

# CONGENITAL CARDIOLOGY TODAY

Timely News and Information for BC/BE Congenital/Structural Cardiologists and Surgeons

December 2013; Volume 11; Issue 12  
North American Edition

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Editorial and Subscription Offices  
16 Cove Rd, Ste. 200  
Westerly, RI 02891 USA  
[www.CongenitalCardiologyToday.com](http://www.CongenitalCardiologyToday.com)

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## Diagnostic Utility of the EKG in Newborns with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome

By Juan N. Aliaga, BS; Tabitha G. Moe, MD; Kelly M. McDonnell, DO; Rhonda A. Bitinis, DO; and Edward K. Rhee, MD

### Abstract

#### Objective

Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome is Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD). Early detection is essential to guide further imaging and treatment. The purpose of this study was to identify electrocardiographic markers that may aid with early diagnosis.

#### Design, Setting, and Patients

Electrocardiograms of thirty-two patients in an urban tertiary care hospital with known Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome were age and gender matched in a 2:1 ratio to normal patients. Standard intervals were recorded, including; heart rate, PR interval, QRS duration, corrected QT interval, axis (P, QRS, T wave), and precordial lead voltages.

#### Outcome Measures and Results

QRS duration, S wave voltage in lead V1, and heart rate were found to be statistically significant in predicting patients with HLHS. QRS duration of greater than 60msec was highly correlated with identification of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

### Conclusions

QRS duration greater than 60 milliseconds is 91% sensitive and 92% specific to separate HLHS patients from age matched controls. 12-lead EKG is inexpensive, readily available, and should be added to the newborn cardiovascular screening armamentarium.

**Keywords:** Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, Newborn Screening, EKG

### Introduction

Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS) is one of the Critical Congenital Heart Diseases (CCHD), currently accounting for approximately 20-25% of infant mortality attributed to Congenital Heart Disease.<sup>1</sup> The current incidence rate of HLHS is 0.016 to 0.036% of all live births within the general newborn population.<sup>2</sup> Annually, it is estimated that 2100 infants are effectively diagnosed at initial cardiac screening in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Typically, HLHS is characterized by underdevelopment of the left heart, including severe hypoplasia of the left ventricle, with associated atresia, stenosis and hypoplasia of the mitral and/or aortic valves, as well as the ascending aorta and aortic arch.<sup>3</sup> The current gold standard in diagnostic testing for HLHS is a screening echocardiogram. HLHS may be identified early during fetal ultrasound; however, in many instances the prenatal and

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newborn examinations will fail to properly detect the lesions associated with congenital heart defects, particularly in areas with limited resources. Identifying a significant marker within a routinely available, cost-effective screening test is significant and has the potential to be useful in practice. Electrocardiographic evaluation has served as a quick, relatively inexpensive tool in the diagnosis of cardiac conditions in pediatric and adult settings at all levels of care. A 12-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) has limited specificity in diagnosing congenital heart disease; it can serve as an additional tool for early recognition of congenital heart defects.

Current newborn cardiac screening recommendations include auscultation, four-limb comparison oxygen saturation,<sup>4</sup> and four-limb comparison sphygmomanometry. These routine screening tests guide practitioners to additional investigations if abnormalities are detected. These routine screening tests for CCHD can be performed by a community provider, are cost-effective, and widely available. None of these will exclude the presence of HLHS.<sup>5</sup>

The purpose of this case-controlled study is to evaluate the diagnostic utility of the 12-lead EKG in HLHS patients by identifying statistically significant electrocardiographic markers for HLHS. In addition, a quantitative comparison of EKG interpreting accuracy between an experienced specialist versus a novice pediatric resident was evaluated in order to develop further investigation of different factors affecting EKG evaluation in the pediatric care setting.

	HLHS Group Mean (SD)	Control Group Mean (SD)
Heart Rate (bpm)	153.7 (17)	133.1 (17.6)
PR Interval (msec)	96.7 (46.6)	100.8 (12.8)
QRS Duration (msec)	68.3 (10.9)	54.2 (5.6)
QT Interval (msec)	258.7 (36.8)	282.6 (32.3)
S Wave in V1 (mV)	1.2 (1.5)	4.8 (4.8)
S Wave in V2 (mV)	6.2 (6.1)	11.8 (6.8)
S Wave in V5 (mV)	8.6 (4.8)	5.2 (3.8)
S Wave in V6 (mV)	6.8 (4.6)	3.3 (2.8)

## Methods

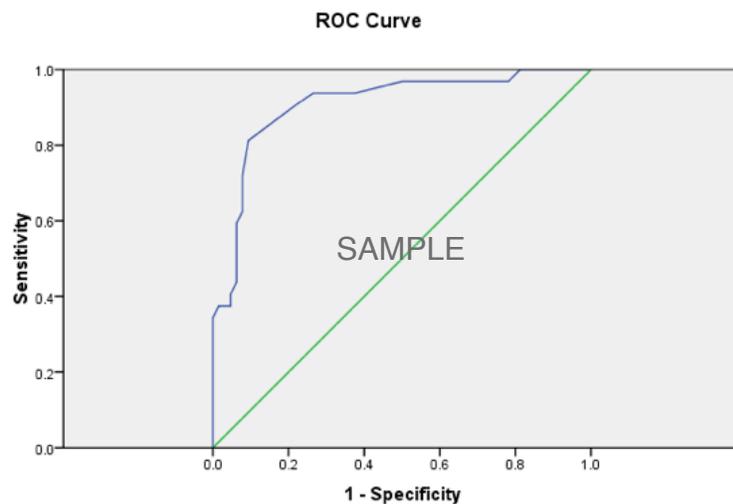
Between February 2005 and October 2008, 32 newborns with HLHS were evaluated at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Twelve-lead EKG tracings from known HLHS patients were matched at a ratio of 2:1 to EKGs of normal, age and gender-matched newborns (n=64). Standard intervals from HLHS and normal EKGs were recorded, including: heart rate, PR interval, QRS duration, corrected QT interval, axis (P, QRS, T wave), and precordial lead voltages. Measurements were performed manually and then evaluated for statistical significance.

The analysis of measured and scored data was done using a two-tailed, two-sample unequal variance Student T-test. Mean, median, maximum and minimum values were calculated for each variable, as well as their respective standard deviations.

