



## And We're Off!

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And we're off! What a fantastic start to the **25<sup>th</sup> PICS Symposium** and the **first anniversary for the PICS Society!** This morning was underway with a meet and greet over coffee and breakfast, where we had the chance to see a lot of friendly faces that have been sorely missed over the course of the past year. The meeting was officially underway with Dr. Hijazi's poignant welcoming message that acknowledged hardships of the past year but also reflected on the excitement that so many of us are feeling, the excitement of finally being able to have an in-person meeting again.

As usual, the day started with live cases. For our first case, we went to Jeddah for a transfemoral TAVR (Evolut Pro 29) on an 84-year-old female, where Dr. Wail Alkashari and his team walked us through the process of deploying a cerebral protection device and subsequently successfully deployed an Evolute 29 valve in the aortic position. We then jetted to Brazil where Dr. Pedra had a great case waiting for us, a ruptured sinus of Valsalva in a 32-year-old female requiring device closure! There was a lively discussion about the best choice of device to be used, with opinions from the panel and the audience about the pros and cons of the Occlutech Ductal Occluder vs the Occlutech mVSD Occluder. Dr. Pedra and his team ultimately chose a 6mm mVSD Occluder with excellent results! Staying in Brazil, we continued with Dr. Pedra and his team but switched gears to a great pediatric case of a small 3.5-year-old, 12 kg child with a large ASD and significant right sided dilation. The defect was closed using a Figulla Occlutech device with excellent results! Next, we moved to Toronto for a 61-year-old patient requiring a left atrial appendage closure with an Amulet device, using the FeOps simulation for pre-procedural planning with EchoNav guidance during the procedure. Dr. Horlick walked us through the impressive capabilities of the FeOps simulation system before embarking on a great case to wrap up the morning live cases.

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