A Message from the Chair

Hello! I hope all of you are surviving and thriving in these winter months (I am still waiting for Al Gore to explain our artic winter in Milwaukee), and I look forward to an exciting and productive year for the Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease membership at ASE. We are looking forward to many things. Once again, an innovative Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Program has been put together for the ASE Scientific Sessions in June being held in Toronto this year. I would like to personally thank Dr. Meryl Cohen as the Pediatric Program Chair and Dr. Ben Eidem as the Co-chair for their hard work and sustained enthusiasm in preparing the program and selecting an expert faculty. The format of the Scientific Sessions is new this year; see Dr. Cohen’s piece in this newsletter. We will again be awarding Pediatric Travel Grants to cardiology fellows-in-training to attend the Scientific Sessions; please encourage your fellows with an interest in echocardiography as a subspecialty to apply as the deadline is March 20th. Finally, we will be giving an Excellence in Teaching award for Pediatric and Congenital Echocardiography during the Scientific Sessions to a cardiologist who has been exemplary in mentoring and teaching during his/her career; as a member of the nominating committee, I know that we have several excellent and worthy candidates.

The Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council Board continues to work on an updated pediatric workforce survey that will be distributed to sonographers, cardiology fellows, and echocardiography laboratory directors across North America. I would again encourage participation in this endeavor, as the results could be used to direct manpower and equipment needs for all our laboratories. The council has developed a Normative Database working group, led by Dr. Leo Lopez, to develop consensus methods for standardization of measures acquired during the pediatric echocardiogram with a long-term goal of creating a normative database of universally available standardized z-score calculations for the pediatric and young adult population. The Council is also exploring the possibility of creating a pediatric echocardiography appropriateness criteria document similar to the adult echo-focused document published last year by the ACC and ASE.

Again, remember that your actions can help ASE. You can contribute a donation to the ASE Education and Research Foundation, where funds are used for research and educational objectives for the membership. Please stay involved in important ongoing issues in advocacy; remember that there is a legislative action center available through the advocacy section of the ASE website (http://capwiz.com/asecho/home/). You should get your FASE if you haven’t already. You should promote new ASE educational products, such as the posters, and disseminate ASE training standards, guidelines and the core curriculum throughout your lab. You should encourage research applications to ASE, for the Career Development award, Cardiovascular Sonographer Research award, and Echo Investigator award; the ASE Research committee specifically solicited proposals for innovations in technology with a focus on 3-D, contrast, and hand carried ultrasound. You should use and promote the website (www.ASEcho.org, www.aseuniversity.org and www.seemyheart.org). You should encourage membership in ASE, and remind your fellows that electronic membership is free for fellows-in-training. Finally, you should submit your completed research to JASE.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful year; please feel free to contact me with any ideas, questions, or concerns. I would love to hear from you.

Respectfully,

Peter Frommelt, MD
pfrommelt@chw.org
Committee Reports

Information Technology Committee

Current projects include 1) continuing to add to the online image library available to members through the website, 2) enhancing the ASE website, 3) creating webcasts on various topics including one on congenital heart disease.

—Andrew Powell, MD, FASE (Pediatric Representative)

Research Committee

ASE received a record number of submissions for the 2008 Research Awards. Five of the proposals involved studying congenital and pediatric heart disease.
Abstract Presentations scheduled for the 19th Annual Scientific Sessions of the American Society of Echocardiography

29 Pediatric Cardiovascular and Adult Congenital Heart Disease abstracts selected for presentation

• 1 as a YIA Finalist – Presented Tuesday, June 10 between 8:45 am - 10:15 am in Hall F, during the Opening Plenary Session
• 6 for Pediatric Orals – Presented Monday, June 9 from 8:45 am - 10:30 am in Room 801
• 22 for Posters – Presented Tuesday, June 10 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Exhibit and Poster Hall

2008 Arthur E. Weyman Young Investigator’s Award Finalist:

Left Ventricle to Right Ventricle Size Discrepancy in the Fetus: Can We Reliably Predict the Presence of Critical Congenital Heart Disease?

