Sign-up **Now** for the 4th Annual PICS~AICS 5K Run (Tuesday, Jan. 17th at 6 am) - Sponsored by Siemens

**You'll be making a difference and supporting CHIMS - Congenital Heart Intervention Mission Support!**

*By Karim Diab, MD and Damien Kenny, MD*

PICS 2017 marks the Fourth Annual PICS~AICS 5k Run/Walk co-sponsored by Siemens. This run/walk supports the Congenital Heart Intervention Mission Support (CHIMS) project that was launched during PICS 2013 in Miami. The organization has been very active in providing a coordinated and sustainable benefit to interventional catheterization for structural heart disease in developing countries through centralizing and consolidating pre-existing charitable mission work. It focuses on three main approaches:

1. Centralizing all unused and donated equipment relevant to cardiac catheterization, from catheter laboratories in North America to a central repository with provision of an online inventory facilitating those involved in mission work to pre-order required equipment to support the intended procedures for their mission.
2. Developing a registry of missions involved in congenital catheterization in the developing world, and also a registry of interventionalists, nurses and technologists, who wish to support this work.
3. Developing channels for bipartisan educational support with the ultimate aim of ensuring a sustainable self-sufficient catheterization program in emerging countries interested in developing local programs.

The project has organizational support through the **PICS Foundation**, as well as from the International Children’s Heart Foundation and the PICES group (Pediatric Interventional Cardiology Early Career Society), an organization supporting younger interventionalists internationally.

The work at CHIMS has been very active in the past four years. Since CHIMS inception, over 20 centers have shipped equipment to a centralized repository in Memphis through a cost-free shipping service supported by the International Children’s Heart Fund. In addition, Gore recently donated over 70 devices to CHIMS. An inventory system has been purchased, which helped facilitate instant access to continually-updated available equipment. Financing from this has been supported through the annual CHIMS 5K Run at PICS, like the one taking place this year, which continues to be kindly supported by Siemens and the PICS Foundation, and participants like you. To date, CHIMS has been able to support several mission trips and almost a hundred catheterization procedures.

“PICS 2017 marks the Fourth Annual PICS~AICS 5 km Run/1 Mile Walk co-sponsored by Siemens. This run/walk is to support the Congenital Heart Intervention Mission Support project...”

It is clear that many of us feel a further urge to assist those less fortunate children and adults with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) who have limited access to the care we take for granted. For some, this will involve travel to these areas through mission trips to disseminate knowledge and skills. However, for others, this may not be possible due to time constraints. The CHIMS endeavor provides an opportunity to help and contribute by simply sending the equipment that your laboratory is no longer using, to a central repository so that it can be acquired by those in need.

We continue to accept all donations for unused equipment. We are particularly interested in non-coronary balloon expandable stents, occlusion devices of all sizes and makes, and balloons and delivery sheaths. Please log on to the CHIMS webpage [www.chimsupport.com](http://www.chimsupport.com) if you have unused equipment which you are willing to donate, or if you would like to request product for a mission trip. Volunteers are also welcome to help with the inventory management at the warehouse.

In the meantime, while at PICS 2017, enjoy a fun run or walk to support this charitable cause!!

The $30.00 donation includes:

- Technical T-shirt (Men & Women), digital chip timing, registration, finish line and post-race refreshments.
- All race packets can be picked up at the Siemens booth Monday, Jan. 16th, between 6:00 am-8:00 pm.

**All fitness levels are welcome!**

Join us for the 4th Annual 5k Run & Walk to be held on the beautiful property of the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in beautiful Miami Beach. Join us on Tuesday morning at 6 am, and start your day with a 5k.
• WHEN...Tuesday, January 17, 2017 @ 6:00 a.m.
• WHERE...Loews Walking Path at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel; Miami Beach, Florida

Information and Registration can be obtained at the PICS~AICS Registration Desk, Monday between 10 am to 5 pm, or at the Siemens Booth #4 on Monday, from 6 am – 10 pm.

There will be no race day registration.

Come have some fun in the sun while doing something healthy during the PICS~AICS Symposium.