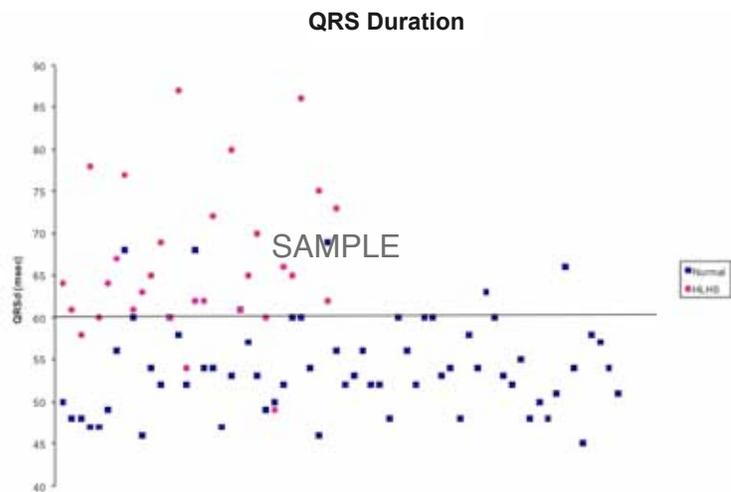
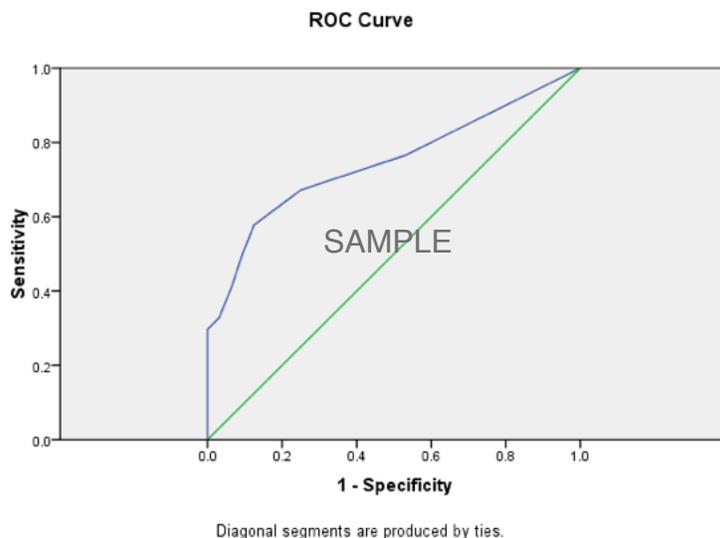
A receiver operating characteristic curve (ROC curve) was derived from our data in order to determine the accuracy of EKG-measured variables in helping to diagnose HLHS in the clinical setting.

The reader's overall impression (normal vs. abnormal) was also calculated for HLHS and normal newborns. All diagnostic

### QRS Duration



### S Wave in V1



Criterion	Sensitivity	95% CI	Specificity	95% CI	+LR	-LR	+PV	-PV
>=45	100.00	89.0 - 100.0	0.00	0.0 - 5.7	1.00		33.3	
>48	100.00	89.0 - 100.0	18.75	10.1 - 30.5	1.23	0.00	38.1	100.0
>49	96.87	83.7 - 99.5	21.87	12.5 - 34.0	1.24	0.14	38.3	93.3
>53	96.87	83.7 - 99.5	50.00	37.2 - 62.8	1.94	0.062	49.2	97.0
>54	93.75	79.2 - 99.1	62.50	49.5 - 74.3	2.50	0.10	55.6	95.2
>60 *	81.25	63.6 - 92.7	90.62	80.7 - 96.5	8.67	0.21	81.2	90.6
>65	43.75	26.4 - 62.3	93.75	84.7 - 98.2	7.00	0.60	77.8	76.9
>69	34.38	18.6 - 53.2	100.00	94.3 - 100.0		0.66	100.0	75.3
>95	0.00	0.0 - 11.0	100.00	94.3 - 100.0		1.00		66.7

Criterion	Sensitivity	95% CI	Specificity	95% CI	+LR	-LR	+PV	-PV
< 0	0.00	0.0 - 11.0	100.00	94.3 - 100.0		1.00		66.7
<=0	46.88	29.1 - 65.2	76.56	64.3 - 86.2	2.00	0.69	50.0	74.2
<=1	75.00	56.6 - 88.5	67.19	54.3 - 78.4	2.29	0.37	53.3	84.3
<=2 *	87.50	71.0 - 96.4	57.81	44.8 - 70.1	2.07	0.22	50.9	90.2
<=3	90.62	75.0 - 97.9	50.00	37.2 - 62.8	1.81	0.19	47.5	91.4
<=4	93.75	79.2 - 99.1	40.63	28.5 - 53.6	1.58	0.15	44.1	92.9
<=5	96.87	83.7 - 99.5	32.81	21.6 - 45.7	1.44	0.095	41.9	95.5
<=6	100.00	89.0 - 100.0	29.69	18.9 - 42.4	1.42	0.00	41.6	100.0
<=19	100.00	89.0 - 100.0	0.00	0.0 - 5.7	1.00		33.3	

evaluations were performed by experienced (pediatric cardiologist) and novice (second year pediatric resident) EKG readers for comparison purposes.

## Results

QRS duration, S wave voltage in lead V1, and heart rate were found to be statistically significant in predicting patients with HLHS. QRS duration was the most statistically significant variable with a significantly longer duration in HLHS patients than the control group (68.3 +/-10.9 vs. 54.2 +/-5.6 msec)  $p = <0.001$ , followed by S wave voltage in V1 (1.2 +/-1.5 vs. 4.8 +/-4.8 mV)  $p = <0.001$ , and faster heart rate (153.7 +/- 17 vs. 133.1 +/- 17.6 bpm)  $p = <0.001$  (Table 1). Plotting of the raw data showed a clear and well-defined separation in the values of QRS duration between the control group and the HLHS group (Figure 1). Constructed ROC

curves (Figures 2 and 3) show the theoretical optimal cutoff values derived for each of the significant variables with value of 60 msec for QRS duration (sensitivity 81.3%, specificity 90.6%, negative predictive value 90.6%) and an optimal cutoff voltage value of 2 mV (sensitivity 57.8%, specificity 87.5%, negative predictive value 90.2%) for S wave amplitude in lead V1 (Tables 2 and 3). The area under the ROC curve evaluating the usefulness of QRS duration in predicting HLHS patients was 0.909 (95% CI 0.843 – 0.974). The area under the ROC curve evaluating the usefulness of S wave amplitude in V1 in predicting HLHS patients was 0.746 (95% CI 0.650 – 0.843). Calculated values for sensitivity and specificity are 91% and 92% respectively when using QRSd values to separate HLHS patients from normal.