Michael D Quartermain, Meryl S Cohen, Troy E Dominguez, Zhiyun Tian, Denise D Donaghue, Jack Rychik
The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Pediatric Oral Abstract Presentations:

Variable Myocardial Response to Load Stresses in Infants with Single LV Anatomy: Influence of Initial Physiology and Surgical Palliative Strategy

Sara Deatsman, Jessica S Gorenz, Peter C Frommelt
Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Pulmonary Valve Replacement Improves but Doesn’t Normalize Right Ventricular Function in Children with Repaired Congenital Heart Disease: A Comparative Assessment Utilizing Velocity Vector Imaging

Shelby Kutty1, Sara Deatsman1, David Russell1, Melodee L Nugent2, Pippa M Simpson2, Peter C Frommelt1

The symposium was a tremendous success, with nearly 300 audience participants in attendance. Lectures included presentations by Dr. Erik Michelfelder from Cincinnati on “the comprehensive fetal echocardiogram: the approach to evaluating the fetus with complex heart disease,” by Dr. Mary Donofrio from Washington DC on “the brain heart relationship: complex interaction in the fetus,” by Dr. Jack Rychik from Philadelphia on “decision making in complex congenital heart disease: how do we know what to tell the family?” and “twin-twin transfusion syndrome: cardiovascular impact,” by Dr. Bettina Cuneo from Chicago on “state of the art management strategies for treating fetal arrhythmia,” and by Dr. Wayne Tworetzky from Boston on “fetal cardiac interventions: is it ready for prime time?” A “stump-the faculty” case was presented by Dr. Anita Szwast from Philadelphia. Future collaborative efforts in fetal cardiovascular imaging education are planned.

Fetal Medicine Course

By Jack Rychik, MD

The Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council of the American Society of Echocardiography and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine collaborated on a full day post-graduate course at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine held on Wednesday January 30, 2008 entitled: “Frontiers in Diagnosis and Management of Fetal Cardiovascular Disease.” Faculty consisted of experts in the field of fetal cardiovascular disease from the realms of both maternal-fetal medicine and pediatric cardiology. As technology and operator skill in obstetrical imaging has improved over the years, so has the interest in advanced imaging of the fetal cardiovascular system by radiologists, obstetricians, maternal fetal medicine specialists, and pediatric cardiologists. This collaborative effort reflects the importance of inter-disciplinary cooperation in transmitting knowledge concerning the diagnosis and management of fetal cardiovascular disease.

1Herma Heart Center, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI; 2Section of Quantitative Health Sciences, Dept. of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Insights into Ventricular Mechanics in the Unlooped Heart: Ventricular Twisting and Untwisting in a Fetal Mouse Model of Right Atrial Isomerism Single Ventricle

Qing Yu1, Lowell Frank2, Linda Leatherbury2, Cecelia Lo1, Petra S. Niemann3, Helene Houle4, J. Michael Tyszk4, David J. Sahn1
1National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Bethesda, MD; 2Children’s National Medical Center / NIH, Washington, DC; 3Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR; 4Siemens Medical Solutions, Mountain View, CA; 5California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA

Tissue Doppler Imaging Measurement of Left Ventricular Systolic Function: Mitral Annular Displacement is Superior to Peak Velocity

David A Roberson1, Wei Cui1, Katheryn Gambetta1, Dhaval Patel1
1The Heart Institute for Children, Oak Lawn, IL; 2University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Left Atrioventricular Valve Stenosis after Atroventricular Septal Defect Repair: Intraoperative Transesophageal Echocardiography Predictors and Outcome

Manuela B C Cabral, Maria Angélica Binotto, Lilian M Takigawa, Wilson Mathias, Jr., Vitor C Guerra
Heart Institute of University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Echocardiographic Predictors of Ductus Arteriosus Closure in Extremely Low-Birth Weight Preterm Infants

Faustino G. Ramos, Lonnie Roy, Josh Koch, Gaynelle Hensley, Charles R. Rosenfeld, Claudio Ramaciotti
Children’s Medical Center Dallas, Dallas, TX
To enhance an every expanding program, the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin is recruiting board certified/eligible pediatric cardiologists to join a dynamic practice of 16 pediatric cardiologists and 3 cardiovascular surgeons. We are searching for academic cardiologists with excellent interpersonal skills to fulfill roles in non-invasive imaging.

The candidate should have expertise in transthoracic and transesophageal 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, sberger@chw.org, Fax# 414-266-3261

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 fetal or 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 contact Lloyd Y. Tani, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Division Chief of Pediatric Cardiology, University of Utah School of Medicine, at (801) 662-5400 or by email: lloyd.tani@email.chop.edu

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian, Columbia University is recruiting two academic pediatric cardiologists specialized in non-invasive pediatric cardiac imaging. Candidates for the first position should have expertise/advanced fellowship training in cardiac MRI and echocardiography. Candidates for the second position should have expertise/advanced training in echocardiography, including TEE and fetal echocardiography. Both candidates must be completing or must have completed an accredited fellowship in pediatric cardiology and be board eligible/certified 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 12,000 transthoracic echocardiograms, 800 fetal echocardiograms (of which 40% have congenital heart disease) and 400 cardiac MRIs annually. The Division has ample opportunities for clinical and basic science research and is one of eight centers participating in the NIH-funded Pediatric Heart Network. The approved candidate will receive a faculty appointment at Columbia University. Columbia University is an equal opportunity /affirmative action employer and is particularly interested in applications from women and minorities.