Catching the Wave: Advances in Technology and Updates in Interventional Therapies for Congenital and Structural Heart Disease at PICS~AICS 2017

By Karim Diab, MD

With the sensational South Beach of Miami and its soothing waves, PICS~AICS returns to this lively city to celebrate its 20th anniversary at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel. With more than 800 attendees expected this year, PICS~AICS remains the largest international meeting dedicated solely to the interventional treatment of patients with congenital and structural heart disease. This year’s meeting will focus on advances in technology that can help advance in the field of congenital and structural interventions. The Daily Briefing from Congenital Cardiology Today will follow the events of the meeting, and brief you on major sessions and topics and the latest news discussed. It will also publish photos of the sessions throughout the meeting. Make sure to check it in the app every day!!

This year's meeting was preceded by pre-symposium evening addressing the Unmet Need for Reducing the Risk of PFO-Related Recurrent Ischemic Stroke. This focused on transcatheter PFO closure, with an emphasis on how this procedure will evolve following recent FDA approval. It included: a review of the long-term data from the RESPECT (Randomized evaluation of recurrent stroke comparing PFO closure to established current standard of care) trial final results, patient selection and practical planning for a PFO clinic using a multi-disciplinary approach.

The scientific sessions take off on Monday, January 16th, and will start with a TED-style talk by Dr. David Nykanen entitled, “From Septostomies to Stem Cells – What the Next 50 Years Hold.” This will be followed by the oral abstract presentations that bring unusual cases and interventions to the platform to be shared with the international audience. The popular “Taped Case Sessions” will then take place during lunchtime, and will continue for each of the first three days of the meeting, gathering interesting cases from nine national and international centers. The afternoon sessions of the first day will include: “The Use of Registries to Examine Outcomes with Stenting” by Dr. J. Vincent; “The Biomechanics of Stent Development” by Dr. S. Sathanandan; “Neointimal ingrowth” by Dr. F. Berger; “Flow Dynamics after...
“This year, live cases start on Tuesday, and will be beamed from nine national and international venues with experienced operators that will demonstrate the latest in medical device technology using approved and investigational devices, stents and valves. The live cases will be transmitted live via satellite from: Riyadh, Córdoba, Santiago, Dallas, New York, Houston, Pittsburgh, Columbus and Los Angeles.”

Stenting” by Dr. A. Armstrong; “Bioresorbable Technology” by Dr. D. Levi; and “Tissue Engineering” by Dr. M. Caputo. The late afternoon will continue with a session focusing on the FDA and device development, and issues such as: "Developing Biodesorbable Devices," “Bringing Devices Available Outside the U.S. to the U.S. Market," "Overcoming Challenges in Device Development," and a "Discussion on the Process of Device Approval in Various Countries."

Of note, the first day will have a simultaneous one-day Leadership seminar evaluating aspects of leadership and management in the Cath Lab. The seminar will be run by a renowned leadership coach, Bob Berk, author of "'Leadership between the Sheets' Uncovering the Power of Intimacy in Business and in Life,” and Chairman of the Board of A Giving Heart Foundation. The seminar will have an interactive group work focused on developing team dynamics and a positive culture within the Cath Lab. It will focus on issues such as: team alignment, identifying performance indicators, improving outcomes and linking expectations. It will also discuss management issues such as: deciding what inventory you need, defining priorities and setting and communicating expectations with your team and it will have a session on understanding EQ in leadership with effective QA/QI strategies.

The live cases remain the focal point of the PICS-AICS meeting. After the successful format adopted since 2012, PICS-AICS continues with a similar format this year, with the morning sessions being dedicated to the live case transmissions, and the afternoon sessions dedicated to didactic and break-out sessions. This year, live cases start on Tuesday, and will be beamed from nine national and international venues with experienced operators that will demonstrate the latest in medical device technology using approved and investigational devices, stents and valves. The live cases will be transmitted live via satellite from: Riyadh, Córdoba, Santiago, Dallas, New York, Houston, Pittsburgh, Columbus and Los Angeles. Make sure to be around in the mornings to experience. and be part of interesting discussions during the live case interventions performed by world renowned interventionalists in the field.

The first day of PICS-AICS will end with a Welcome Reception in the Americana Ballroom Salons 3 an 4, where you can meet the various faculty and attendees.