The evaluation of diagnostic ability between an experienced specialist versus a novice resident was found to be significant with the experienced specialist having more specificity and the pediatric resident more sensitivity in regard to their interpretation of the 12-lead EKGs in the study. The experienced EKG reader identified 72% of EKGs from HLHS patients; however 13% of normal patients had abnormal EKG readings. Novice EKG reader identified 75% of EKGs from HLHS patients; however the novice reader identified 20% of EKGs from normal patients as abnormal.

## Discussion

There are some EKG findings that are typically seen with HLHS, such as right ventricular hypertrophy (RVH) and paucity of left ventricular forces;<sup>6</sup> however these findings can be typical in newborns. QRS duration has now been identified as a significant marker in differentiating HLHS from normal; as a result, the evaluation of QRSd values in a 12-lead EKG can complement the rest of the clinical findings during assessment. It is reasonable to utilize these measured variables as an effective way to screen or evaluate suspected HLHS patients in instances where the availability of echocardiography is limited or delayed.

Considering that the mortality rate of HLHS is the highest among all congenital heart defects and that in many instances, up to 14% of cases, can go undiagnosed before death,<sup>7</sup>

***“The evaluation of diagnostic ability between an experienced specialist versus a novice resident was found to be significant with the experienced specialist having more specificity and the pediatric resident more sensitivity in regard to their interpretation of the 12-lead EKGs in the study.”***

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identifying a low-cost, efficient, screening test is of great importance. Electrocardiographic characteristics can contribute to the diagnosis of HLHS and guide further diagnostic work-up to determine degree of hypoplasia and associated mitral and aortic valve atresia, which will guide therapeutic interventions.<sup>8</sup>

Another aspect of the diagnostic process that was investigated in this project was the comparison of diagnostic ability between experienced and novice readers. The findings conclude that the experienced reader can evaluate EKGs with more specificity and the novice reader with more sensitivity. This suggests that novice readers may be able to evaluate EKGs efficiently enough to at least prompt further investigation and evaluation by sub-specialized, expert staff. In the future, it would be of interest to evaluate how the reading efficiency of novice EKG evaluators rate on a large, generalized scale (general pediatricians, family practitioners, emergency department physicians, etc.).

Overall, the 12-lead EKG has a high sensitivity and specificity for assisting in the diagnosis of HLHS. Its use could be implemented as a low-cost, easily accessible screening tool in areas or instances where echocardiography is not readily available and where a moderately trained healthcare professional can evaluate QRSd and determine whether an EKG as a normal or abnormal tracing with an assessed high risk for HLHS.

### Conclusion

Early identification of patients with CCHD is essential to improving outcomes and directing care. Clinical features, combined with electrocardiographic findings can guide further work-up. A 12-lead EKG is the standard of care in evaluating patients with suspected cardiovascular disease and is easily obtained. The utilization of QRSd to standard EKG evaluation can add to early identification and is a readily accessible test.

### No Conflicts of Interest

**Disclosures:** none

### Contributions

- Edward K Rhee- Study Design, methods
- Juan Aliaga - Statistics
- T. Moe – Manuscript drafting, editing, and submission
- K. McDonnell – Manuscript drafting
- R. Bitinis – Residency coordination and interpretation of EKG's, data collection

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Juan N. Aliaga, BS  
 Eller Congenital Heart Center – Heart Lung Institute  
 St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center  
 Phoenix, AZ USA



Tabitha Moe, MD  
 Cardiology Fellow  
 Banner - Good Samaritan Medical Center  
 Department of Cardiology  
 Phoenix, AZ USA

Kelly M. McDonnell, DO  
 Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center  
 Department of Cardiology  
 Phoenix, AZ USA

Rhonda A. Bitinis, DO  
 Eller Congenital Heart Center – Heart Lung Institute  
 St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center  
 Phoenix, AZ USA

**Corresponding Author**



Edward K. Rhee, MD, FACC, FAAP  
 Director of Electrophysiology  
 Phoenix Children’s Hospital  
 1919 East Thomas Rd.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85013 USA  
 602-546-1409  
 Tel: 602-933-3366

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RACHS-1* Category	CM** 1 Year Average	STS*** 1 Year Average	CM 4 Year Average	STS 4 Year Average
1 (least complex)	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.7
2	0.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
3	2.9	3.3	3.7	3.7
4	5.1	7.1	8.2	7.1
5 & 6 (most complex)	15.4	14.3	20.8	16.4

\*Risk Adjustment for Congenital Heart Surgery classification

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# My Pre-Med-Life Crisis: China California Heart Watch Internship, July 2013

By Briana Shipley, BA History, University of Colorado

This summer, *China California Heart Watch* (*China Cal* - [www.chinacal.org](http://www.chinacal.org)) invited me to work with their organization holding medical clinics in the Yunnan Province, China. As a Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Med student, this experience was nothing short of culturally awakening, intellectually challenging, and emotionally engaging. I believe that the most valuable aspect of this excursion was learning how to cope with the humanistic and emotional side of medicine: the dichotomy between “human care” and “clinical care.” This is an issue I did not expect to face until well into medical school, a seemingly simple matter compared to the rigorous academics. Surprisingly, I discovered just how difficult this could be on Day 1, the first day of our 3 week internship. For the first time, this is the day I wondered if medicine is truly the right fit for me.

## Clinic Day 1

After 2 full days of lecture about basic heart anatomy, the circulatory system, auscultation and congenital heart disease, we finally held our first clinic. The patients who came to the *China Cal* headquarters were not local villagers, but rather poor farmers who had traveled a long way to see Dr. Robert Detrano, MD, PhD, Founder of *China Cal*, and who had seen him several times before. These patients were not elderly adults with high blood pressure or obesity; instead, they were children with congenital heart disorders. As a Pre-Med student whose dream is to work in pediatrics, I was thrilled; what could be better than spending time with kids all day, helping them heal and giving them hope and a smile? What I seemed to have strangely forgotten is that doctors are not omniscient, and there isn't always a solution to every patient's ailments.

