Cardiovascular Disease in the Young
Council Newsletter
Fall 2008
Dr. Charles S. Kleinman wrote his first paper on imaging the fetal heart using echocardiography in 1980. He is considered by many of us to be the “Father of Fetal Echocardiography”; however, 28 years later he has shown us that he is so much more. Charlie Kleinman is an inspiration. His fight, his drive and his unending sense of humor during times of adversity should be a lesson to us all on how to never lose faith, never give up, and how to live life well.

Charles Kleinman was born on March 12, 1947 in New York. He graduated from Martin Van Buren High School in Queens, N.Y. in 1963. He was president of the National Honor Society and Arista Science Honor Society. He was in the band, on the math team, an Arista tutor, and a part of the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Dr. Kleinman received his BA in biology from New York University in 1967, then attended Rutgers Graduate School studying cell biology. He received his MD in 1972 from New York Medical College. He completed his internship and residency, and was chief resident in pediatrics, at the New York Hospital—Cornell Medical Center, and was a fellow in pediatric cardiology at Cornell University Medical College, graduating in 1976. Dr. Kleinman then spent time with Dr. Abraham Rudolph at the Cardiovascular Research Institute in San Francisco as a research fellow in cardiology.

In 1977, Dr. Kleinman joined the faculty at Yale where he quickly established himself as an expert echocardiographer. In 1980, he published his first manuscript on fetal echocardiography. In 1982 his landmark paper that fetal congestive heart failure could be diagnosed by ultrasound appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine. In 1986 he became professor of pediatrics, diagnostic imaging and obstetrics and gynecology, and chief of pediatric cardiology at Yale. He also received a masters of arts degree the same year. In 2000, Dr. Kleinman left Yale and joined the faculty of the University of Florida where he was a senior cardiologist at Nemours Cardiac Center at Arnold Palmer Hospital. In 2002 he returned to New York as director of pediatric cardiac imaging and professor of clinical pediatrics in obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University. Since 1996 he has consistently appeared on various superlative lists such as “Best Cardiovascular Physicians in America,” “Best Doctor in America,” “Top Physicians in America,” and “Top Pediatricians in America.” He has authored 83 peer-reviewed manuscripts, written 66 chapters and reviews, served on the editorial board of five journals in cardiology and obstetrics, and presented or lectured at over 100 national and international meetings. Most recently he was one of the consulting editors with Drs. Istvan Seri and Richard Polin of the book released this year entitled Hemodynamics and Cardiology — Neonatology Questions and Controversies.

Jessica Kleinman, Charlie’s wife, has been with him for 43 years. “Charlie and I met when he was 18. What impressed me both then and now are his gifts of empathy, insight, and an amazing sense of humor,” Jessica shared with much emotion. “His sensitivity and desire to be there for others, both personally and professionally, have persisted despite times of critical illness. These strengths have been tested through Hodgkin’s disease, a heart attack, bypass and mitral valve replacement surgeries, and recently a heart transplant. To say that he is cherished as a wonderful husband, father/father-in-law, grandfather, friend and physician, only scratches the surface. Our resilience comes from deep mutual love, respect, support, and above all, knowing what is important in life.”

Dr. George Lister, chairman of pediatrics at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, is one of Charlie’s lifelong friends. He shared the following: “I have known Charlie Kleinman far too long to tell all in a short space, and far too well to avoid filtering what I tell. His career and contributions to pediatric cardiology have spanned over 30 years and will extend, quite fortunately for all of us, much longer. His wit, his sarcasm, his encyclopedic knowledge and his gusto for all of his endeavors are the marks of his lasting influence. While he might state that he found a garbage bag full of m-mode strips in the basement of Yale that created the epiphany that he could diagnose cardiac disease in the fetus — both of structural and functional nature (recall his paper in New England Journal on hydrops) — I know for a fact that the clutter was actually in the trunk of his Datsun, along with tennis rackets, stethoscopes, angiograms, sneakers, textbooks and a large enough array of scrub suits that he could have stocked a whole section of Bloomingdale’s. Only Charlie could find order and sense out of this potpourri. I vividly remember his presentation of data at the APS/SPR meeting at the Hilton in NYC. It was a stunning birth of fetal cardiology and a shining moment for Charlie. There was such interest in the audience that it nearly required Norm Talner and I to use a grappling hook to get Charlie away from the onslaught of questions so others could present their work. Yes, Helen Taussig was in the audience, as were Abe Rudolph, Mary Ellen Engel,
Report From
the Chair

G. Paul Matherne, MD, FAHA, Chair

It is an honor and a privilege to serve the American Heart Association as Chair of the Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young. Following outgoing Chair Dr. Cathy Webb is no small task, as her energy, enthusiasm and hard work will be hard to match. Under Dr. Webb’s leadership, the Council has continued to be one of the best in the American Heart Association. She helped our Council grow and expand with new sub-committees and she has spearheaded, and been personally involved in, a host of scientific statements and other association publications. Our council continues to be one of the most active in the association and our committees are among the most productive. The passion and the drive that our members have for children and cardiovascular disease are unsurpassed and contribute to the success of the organization.