Interested candidates should forward a copy of their CV and 3 letters of recommendation to: William E. Hellenbrand, MD, Chief of Pediatric Cardiology, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University, 3959 Broadway, New York, NY 10032, Email: wh148@email.chop.edu

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Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease Council

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Immediate Past Chair – Tal Geva, MD, FASE ................................................ tal.geva@cardio.chboston.org
Program Chair for 2008 Toronto Scientific Sessions – Meryl Cohen, MD .... cohenm@email.CHOP.edu
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Michael Brook, MD ............................................................... michael.brook@ucsf.edu
Adel K. Younoszai, MD .................................................. younoszai.adel@tchden.org
Kathleen A. Kendall, RDCS ...... kakendall@texaschildrenshospital.org
Reenu S. Eapen, MD ..................................................... reenau.eapen@childrens.com
Lloyd Tani, MD – SOPE Representative ........................................ lloyd.tani@intermountainmail.org

Editor............................. Wyman Lai, MD, FASE (wyman.lai@mssm.edu)
Advanced Fellowship Opportunities

The Department of Cardiology at Children’s Hospital Boston offers a one-year advanced fellowship in the Division of Noninvasive Cardiac Imaging commencing July 1, 2008.

Training includes echocardiography (transthoracic, transesophageal, and fetal) and cardiovascular MRI. In addition to clinical training, fellows are required to participate in research and teaching activities. The Echocardiography and Cardiac MRI Laboratories are active facilities equipped with the latest technologies, providing trainees with ample opportunities for clinical training, research, and education. Candidates must be eligible for a temporary license to practice medicine in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For an application packet, please contact Ms. Ellen Davis at (617) 355-8559 or by email: ellen.davis@cardio.chboston.org.

Advanced Congenital Cardiology Non-Invasive Imaging Fellowship

We are excited to offer a funded one year Advanced 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 looking for qualified candidates to start July 2008 and July 2009. Candidates must have completed a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at an accredited program and be board eligible prior to starting the fellowship.

The fellow for non-invasive imaging will join a busy clinical practice with opportunities for research and career development; the department has a NHLF-funded pediatric echo research lab with 2 research staff and 2 dedicated myocardial deformation/2-D and 3-D imaging review stations. Currently, more than 8000 transthoracic, 400 transesophageal, and 150 fetal echocardiograms are done annually. In addition, we have active programs established in fetal cardiology, adult congenital heart disease and cardiac MRI/CT.

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin is in the process of a major facility expansion, and our Imaging Labs contain with mild and sunny weather providing year-round activities for the outdoor enthusiast.

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

Adel K. Younoszai, MD, Director of Cardiac Imaging and Fetal Cardiology, The Children’s Hospital, B-100, 13123 East 16th Ave, Aurora, CO 80045, Email: younoszai.adel@tchden.org

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University is now offering a funded 4th year fellowship position in advanced cardiac imaging beginning July 1, 2008.

Candidates must be completing or must 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 12,000 transthoracic echocardiograms, 800 fetal echocardiograms (of which 40% 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 and 3 letters of recommendation to:

Beth F. Printz, M.D., Ph.D., Interim Co-Director, Pediatric Cardiac Imaging, Director, Pediatric Cardiac MRI, Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University, 3959 Broadway, New York, NY 10032, Email: bfp2@columbia.edu, Phone: (212) 305-6543, Fax: (212) 303-1262

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City is offering a one-year senior fellowship in Pediatric Echocardiography/Noninvasive Imaging for 2008-09.

The senior fellow will receive advanced training in transthoracic, transesophageal, and fetal echocardiography. This would include training in the diagnosis of complex congenital heart disease, assessment of myocardial function, and myocardial deformation imaging. A significant portion of time would be set aside for academic pursuits. The pediatric echocardiography laboratory at Mount Sinai performs 6000 echocardiograms per year, including more than 1000 fetal echocardiograms annually. There will also be an opportunity to receive basic training in congenital cardiac MRI. There are six trainees in the general pediatric cardiology fellowship program. All interested candidates should forward their curriculum vitae to Dr. Ira Parness, Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology, preferably by e-mail to ira.parness@mssm.edu or by FAX (212) 534-2659. We are an equal opportunity employer.