writing Group of the American Society of Echocardiography and Congenital Heart Disease Council.” This document will not only provide general quantitative guidelines for anyone performing a pediatric echocardiogram, but it will also serve as the methodology paper and manual of operations for the normative database initiative. Because of the known effect of somatic growth on all pediatric cardiac measurements, the Council plans to generate a database of normal values against which most of these measurements can be compared. The document will serve as the first step in the long-term project of developing universal Z-scores, and it will involve a discussion of the following topics: differences in the quantification approach between pediatric and adult cardiology, the principles and methodology for indexing measurements in pediatrics, specific protocols for morphometric and functional/ hemodynamic measurements in our patients and justification for the recommendations, and future directions in pediatric quantification. Members of the Writing Group include Drs. Steve Colan, Greg Ensing, Peter Frommelt, Tal Geva, Kathy Kendall, Wyman Lai, Leo Lopez, and Adel Younoszai. The current plan is to have a first draft of the document available for review at the American Heart Association meeting in November.

Workforce Survey Update

By Michael Brook, MD

The Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council is currently conducting pediatric echocardiography laboratory surveys and is requesting the participation of lab directors and fellows. The purpose of the echo lab director survey is to help the ASE to better understand the clinical demands of echocardiography labs, the magnitude of the need for additional pediatric echocardiographers, and the technological needs and desires of pediatric echo labs. The fellow survey is designed to provide insight into the decisions that fellows make regarding their career and the resulting impact on the workforce in Academic Pediatric Cardiology. ASE hopes to use this data in the future to advocate on behalf of pediatric echocardiography needs.

Echocardiography Laboratory Director Survey: To date, ASE has received responses from the directors of 31 echo labs, but would like to achieve well over a 50% response rate. Please respond if you have not already using the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kpd8B_2ffSMwroLaJBNAm_2fQ_3d_3d

Fellowship Workforce Survey: Roughly 1/3 of all active fellows have responded. Please encourage fellows who have not responded to do so by using the following link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=_2IkIw1QL7Ky3AN_2bh3TlbLNQ_3d_3d
Job Listings

Non-Invasive Imaging Pediatric Cardiologist
The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the University of Utah School of Medicine and Primary Children’s Medical Center is recruiting a pediatric cardiologist with a major interest in non-invasive imaging to join the division in 2009. The candidate should have a strong clinical background in all areas of pediatric cardiology with expertise in echocardiography (transthoracic and transesophageal). Expertise in 3D echocardiography is desirable, but not mandatory. The candidate will be joining a 21-member division of Pediatric Cardiology with 8 cardiologists currently involved with non-invasive imaging. The Division has a very active, growing clinical program. There will be protected time for clinical research with mentoring available within the Division for clinical research studies. The Division also has a very active clinical research program and is one of the participating centers in the Pediatric Heart Disease Clinical Research Network funded by the NIH.

The successful candidate will receive a faculty appointment at the University of Utah. The Pediatric Cardiology Division is based at Primary Children’s Medical Center, a tertiary referral center for a three-state area located on the hills overlooking Salt Lake City. The area offers an excellent quality of life with immense cultural and recreational opportunities close and available. The University of Utah is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from minorities and women and provides reasonable accommodations to the known disabilities of applicants and employees.

Interested individuals should send a cover letter and CV to:

Lloyd Y. Tani, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology
University of Utah School of Medicine
100 N. Mario Capecchi Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84113
Phone: (801) 662-5400
Fax: (801) 662-5404
Email: lloyd.tani@imail.org

Pediatric/Fetal Echocardiographer - UCSF Children’s Hospital and University of California San Francisco School of Medicine
The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the University of Utah School of Medicine and Primary Children’s Medical Center is recruiting a pediatric cardiologist with a major interest in non-invasive imaging to join the division in 2009. The candidate should have a strong clinical background in all areas of pediatric cardiology with expertise in echocardiography (transthoracic and transesophageal). Expertise in 3D echocardiography is desirable, but not mandatory. The candidate will be joining a 21-member division of Pediatric Cardiology with 8 cardiologists currently involved with non-invasive imaging. The Division has a very active, growing clinical program. There will be protected time for clinical research with mentoring available within the Division for clinical research studies. The Division also has a very active clinical research program and is one of the participating centers in the Pediatric Heart Disease Clinical Research Network funded by the NIH.

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Lloyd Y. Tani, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology
University of Utah School of Medicine
100 N. Mario Capecchi Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84113
Phone: (801) 662-5400
Fax: (801) 662-5404
Email: lloyd.tani@imail.org

Advanced Congenital Cardiology Non-Invasive Imaging Fellowship
We are excited to offer a funded Congenital Cardiology Non-Invasive Imaging Fellowship in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. We are presently looking for qualified candidates to start July 2009. Candidates must have completed a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at an accredited program and be board eligible by the summer of 2009.