I would also like to recognize that Dr. Michael Gewitz will be assuming the role of Vice Chair of the Council. We look forward to working with him and other members of the Leadership Committee as well as all of the members of CVDY as we further the goals of the American Heart Association.

A couple of notes about the upcoming Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, Nov. 8–12:

- Beginning this year, following our Annual Business Meeting, we have a Brown Bag Lunch Panel Discussion to discuss pertinent issues regarding our field. The topic for 2008 will be “Certification for Physicians Caring for Adults with Congenital Heart Disease.”

- I am pleased to announce that due to popular demand, our Council gathering on Tuesday, Nov. 11 will once again be a dinner and we are pleased to announce that this year’s William J. Rashkind Lecture will be a musical presentation from a group of physicians led by Gil Wernovsky. We hope that you can all attend.

We encourage all of our members to continue to be involved in CVDY and let us know if there are issues that are important to you that need to be addressed. Our Council continues to be one of the preeminent voices in support of children and adolescents with heart disease as well as adults with congenital heart disease. We provide a strong voice of advocacy on their behalf. We cannot do this without your involvement and support.

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Member in the Spotlight

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I sought out Dr. Kleinman because of his reputation as a fetal cardiologist. Despite not knowing who I was, he received me with open arms and I spent a wonderful few months studying with him at Yale. What I know of Charlie Kleinman is as a great mentor. He has an incredible ability to teach, there is no doubt. More so, however, he has the ability to instill excitement and the passion for discovery. He taught me how to be a clinical fetal cardiologist. He also taught me how to ask questions and not give up until I had the answers. Together in 2003 we published our work showing that fetuses with congenital heart disease have abnormalities in cerebral blood flow, supporting concepts first suggested by Dr. Rudolph in the 1970’s. Since that time, Charlie has been with me every step of the way along my career. He has offered support, guidance and encouragement. Charlie saw in me my potential and nurtured me. I owe my success to him. This story, I am sure, is not unique. Charlie Kleinman has mentored many, and his wisdom will live on in each one of us.

Ironically, over the last 10 years, many of Dr. Kleinman’s medical difficulties have been cardiovascular. Yet he has persevered, showing us his incredible drive, stamina and desire to live life to the fullest. The sense of humor for which he is well known is as vibrant as ever. I have heard from the team at Columbia that Charlie was back at work part time six weeks after his heart transplant operation. He resumed his full-time position two weeks later.

Charlie wrote these words only a few days before his cardiac transplant: “As you all know, my cardiovascular condition has continued to deteriorate over the course of the past year. I was informed late last week that I was the backup for the last transplant that was performed on an A+ patient, late last week. I am informed that my status has now placed me at the top of the Columbia waiting list for a heart, and I should be called within a matter of days to a week or two for transplantation. I look forward to this with some apprehension. My previous history of surgery, with marked hemorrhage at the time of the first operation, does place me at a somewhat greater risk than average. I am told, however, that the results of transplantation in the above 60-year-old group has been quite good, and that the likelihood of a good functional result, with years of functional survival, including the potential for returning to work full-time is high. In the hope that I will be able to spend more time with Jessica, my kids and their wives, and to watch my grandchildren grow and develop, I have decided to go ahead with this procedure. At the very least I want my loved ones to know that I made the good fight. I am thankful to be cared for at the largest and finest heart transplant center in the world. I have been fortunate to have years of joy with my family, with personal friends who date back to my school days, and with professional colleagues who have become part of my extended family. I can’t find the words to thank the people who have been available and willing to stand in for me at work. I appreciate the support that many of you have given to my kids and to my dear wife and best friend Jessica. It is my hope that I will be able to thank you personally after all of this is over with. If that is not to be the case, I want all of you to know that your concern and loyalty through the years has been appreciated. I have been blessed with family, friends, colleagues and a job I love. My only regret will have been that I didn’t have quite enough time to do everything I wanted to do. I am, of course, somewhat apprehensive, but at the same time excited by the potential opportunity to move forward with my life. You have all been wonderful in your patience and support, and I thank you. It is my hope that I will be able to rejoin my family, somehow repay Jessica for the many months (years) of agony I have put her through, watch my grandchildren grow, my kids and their wives prosper, participate in Josh and Allison’s upcoming marriage, and get back to work. I am optimistic that things will work out. If they do not I am confident that we made the correct decision, nonetheless. The kindness and professionalism of the Columbia Cardiac Transplant team has been inspirational, and I know that I have been in the hands of the best.”