Day 1 brought in several adorable children, some of whom were candidates for surgery and who would most likely grow up as healthy as their parents dreamed. But one small child, a one-year-old infant with a 40-year-old mother, would not. This baby had the works: VSD, ASD, aortic stenosis, interruption of the aortic arch, among others. Upon examination, she was lethargic and her skin was pale and purple from lack of oxygen supply, but her little smile never faded. After taking the infant's vitals and reviewing her ultrasound and EKG, we had to tell the mother that her only baby is not only inoperable, but likely would not live more than a few months. The look on the mother's face is an image I will never forget. She was defeated and scared,



but strong as she fought for her baby, confident that something could be done to help her. Suddenly, I felt helpless, and it brought a tear to my eye when I knew I should not show it. How, as an aspiring pediatric physician, can I care about children as much as I do while dealing with such heart wrenching moments? How can I handle the rigors of a life in medicine, not academically, but emotionally? Sure, when there are cures and solutions, being a doctor must feel like a wonderful gift. But I lacked confidence that I could deal with moments like this, especially in the field of cardiology, where life-threatening conditions are all too common.

The rest of the day had me stewing in my emotions as the impending mortality of that beautiful little girl sunk in, forcing me to question my life-long dream of working in the healthcare field at all. I wondered how physicians like those on our internship trip, Dr. Detrano and Dr. Renli Qiao, MD, PhD, were able to handle their roles as bearers of bad news, when caring for others is clearly their most important job in life. But I will never forget what Dr. Detrano and Amy Poole, our head nurse, said to me in response to my worries, something I now believe will carry me through medical school and my career, “For every ten patients you cannot help, there is always one that makes it all worth it. Your best is all you can do. And that is what keeps you going in medicine.”

While on one of our many *China Cal* bus trips through the Chinese countryside, I read an inspiring article in *Scientific American* that addressed my worries in a different light. The article discussed surgeons, and how they

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***“But I will never forget what Dr. Detrano and Amy Poole, our head nurse, said to me in response to my worries, something I now believe will carry me through medical school and my career, ‘For every ten patients you cannot help, there is always one that makes it all worth it. Your best is all you can do. And that is what keeps you going in medicine.’”***

---

must emotionally disengage from the lives of their patients in order to make confident decisions and upon success, or failure, transform themselves into some of the most empathetic and sincere caregivers imaginable. I worked on training my brain in this way during village clinics in the weeks that followed Day 1, greeting patients with the utmost warmth, but switching on my concentration and focus when examining them. This idea, along with the motivational words by Amy and Dr. Detrano, has given me a glimpse into what being a compassionate and life-changing physician really means. I walked away from *China Cal* with a more confident and tangible approach to medicine, and an excitement I have never had before.

CCT



Briana Shipley, BA History  
Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Med student  
University of Colorado

[brianamshipley@gmail.com](mailto:brianamshipley@gmail.com)

# Image of the Month #8 - December 2013 - Presented by The Archiving Working Group

Contributors: Vera D. Aiello, MD; Diane E. Spicer, BS, Jeffrey P. Jacobs, MD; Jorge M. Giroud, MD; Robert Anderson, MD

IPCCG: 01.01.26, 12.31.05

## AEPC Derived Term:

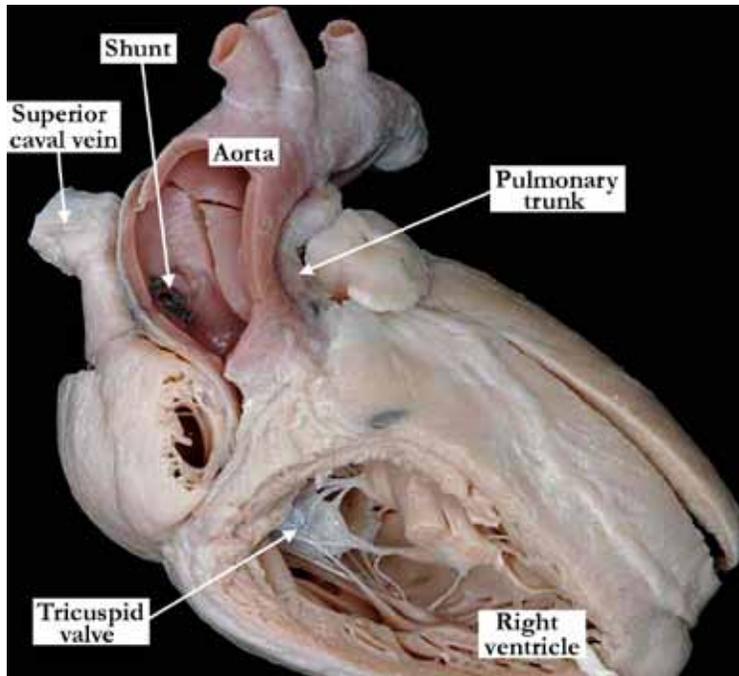
Tetralogy of Fallot with pulmonary atresia (01.01.26)  
Waterston (ascending aorta-right pulmonary artery) anastomosis (12.31.05)

## EACTS-STIS Derived Term:

Tetralogy of Fallot, Pulmonary atresia  
Palliation, Shunt - systemic-to-pulmonary, Waterston type (ascending aorta to pulmonary artery) (12.31.05)

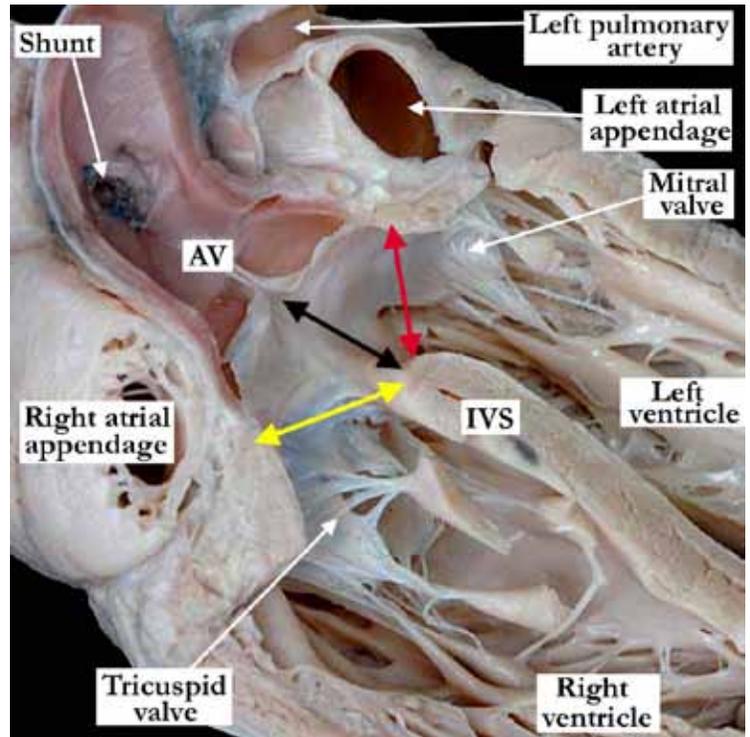
## ICD10 Derived Term:

Tetralogy of Fallot (Q21.3)



Description: This heart with Tetralogy of Fallot has been tilted toward the right to demonstrate the tiny atretic pulmonary trunk. The aorta is large and lies anterior and to the right of its normal position. There is an intact, stenotic Waterston shunt on the right lateral aspect of the ascending aorta. The superior caval vein drains to the right atrium in the usual fashion and the tricuspid valve guards the inlet of the right ventricle. There is right ventricular hypertrophy.

