Hot Topics in Fetal Cardiology
By Jack Rychik, MD

In Arizona IV on Friday morning, experts in the field of fetal cardiovascular disease gathered to discuss a number of interesting and challenging problems. In somewhat of an unconventional manner, each speaker was assigned a topic which was briefly presented and then openly discussed amongst the faculty in a roundtable panel discussion. The forum facilitated a unique and interesting give and take exchange between members of the faculty, making effective video presentations and rounds of probing questions from the audience. Faculty discussants included Jack Rychik, Jim Utley, Dr. Lisa Hornberger from Stanford presented intriguing data on a very unique and fascinating association seen in the fetus, namely that of atrial isomerism, complete heart block, and spongiosis of myocardium. The clinical course and possible treatment strategies for this very serious disease complex was discussed. Dr. Lisa Hornberger from San Francisco discussed a number of interesting and challenging patients. On behalf of the organizing committee, I want to thank you for attending our annual post-graduate course. The meeting content will include pulmonary hypertension, new different institutions! Other breakout sessions to attend on Thursday was a difficult task. There were so many interesting topics. Those who chose for the Cardiovascular Nursing Plenary Sessions were not disappointed.

In the first plenary session nursing experts from across the country presented a “potpourri” of current and relevant clinical talks about pediatric cardiac nursing. Participants learned about the uses for novel assist devices in pediatrics, sports participation for patients with CHD, and strategies for preparing children for impatient procedures from Rosita Maley, Julianne Evangelista, and Elizbeth Tong. Karen Uzark, a nursing leader in pediatric cardiac quality of life research examined this issue in heart transplant patients. Sharon Hill presented the hybrid procedure for HLHS. Mary Fran Hazinski closed this first session with a great discussion of current controversies in pediatric resuscitation and engaged the audience in a fast-paced, hands-on, temporary pacing, the challenges of the EMR, how to obtain and distribute resources for families, and 5 of the surgical faculty discussing “my favorite operation.”

The Saturday session will conclude with a comprehensive review of current management and outcome for children with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, including a panel discussion with representatives from 8 institutions around the globe. Once again, pathologic specimens will be shown by Dr. Weinberg, followed by “rapid-fire” topics and the distribution of question cards. The panel will then address their approach to commonly asked questions from the audience. The meeting will conclude following the panel discussion, with speculation on future directions in the care of these challenging patients.

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the profession of nursing years after her death. The first two speakers in this session described the ongoing impact of her body of work. Cynda Hylton Rushton described the Nightingale Initiative, an exciting global effort to unite nurses everywhere to improve health care and health. Please join this exciting initiative by going to www.NightingaleDeclaration.net and ask the United Nations to make the year 2010 the Year of the Nurse. Using Nightingale metrics, Patricia Hickey presented a plan for how these metrics can be used to measure and improve how cardiovascular nurses can better deliver care. Assuring expert and safe care in the midst of new science and new technology, Sharon Hill reviewed the personnel and equipment issues involved in designing a hybrid catheterization lab. Bringing it full circle, Mary Beth Williams explored the philosophy of a cardiac nursing community and the tools required to build it. Thursday ended with a Nursing Reception. All of us had an opportunity to network with the international community of pediatric nurses attending this year’s conference.

Developing a systematic yet defect specific approach to caring for patients with CHD takes education, effort, and experience. Friday morning’s session, The Basics, provided the tools for getting started. In a fast-paced format the panel of speakers presented the “meat” or key important facts of what they wanted the learner to hear and then provided details and the long version of their talks in a printed syllabus given to all of the participants. This format, although unique and challenging, allowed multiple topics and defects to be presented in a “must know” version in just 2 hours. Topics included the “top” things to know about CHD, hemodynamic monitoring, and cardiopulmonary bypass. Patterns of recovery following surgery and the importance of recognizing and following these trends and patterns were discussed. Finally, building on these concepts, the anatomy, physiology, and surgical repair of common types of CHD was presented with actual specimens from Dr. Weinberg’s collection at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Saturday, the nursing program focus shifts to nursing research. The top 3 nursing abstracts will be orally presented at a special Sunrise Nursing Research Breakfast at 7am. Later in the morning the winner of the Second Annual Nursing Scientist Award will be announced. Saturday afternoon offers an exciting opportunity for any nurse interested in doing research. Leading nurse scientists from across the country will be presenting a “how to” session on getting started, choosing the right tools, and following through with the project. The entire day is a celebration of the current and future contributions of nursing research to the art and the science of nursing. Please join us at these events and sessions.

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