Dr. Charles Kleinman, this tribute is to you. You are an inspiration to us all. Father of fetal echocardiography, physician, mentor, colleague, friend. Thank you for returning to us.

Mary T. Donofrio, MD, FAAP, FACC, FASE, Director of the Fetal Heart Program, Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
The AHA Scientific Sessions program for 2008 is in the final stages of preparation. Dr. Gordon Tomaselli, program chair for Sessions 2008, has given preliminary approval to the pediatric portion. The number of pediatric cardiology sessions is similar to past years. They include the following:

**Sunday Morning Session**
- New Strategies in Intensive Care for Young Patients with Heart Disease.

**Evening Sessions**
- Advances in Therapies for the Abnormal Mitral Valve
- Are Kids Little Adults? Regulation of Risk Factors for CV Disease in Childhood vs. Senescence
- Can the Hypoplastic Left Ventricle Grow?
- Challenges in Anticoagulation Management in the Child with Heart Disease
- Optimizing Outcomes of Cardiac Interventions in the Premature/Low Birth-weight Infant

**How-to Sessions**
- How to Achieve Resynchronization in Children with Heart Disease
- How to Apply Genomics and Proteomics to the Care of Children with Heart Disease
- How to Develop a Hybrid Program for Congenital Heart Disease: From Conception to Completion
- How to Overcome Challenges in Pediatric Research: Perspectives from the PHN and the FDA

**Ask the Experts Sessions**
- Training Future Pediatric Cardiologists

**Special Session**
In addition, this year we have a special session devoted to adult congenital heart disease jointly sponsored by the Council for Cardiovascular Disease in the Young/Council on Clinical Cardiology and the International Society of Adult Congenital Heart Disease, entitled:
- Adult Congenital Heart Disease: Facing the Challenges

Speakers are being contacted to confirm their participation. The committee made every attempt to include the widest number of speakers with expertise in the area of discussion, and to represent the largest number of institutions, nationally and internationally.

The **Rashkind** speaker for 2008 is Gil Wernovsky. Dr. Wernovsky is a professor of pediatrics, an internationally renowned cardiac intensivist, and director for program development at the Cardiac Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Besides his professional achievements, Dr. Wernovsky is a talented pianist and has arranged an exciting musical ensemble at the dinner reception performed by a dozen musicians including cardiologists, surgeons and nurses. He has also contacted members of the Rashkind family who we hope will be able to attend.

The **Nadas** speaker will be Dr. Amnon Rosenthal. Dr. Rosenthal was trained by Dr. Nadas in Boston, and subsequently led the Pediatric Cardiology Program at the University of Michigan for more than 20 years. He is professor of pediatrics at the C.S. Mott’s Children’s Hospital, Ann Arbor, Mich., and a world-renowned pediatric cardiologist who has made many important contributions to the field. One of his most important contributions has been in the training of many accomplished pediatric cardiologists.

The committee has completed their list of abstract graders and the AHA Abstract Committee has approved their recommendations. Pediatric abstract sessions will be finalized during the Program Committee meeting in Dallas on July 21 and 22.

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**Job Opportunities**

**Barbados**
The Sparman Clinic located on the beautiful island of Barbados is seeking to hire two board certified (or board eligible) **non-invasive/invasive cardiologists**. OR
The Clinic would be also interested in those **practicing internal medicine**.

Short- and long-term contracts are available. Licensing will be organized by the Clinic upon job acceptance. Competitive pay packages. One contract will be set to begin A.S.A.P while the other will begin in the summer.

For further information please contact Lena Wills at (246) 436-5839/(246) 233-2033.
All interested persons are asked to forward their CVs to thesparmanclinic@hotmail.com.

**Canada**
“The Division of Pediatric Cardiology, School of Medicine at Stony Brook is recruiting a **board eligible/certified Pediatric Cardiologist** for a 4th faculty position at the assistant or associate professor level. Expertise in non-invasive procedures is required. The Department of Pediatrics has over 60 faculty at Stony Brook University Hospital, which is the principal teaching hospital of the School of Medicine.”

Contact:
Thomas Biancaniello, MD, FACC, FAHA
Tbiancan@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or (631) 444-2725
Chief, Pediatric Cardiology
(631) 444-2725
Fax (631) 444-2894.
Pediatric Cardiologist

Pediatric Cardiology is seeking a fourth non-invasive pediatric cardiologist. Our practice is hospital-based with a separate pediatric multi-specialty outpatient building. Good Samaritan Hospital has placed a high priority on pediatric specialties which has made it an excellent place to work. The echo lab is ICAEL approved for fetal and pediatric echocardiography. Full-time and part-time positions are available.

Good Samaritan is located in Western Suffolk, Long Island. It's a wonderful place to live and work; excellent schools, minutes to the beach and close to New York City.