Contributor: Diane E. Spicer, BS



Description: This simulated 5-chamber echocardiographic view demonstrates the overriding aorta and the hole between the ventricles. The aortic valve (AV) lies above the muscular ventricular septum (IVS), committed approximately 50% to the right ventricle and 50% to the left ventricle (black double-headed arrow). There are concordant atrioventricular connections. Note that the tricuspid is in fibrous continuity with the aortic valve along the rightward margin of the cone of space subtended from the leaflets of the overriding aortic valve. It is this locus that represents the plane of deficient ventricular septation, and which, to the best of our knowledge, most would define as the "ventricular septal defect" (yellow double-headed arrow). The presence of aortic-tricuspid valvar continuity means that the defect is perimembranous. It is the black double-headed arrow, however, that represents the geometric plane separating the cavities of the right and left ventricles. The red double-headed arrow then indicates the left ventricular entrance to the cone of space beneath the overriding aortic valve. This plane is formed posteriorly by fibrous continuity between the leaflets of the aortic and mitral (MV) valves. In circumstances when the aortic valve is exclusively supported by the right ventricle, it is this plane that is the interventricular communication, and which is considered by many then to represent the "ventricular septal defect". As shown in this image, however, it is a fundamentally different plane from the one considered to represent the ventricular septal defect in the setting of Tetralogy of Fallot

Contributor: Diane E. Spicer, BS

## AWG Web Portal link for this series of images:

[http://www.accd-awg.umn.edu/Pulmonary\\_Atresia/PA\\_Atresia\\_TOF/PA\\_Atresia\\_TOF\\_01\\_01\\_26.html](http://www.accd-awg.umn.edu/Pulmonary_Atresia/PA_Atresia_TOF/PA_Atresia_TOF_01_01_26.html)

This is a special column that is published bimonthly in *Congenital Cardiology Today* with contributors and images from the Archiving Working Group (AWG) of the *International Society for Nomenclature of Paediatric and Congenital Heart Disease*.

Please visit us at the AWG Web Portal at <http://ipccc-awg.net> and help in the efforts of the Archiving Working Group and the *International Society for Nomenclature of Paediatric and Congenital Heart Disease*.

The authors would like to acknowledge the *Children's Heart Foundation* ([www.childrensheartfoundation.org](http://www.childrensheartfoundation.org)) for financial support of the AWG Web Portal.



Vera D. Aiello, MD  
Co-Chairman, Archiving Working Group  
Heart Institute (InCor)  
São Paulo University School of Medicine,  
Brazil



Diane E. Spicer, BS  
Senior Archivist, Archiving Working Group  
University of Florida, Department of  
Pediatrics-Cardiology, Gainesville, Florida  
Congenital Heart Institute of Florida  
St. Petersburg & Tampa, FL USA



Jeffrey P. Jacobs, MD  
Archiving Working Group  
Congenital Heart Institute of Florida,  
St. Petersburg & Tampa, FL USA



**Corresponding Contributor**

Jorge M. Giroud, MD  
Co-Chairman, Archiving Working Group  
Congenital Heart Institute of Florida  
601 5th Street South, Suite 711  
St. Petersburg, FL, 33701 USA  
Phone: 727-767-4200

[jorgemgiroud@gmail.com](mailto:jorgemgiroud@gmail.com)



Robert H. Anderson, MD  
Co-Chairman, Archiving Working Group  
Institute of Medical Genetics  
Newcastle University  
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK



And the members of the Archiving  
Working Group of the International Society  
for Nomenclature of Paediatric and  
Congenital Heart Diseases  
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# Third Fetal Echocardiography Symposium at UCLA

By Mark S. Sklansky, MD

The Third Annual Fetal Echocardiography Symposium at UCLA, located in the Tamkin Auditorium on the beautiful UCLA campus in the heart of Westwood, was another tremendous success, this year with an expanded sold-out audience of 225. The only such course offered on the West Coast of the United States, this one-day symposium has become an invaluable, highly popular annual update for health professionals interested in improving their ability to evaluate the fetal heart. The symposium has retained its focus as an intensive, one-day overview, focused on tips and pearls of scanning prepared by an internationally acclaimed faculty of maternal-fetal medicine specialists, pediatric cardiologists, and obstetric sonographers with decades of experience. As in previous years, attendees were provided both an intensive review and update on the basics of fetal cardiac imaging, including tips and pearls of scanning, as well as insights into detailed fetal echocardiographic interpretation and prognosis.

The symposium began by sequentially addressing the four-chamber view, outflow tracts, and the three-vessel tracheal view. Each session reviewed technical aspects of scanning (how to obtain optimal views), important anatomic/functional aspects (interpretation, how to confirm normalcy), and pertinent diagnostic/prognostic components of the most common forms of



Left-to-right: Drs. Douglas Montgomery and Bobby Daftari.



Left-to-right: Drs. Karim Diab, Mark Sklansky and Bilal Harake.

Congenital Heart Disease. Additional talks focused on secondary cardiac findings, including echogenic foci, tricuspid regurgitation, premature atrial contractions, ventricular hypertrophy, and right heart disproportion, as well as aneuploidy and Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome. Highlights of the symposium included

clinically useful pitfalls and pearls of cardiac imaging from the perspective of sonographers, maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists, and pediatric cardiologists. The symposium concluded with a lively panel discussion, during which the faculty fielded a variety of final questions from the audience.

