Welcome to Cardiology 2007

By Gil Wernovsky, MD, RC

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, welcome to Cardiology 2007: our 10th Annual Post Graduate Course in Pediatric Cardiovascular Disease. Once again, we have planned an ambitious, comprehensive, multidisciplinary set of topics, presented by internationally renowned faculty. While there are many excellent meetings for sub-specialists in echocardiography, interventional cardiology, cardiac intensive care, cardiovascular nursing, cardiac anesthesia and surgery, we are most proud of bringing together ALL of those who care for children with heart disease to one location, to discuss issues common across disciplines, and to participate in smaller, discipline-specific breakout sessions.

As of the beginning of February, we were anticipating 750 attendees—55% of whom were physicians, 15% advanced practice nurses, 20% pediatric and intensive care nurses, and 10% allied health professionals, including perfusionists, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, physician assistants, sonographers and administrators. The attendee mix represents essentially all of the necessary aspects to care for children with cardiovascular disease, and their families.

It is a very exciting time for our field. Congenital heart disease was almost universally lethal 50 years ago, now, virtually every form of CHD is amenable to surgical or transcatheter intervention. Exceptional progress has been made in diagnostics, surgical therapy, intensive care, anesthesia and nursing – especially in the last 25 years since the introduction of prostaglandins, the availability of non-invasive diagnostic imaging, and portable echocardiography – and constant improvements in surgery.

As new technology becomes available, our goal is to make improvements in outcomes to achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients. This meeting is for the participants to return to their individual practices with a greater understanding of the variability in care that exists in our field, with equally good results across centers despite very differing management strategies. Keep an open mind to new ideas, question your institutional dogma, and above all, remain inquisitive, enthusiastic and slightly skeptical – all at the same time!

New This Year: We are trying a few new things this year, and would very much appreciate your feedback in the course evaluations. Tomorrow, on 2/22/07, one afternoon breakout session will be devoted to issues that confront physicians in training and junior staff: how to get a job, choose a mentor, get funding, negotiate salary and balancing work and real life. On Saturday, 2/24/07, we will have two large plenary sessions using a digital audience response system. In the morning, we will host “The World’s Biggest Surgical Conference” discussing common and complex CHD management, and at the end of the day, a multidisciplinary session examining practice variability.

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For the details on tomorrow’s sessions, see Cardiology 2007 program for details.

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to continue our named lectures in cardiovascular nursing (Dr. Martha Cutler), cardiology (Dr. Philipp Bonhoeffer), cardiac surgery (Dr. Pedro del Nido) and introduce a Keynote Lecture in Cardiovascular Administration (Mr. Gavin Kerr). These sessions are always our most crowded, so please come early to get a good seat. In addition to the new research presented throughout the meeting, we received over 100 abstract submissions, 64 of which will be presented in two separate poster sessions. The top finalists for the 4th Outstanding Investigator Award will present their work during the featured research session on Friday, 2/23/07; the winner will be honored at 11:15 AM on Saturday, following the named lectures. Finalists include Dr. Kirstin Odegard (Children's Hospital, Boston), Dr. John Costello (Children's Hospital, Boston), and Dr. Jan Kaufman (The University of Colorado and Children's Hospital, Denver).

This year’s Plenary Sessions include overviews of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (2/21/07), double outlet right ventricle (2/22/07), coronary artery disease (2/22/07), improving patient safety (2/22/07), and heterotaxy syndrome/semisystemic (2/25/07). In addition, sub-specialty breakout sessions will be held throughout the meeting in echocardiography, nursing, perfusion, intensive care, administration and outpatient cardiology. A Live Fetal Imaging session will be held on 2/23/07.

Personally, I would like to thank the staff at Congenital Cardiology Today - Tony Carlson, Founder; Richard Koulbanis, Editor/Publisher; and John W. Moore, MD, MPH, Medical Editor -- for their annual support and helpful suggestions, as well as for arranging the “job board” that is on display in the physicians-in-training breakout and exhibit area. On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank the exhibitors for their time and financial support, without whom we would be unable to provide the quality of material at this meeting at a reasonable cost. Please take some time during the meeting to stop by and see what is on display.

Finally, a number of social events are planned for this year. Tonight, in between the opening session and the CPR Plenary, will be a Poster Session and Light Reception. It will be a quick opportunity to meet former colleagues, catch up on gossip, and relax a bit before the final session of the evening. Tomorrow evening, in order to mingle with your colleagues in a similar discipline, smaller receptions are planned for nursing, staff cardiologists, physicians in training, administrators, and all who work in the operating room (anesthesiologists, surgeons, perfusionists) and intensive care units. On Friday evening will be our Gala Reception.

Thanks once again for coming to Cardiology 2007 and have a great meeting!

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Course Director

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FOR EARLY RISERS ON THURSDAY
Thursday AM Hands On Sessions – 7:00-8:00

Salon Y
Cardiac ECMO, CPB and CPTA Collaborative Effort Between Surgeons, Cardiologists, Intensivists, Perfusionists, and ECMO Specialists
Des. Cooper, Ravichandran, Jacobs, Gruber and Harrington; Mr. Connolly, Mr. Pasyard, Ms. Moore, Ms. Owen and Ms. Griffin

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