The fellow for non-invasive imaging will join a busy clinical practice with opportunities for research and career development; the department has developed a NIH-funded pediatric echo research lab with 2 research staff and 2 dedicated myocardial deformation/2-D and 3-D imaging review stations. Currently, over 8000 transthoracic, 600 transesophageal, and 250 fetal echocardiograms are done annually. We currently have active programs established in fetal cardiology, adult congenital heart disease and cardiac MRI/CT.

Interested candidates should forward a copy of their CV and 3 letters of recommendation to:

Peter Bartz, MD
Director, Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine
Medical College of Wisconsin
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226
Phone: (414) 266-2448
Fax: (414) 266-2294
Email: pbartz@chw.org
Non-Invasive Imaging Pediatric Cardiologist

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin is recruiting board certified / eligible pediatric cardiologists in non-invasive imaging. The candidate should have expertise in transthoracic and trans-esophageal echocardiography; interest in fetal echocardiography and cardiac MRI and CT is also desirable. The candidate would join a busy clinical practice with opportunities for research and career development; the department already has developed a NIH-funded pediatric echo research laboratory with 2 full-time research assistants/technicians and 2 dedicated myocardial deformation/2-D and 3-D imaging review stations.

The practice is affiliated with the Medical College of Wisconsin with very competitive compensation and benefits. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin is in the process of major facility revisions and infrastructure expansion. Pediatric cardiology and pediatric critical care fellowship training program are currently in place. Interested applications should fax or E-mail their CV's to:

Stuart Berger, M.D.
Director, Division of Pediatric Cardiology
Medical College of Wisconsin
Fax: (414) 266-3261
Email: sberger@chw.org

Advanced Cardiac Imaging 4th Year Fellowship

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York Presbyterian, Columbia University is offering a funded 4th year fellowship position in advanced cardiac imaging beginning July 1, 2009. Candidates must be completing or have completed an accredited fellowship in pediatric cardiology and be board eligible in Pediatric Cardiology.

The pediatric cardiac imaging program at Columbia provides state-of-the-art imaging services, including 2-D and 3-D echocardiography, fetal echocardiography, cardiac MRI and CT, for the largest children's hospital in New York and one of the largest pediatric cardiology centers in the United States. Our imaging labs perform more than 10,000 transthoracic echocardiograms, 1000 fetal echocardiograms (of which 30% have congenital heart disease) and 400 cardiac MRIs annually. Trainees will have ample opportunities for both clinical and research training.

Interested candidates should forward a copy of their CV, with a list of three references, to:

Wyman W. Lai, MD, MPH
Director, Non-Invasive Cardiac Imaging
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian
3959 Broadway – CH 2N Rm 255
New York, NY 10032-3784
Phone: (212) 342-1456
Fax: (212) 305-4429
Email: wyman.lai@columbia.edu

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ASE’s New Board of Directors

ASE’s new Board of Directors was installed at the June Scientific Sessions in Toronto, with William A. Zoghbi, MD, FASE, taking the helm as president.

The incoming board is as follows:

President: ...................................................William Zoghbi, MD, FASE
President-Elect: .............................Roberto Lang, MD, FASE
Vice President: ............................Sanjiv Kaul, MD, FASE
Treasurer: ......................................................James Thomas, MD
Secretary: ......................................................Rick Rigling, RDCS, FASE
Past President: .........................Thomas Ryan, MD, FASE
Director: .................................J. Todd Belcik, BS, RDCS, FASE
Director: .................................. Renee L. Bess, BS, RDCS, RVT, FASE

ASE’s council chairs remain as follows:

Council on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease: ...................... Peter Frommelt, MD, FASE 
Council on Intraoperative Echocardiography: .............................. Stanton Shernan, MD, FASE 
Council on Cardiac Sonography: .................................... Peg Knoll, RDCS, FASE
Council on Vascular Ultrasound: ......................................... Emile Mohler III, MD

Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council

Chair – Peter Frommelt, MD, FASE ...................... pfrommelt@chw.org
Chair-Elect – Wyman Lai, MD, MPH, FASE ........ wyman.lai@mssm.edu
Immediate Past Chair – Tal Geva, MD, FASE ............................. tal.geva@cardio.chboston.org
Program Chair for 2009 Washington, DC Scientific Sessions – Benjamin Eidem, MD, FASE ......... eidem.benjamin@mayo.edu
Program Co-Chair – Leo Lopez, MD, FASE ........... leo.lopez@mch.com

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Nancy Ayres, MD .............................................. nayres@bcm.tmc.edu
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Reenu S. Eapen, MD .................................. reenu.eapen@childrens.com
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Editor .....................................Wyman Lai, MD, FASE (wl2269@columbia.edu)

ASE Staff Liaison ......................... Adrienne Coats (acoats@asecho.org)