Given the recent revisions to North American guidelines for the second trimester anatomy screen, this year's course provided expanded lectures on the outflow tracts, including expanded attention to the three-vessel trachea view. The intensive series of didactic presentations was complemented with live scanning sessions which served to demonstrate the concepts discussed throughout the day. Finally this year's symposium also provided each attendee with a complimentary copy of Dr. Gregory DeVore's educational DVD, "Fetal Echocardiography Gold Edition Plus."

The symposium's organizers, Drs. Mark Sklansky and Gregory DeVore, welcome suggestions for next year's symposium, already scheduled for October 18, 2014. Prospective attendees are encouraged to save the date and register early, as this year's symposium sold out over a month in advance. Dr. Sklansky can be reached directly at his email in the author box below.

CCT



Attendees gathering in the lobby

Mark S. Sklansky, MD  
Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology  
James H. Nicholson Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA  
Medical Director, Children's Heart Center  
Co-Director, Fetal Cardiology Program  
Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA

UCLA Children's Heart Center  
200 Medical Plaza, Suite 330  
Los Angeles, CA 90095 USA  
Phone: 310.267.7667  
Fax: 310.825.9524  
msklansky@mednet.ucla.edu

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# Medical News, Products & Information

## New Technique May Help Regenerate Heart Cells to Treat Heart Disease

Researchers have developed a new technique that might one day be used to convert cells from heart disease patients into heart muscle cells that could act as a personalized treatment for their condition. The research was published online on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in the *Journal of the International Society of Stem Cell Research*, *Stem Cell Reports*, published by Cell Press.

The investigators previously reported the ability to convert scar-forming cells in the heart (called fibroblasts) into new, beating muscle in mice that had experienced heart attacks, thereby regenerating a heart from within. They accomplished this by injecting a combination of three genes into the animals' fibroblast cells. "This gene therapy approach resulted in new cardiac muscle cells that beat in synchrony with neighboring muscle cells and ultimately improved the pumping function of the heart," explains senior author Dr. Deepak Srivastava of the Gladstone Institutes and its affiliate, the University of California, San Francisco.

In this latest research, Dr. Srivastava and his colleagues coaxed fibroblasts from human fetal heart cells, embryonic stem cells, and newborn skin grown in the lab to become heart muscle cells using a slightly different combination of genes, representing an important step toward the use of this technology for regenerative medicine. Two other groups recently reported similar results using human fibroblasts.

The team envisions that introducing these genes into damaged hearts by gene therapy might convert fibroblasts into new muscle, thereby improving the function of the heart. "Over 50% of the cells in the human heart are fibroblasts, providing a vast pool of cells that could be harnessed to create new muscle," says Dr. Srivastava. However, additional research is needed to improve the process of reprogramming adult human cells in this way. Ultimately, replacing the genes with drug-like molecules that produce a similar effect would make the therapy safer and easier to deliver.

## Children's National / Cerner Collaborate in First Pediatric Health Information Technology Institute

Children's National Health System and information technology leader Cerner Corporation has announced the formation of The Bear Institute, a joint effort that will be the first exclusively pediatric health informatics institute in the nation.

The Bear Institute is a seven-year program that will advance evidence-based pediatric care delivery, research, and education through innovation in electronic health information technology (IT). We believe this is the only such institute devoted solely to IT innovation in pediatric care. The Institute will accelerate the development of fully-integrated electronic health records, accessible to care providers, patients and families, health care facilities, educators, and researchers within, and affiliated with, Children's National. The Institute also will facilitate the rapid development of sophisticated health IT capabilities including: linking genomic profiles to decision support for personalized health care; matching patient information with a database of open clinical trials for research opportunities; and more nimble patient and family engagement with their health through secure web-enabled portals and mobile devices.

"If we are to achieve healthier societies, we will need innovation in two critical areas: Information Technology and the health and well-being of children. As information technology becomes more central to delivering world-class care, we see an opportunity to lead IT practice for children's



The Heart Program Welcomes  
**Gil Wernovsky, MD,  
FAAP, FACC**  
to the Medical Staff at  
Miami Children's Hospital

Dr. Wernovsky joins The Heart Program at Miami Children's Hospital, as the Medical Director of Patient- and Family-Centered Care within the cardiac service line.

Prior to joining Miami Children's, Dr. Wernovsky served as the Director of Program Development at the Cardiac Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Associate Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology. He was also the Medical Director of the Neurocardiac Care Program and the former Medical Director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

Dr. Wernovsky received his medical training at Pennsylvania State University and his pediatric training at New York Hospital. He completed additional training in pediatric cardiology and cardiac intensive care at Boston Children's Hospital, and had a faculty appointment at Harvard Medical School. In Philadelphia, he has been a professor of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Wernovsky's clinical interests include the ICU care of newborns with critical congenital heart disease, mechanical support of the failing circulation and outpatient follow-up of complex congenital heart disease. For over 25 years, he has focused on the long-term functional outcomes following surgery for complex heart disease, particularly transposition of the great arteries and forms of single ventricle defects such as hypoplastic left heart syndrome. He conducted the pilot study and was one of the study physicians for the Boston Circulatory Arrest Trial and was the principal investigator of the PRIMACORP study, an international multicenter randomized trial to improve cardiac output after heart surgery. He was also the Co-Chair of the Perioperative Working Group of the Pediatric Heart Network of The National Institutes of Health.

THE  
**HEART  
PROGRAM**



The Heart Program at Miami Children's Hospital  
3100 SW 62nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33155  
305-662-8301 or toll free 1-800-432-6837, ext. 8301 • Gil.Wernovsky@mch.com

health," said Kurt Newman, President & CEO, Children's National. "We share this vision with Cerner, and that shared vision was the determining factor in the selection of Children's National to be the partner for the Bear Institute. Together, we will serve as innovators for children and families."

With the formation of The Bear Institute, Cerner and Children's National will invest in innovative programming and product development. Successful developments will translate into intellectual property development and research.

"Cerner is thrilled to collaborate with Children's National in creating the first pediatric health informatics institute. Their 140-year history of excellence in serving the health needs of children, commitment to research, and proven record of incorporating health information technology in care all make this a very compelling collaboration," said Neal Patterson, Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of Cerner, recently ranked 7<sup>th</sup> among Forbes' Most Innovative Companies in America. "Children in the region, across the country, and around the world will benefit from the work of The Bear Institute."

Children's National brings to the Institute its existing and ongoing significant investment in digitizing health care delivery, as well as its national leadership among pediatric health care organizations in using the electronic health record system to benchmark and track quality and safety initiatives. Additionally, Children's National has led the development of the Children's IQ Network<sup>®</sup>, a pediatric health information exchange for children, which provides the foundational information technology capability to realize an integrated health care delivery system reaching across the mid-Atlantic region.

"Imagine having all of the essential health information, robust workflow-integrated support for decisions, as well as patient-specific genomic information available at clinicians' fingertips thereby allowing them to make well-informed prevention, diagnostic, and treatment decisions," said Brian Jacobs, MD, VP, Chief Medical Information Officer, Chief Information Officer/Chief Medical Information Officer and Executive Director, Center for Pediatric Informatics and The Children's IQ Network. "We are very close to making this an everyday reality. This collaboration will accelerate that momentum."

The Bear Institute will amplify Cerner's role with Children's National, with the assumption of operational and administrative responsibilities for Children's National information technology via its Cerner Millennium<sup>®</sup> solutions and services, including remote hosting, monitoring and system performance capabilities, including data protection. Additionally, the current Children's National IT team will become Bear Institute/Cerner associates, offering career development, training, and advancement within one of the nation's health IT leaders.

### Unpublished Trial Data 'Violates an Ethical Obligation' to Study Participants, say Researchers

Almost one in three (29%) large clinical trials remain unpublished five years after completion. And of these, 78% have no results publicly available, finds a study published on [bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com) - [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com)/ on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

This means that an estimated 250,000 people have been exposed to the risks of trial participation without the societal benefits that accompany the dissemination of their results, say the authors.

They argue that this "violates an ethical obligation that investigators have towards study participants" and call for additional safeguards "to ensure timely public dissemination of trial data."



## Pediatric Noninvasive Cardiac Imaging and Research Opportunity

The Heart Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH), pediatric teaching facility for The Ohio State University in Columbus Ohio, is recruiting an attending faculty with expertise in Pediatric Noninvasive Cardiac Imaging and Research to join its faculty at any academic level.

The NCH Echocardiography Laboratory is IAC accredited and includes all state-of-the-art facilities and equipment. The NCH Echocardiography Laboratory team includes 8 attending physicians and 10 sonographers, and performs more than 12,000 studies annually, including 1,000 fetal studies, as well as transesophageal, intracardiac, intravascular, and 3D echocardiograms. We have a busy and growing cardiac MRI/CT program which performs over 400 studies per year. There are numerous opportunities in research, and participating in developing the Research Echocardiography Laboratory at NCH. Additional opportunities include engaging in translational research, and developing quality assurance initiatives.

The program includes a 4th year Advanced Noninvasive Cardiac Imaging fellowship, in addition to pediatric and combined pediatric-adult cardiology fellowship programs. We are directly linked to our Center for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research, which has an NIH T-32 training grant. The Heart Center has extensive and active programs in adult congenital heart disease, hybrid strategy, cardiac intensive care, translational and outcomes research, interventional catheterization, cardiovascular surgery and outreach clinics. Current annual clinical metrics for the Heart Center include: 450 cardiothoracic surgeries, 600 catheterizations, and 10,000+ cardiology outpatient visits.

**Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their curriculum vitae to:**

John P. Kovalchin, MD  
Director of Echocardiography and Professor of Pediatrics  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
ED628 700 Children's Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43205, or  
[John.Kovalchin@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:John.Kovalchin@nationwidechildrens.org)



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### HOW WE OPERATE

The team involved at C.H.I.M.S. is largely a volunteering group of physicians nurses and technicians who are involved in caring for children with congenital heart disease.

The concept is straightforward. We are asking all interested catheter laboratories to register and donate surplus inventory which we will ship to help support CHD mission trips to developing countries.

Randomized clinical trials are a critical means of advancing medical knowledge. They depend on the willingness of people to expose themselves to risks, but the ethical justification for these risks is that society will eventually benefit from the knowledge gained from the trial. But when trial data remain unpublished, the societal benefit that may have motivated someone to enroll in a study remains unrealized.

U.S. law requires that many trials involving human participants be registered and their results posted on the largest clinical trial website, [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov). But evidence suggests that this legislation has been largely ignored.

So a team of US-based researchers set out to estimate the frequency of non-publication of trial results and, among unpublished studies, the frequency with which results are unavailable in the [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov) database. They searched scientific literature databases and identified 585 trials with at least 500 participants that were registered with [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov), and completed prior to January 2009. The average time between study completion and the final literature search (November 2012) was 60 months for unpublished trials. Registry entries for unpublished trials were then reviewed to determine whether results for these studies were available in the [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov) results database.

### Digisonics Introduces Appropriate Use Criteria Calculations for Its Cardiovascular Information System

Digisonics, a *Best in KLAS* provider of cardiovascular information systems (CVIS), has introduced functionality for Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) calculations. Appropriate Use Criteria are evidence-based guidelines to assist referring physicians and other providers in making the appropriate imaging or treatment decision for a specific clinical condition/indication. Digisonics recognizes that reimbursement audits will be tied to appropriate use scores in the future, so there is considerable benefit for facilities that utilize the Digisonics CVIS to monitor appropriate use scores and produce the required structured reports.

Digisonics' cardiovascular information system solutions with appropriate use criteria calculations help facilities prepare for the future of healthcare and ensure the quality of patient care by providing clinicians with evidence-based guidelines to make the best clinical decisions.

### CONGENITAL CARDIOLOGY TODAY

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Mailing Address: PO Box 444, Manzanita, OR 97130 USA  
Tel: +1.301.279.2005; Fax: +1.240.465.0692

Editorial and Subscription Offices: 16 Cove Rd, Ste. 200, Westerly, RI 02891 USA  
[www.CongenitalCardiologyToday.com](http://www.CongenitalCardiologyToday.com)

**Publishing Management:** Tony Carlson, Founder, President & Sr. Editor - [TCarlsonmd@gmail.com](mailto:TCarlsonmd@gmail.com); Richard Koulbanis, Grp. Publisher & Editor-in-Chief - [RichardK@CCT.bz](mailto:RichardK@CCT.bz); John W. Moore, MD, MPH, Medical Editor - [JMoore@RCHSD.org](mailto:JMoore@RCHSD.org)

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## Pediatric Heart Failure Transplant Cardiologist - Phoenix

Phoenix Children's Hospital is seeking a highly skilled Pediatric Faculty Cardiologist/Heart Failure Transplant Cardiologist to join and coordinate our growing, highly developed heart program.

### Position Responsibilities

- Treat pediatric and congenital patients in end-stage heart failure
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- Work with a transplant team of 2 surgeons, 3 extenders, 3 cardiologists and staff support

### Qualifications

- Formal training or experience in pediatric heart transplantation, advanced heart failure and ventricular assist device management
- Board Certified in Pediatric Cardiology
- 3-5 years experience in Heart Transplant / Advanced CHF
- Specific expertise or interest in antibody mediated rejection and mechanical support preferred
- Willingness to apply for academic position with the University of Arizona and Mayo Clinic

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- 30 Cardiologists, 2 surgeons, 15 NPs, 2 PAs
- Outpatient Clinic within new hospital facilities includes 16 exam room, 6 echo suites and stress lab
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### Send your resume to:

Chip Parsons - [cparsons@phoenixchildrens.com](mailto:cparsons@phoenixchildrens.com),  
Stephen Pophal, MD - [spophal@phoenixchildrens.com](mailto:spophal@phoenixchildrens.com) or  
John Nigro, MD - [jnigro@phoenixchildrens.com](mailto:jnigro@phoenixchildrens.com)

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Contact: [annabel@globalheartnetwork.net](mailto:annabel@globalheartnetwork.net)

[www.globalheartnetwork.net](http://www.globalheartnetwork.net)



**The Ward Family Heart Center at Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics in Kansas City in affiliation with the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Medicine is recruiting a:**

- **Medical Director, and**
- **Surgical Director for our Pediatric Heart Transplantation Program**

Candidates for both positions must be board-certified (in Pediatric Cardiology for the Medical Director, and in Thoracic Surgery for the Surgical Director) and have greater than 5 years of experience in the field.

Successful candidates will support the development and growth of the Heart Transplant Program in our high-volume, tertiary-quaternary center. They will have the opportunity to direct and expand the existing program in Pediatric Heart Failure in collaboration with an outstanding local clinical program for adult heart failure, assist devices, and transplantation. Both positions offer the opportunity to develop research programs in collaboration with established, funded programs such as clinical pharmacology, genomics, and tissue engineered heart valve research.

**Surgical Director, Heart Transplantation and Mechanical Assist Devices**

We seek a Surgeon who is experienced in pediatric cardiac transplantation and ventricular assist devices. Qualified candidates will meet the UNOS Heart Transplant Primary Surgeon training and volume requirements.

**Medical Director, Heart Transplantation and Mechanical Assist Devices**

We seek a Pediatric Cardiologist with experience in pre-, peri-, and post heart transplant, heart failure and ventricular assist device management.

The Ward Family Heart Center serves a population of over 5 million in the heart of the USA, through our main campus and outreach locations in and around Kansas City, extending to Western Missouri and throughout the state of Kansas. Our team includes 19 Board-Certified Pediatric Cardiologists (expanding to 24 this year), 2 Cardiovascular Surgeons, 17 Advance Practice Nurses and a Transplant Coordinator.

Annually we perform:

- over 400 major cardiac operations
- 400 hemodynamic / interventional catheterizations
- over 130 EP catheterizations
- 12,000 outpatient visits
- 14,000 echocardiograms
- 20,000 EKG's

Our preoperative and postoperative ICUs include a 70-bed NICU and a 41-bed PICU with a new 16-bed Cardiac Wing including a dedicated cardiac critical care team. The recently inaugurated Elizabeth Ferrell Fetal Health center provides our free-standing Children's Hospital the facility for in-house births of high-risk babies. Our ACGME-accredited, three-year Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Program currently admits one fellow in pediatric cardiology per academic year (expanding to 2 fellows per year in 2015) and is a partner in the cardiothoracic surgical residency program at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Our ongoing integration with the University of Kansas Medical Center provides the impetus for comprehensive, seamless care and programmatic growth.

Qualified applicants are invited to apply.

***Salary and academic range are commensurate with experience and qualifications. EOE/AAP***

**For additional information contact:**

Girish Shirali, MD ([gsshirali@cmh.edu](mailto:gsshirali@cmh.edu))

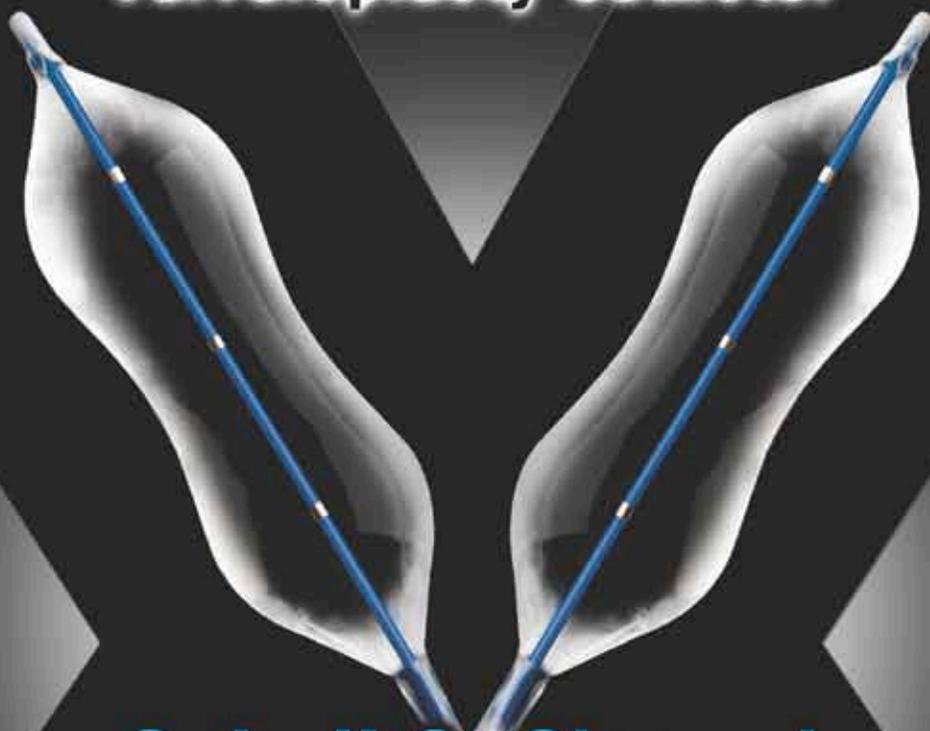
Cardiology Division Director and

Co-Director of the Ward Family Heart Center

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