If you are interested, please e-mail your CV to:

barry.goldberg@chsli.org
Barry Goldberg, MD
Center for Pediatric Specialty Care
Good Samaritan Hospital
655 Deer Park Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702
Phone: 631-321-2100
Fax: 631-321-2145

North Carolina

CHARLOTTE, NC — Presbyterian Pediatric Cardiology is seeking a BC Pediatric Cardiologist to join 2 other physicians in a very successful Pediatric Cardiology practice. As part of a large, thriving hospital system with more than 7,500 deliveries and a level IV NICU, we are excited about adding a third physician to our team. Current services include fetal echo and exercise physiology testing. We have a state-of-the-art digital echo lab with 2 registered pediatric technicians and we provide a full range of outpatient services, as well as inpatient consultations. Presbyterian Pediatric Cardiology is looking to add an experienced physician who wants to provide excellent care to his/her patients.

This practice is affiliated with Presbyterian Novant Medical Group, a premier physician group in the Carolinas. The chosen candidate will enjoy the professional challenge offered in a sophisticated medical community along with the wonderful recreational opportunities and quality of life that is offered in the Carolinas. Excellent private practice salary guaranteed with immediate bonus potential and no buy in. Great benefits including retirement, malpractice and relocation allowance. Part-time or full-time position would be considered.

Craig A. Greene, MD
David P. Ohmstede, MD
Interested candidates should send CV to:

Presbyterian Novant Medical Group
Attn: Robin Amos
FAX 704-316-9879
or e-mail: ramos@novanthealth.org.

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology of Sanger Clinic and Levine Children’s Hospital in Charlotte, N.C. is recruiting a board-certified pediatric cardiologist with sub-specialty expertise in electrophysiology (EP). The candidate should be clinically excellent, have superior interpersonal skills and be willing to develop and grow a successful local and regional EP program. The successful applicant will join a rapidly growing practice of eight pediatric cardiologists and two cardiothoracic surgeons. The Sanger Clinic also has a large and busy adult congenital practice with a large volume of adult congenital patients. Electrophysiology cases will be performed in one of two biplane catheterization laboratories including a new biplane laboratory which will be completed in the first quarter of 2009.

The Sanger Clinic is the premier congenital heart center in North Carolina, performing over 300 surgeries and cardiac catheterizations per year. The practice is affiliated with Carolinas Healthcare System, the third-largest hospital authority in the country, but operates much like a private practice with very competitive compensation and benefits. The hospital authority just opened Levine Children's Hospital in the fall of 2007, an $85 million, 240-bed state-of-the-art facility. Charlotte, N.C. is a friendly, thriving metropolis with excellent arts (symphony, theatre, and museums), entertainment (U.S. National Whitewater Center), professional sports (Panthers, Bobcats, NASCAR) and wonderful restaurants (Johnson and Wales College of Culinary Arts). The city is only two hours from the mountains and three-and-one-half hours to the coast. Interested applicants should fax or e-mail their CVs to Dr. Stern.

Herbert J. Stern MD, FACC
Director, Division of Pediatric Cardiology
Sanger Clinic and Levine Children’s Hospital
herbert.stern@carolinashealthcare.org

Ohio

The Heart Center at Nationwide Children’s Hospital & Ohio State University are seeking a second board certified/eligible academic pediatric cardiologist (any level) focused on heart transplantation/heart failure management to join our established multispecialty team. The candidate would participate in programmatic growth encompassing all aspects of our mission including clinical service, education and research. Excellent opportunities to participate in and develop translational research in heart failure and transplant medicine exist. The NCH Heart Center has 19 pediatric cardiologists on faculty and has established programs in adult CHD,
cardiac intensive care, electrophysiology, interventional catheterization & hybrid strategies, noninvasive imaging, and outpatient management. We have a large pediatric and combined pediatric/adult cardiology fellowship program and additional fourth-year fellowship opportunities. Candidates are encouraged to submit their curriculum vitae to:

Timothy Hoffman, MD
Heart Transplantation Medical Director
ED616
700 Children's Drive
Columbus, OH 43205
PH 614:722-2530 or
Timothy.Hoffman@nationwidechildrens.org

The Ohio State University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

People on the Move

California

Anita Grady, MD, will join the faculty at the University of California, San Francisco as Director of the Fetal Cardiovascular Program beginning Oct. 1, 2008.

University of Utah Pediatric Cardiology

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the University of Utah and Primary Children’s Medical Center are pleased to announce the addition of 2 new division members. Thomas Pilcher, MD, who finished his training at the Medical University of South Carolina, joins the division in electrophysiology, and Shaji Menon, MD, who finished his training at the Mayo Clinic, joins the division in noninvasive imaging.

Due to continued growth, the division is recruiting additional cardiologists with major interests in 1) noninvasive imaging, 2) outpatient cardiology, 3) transplant/heart failure, or 4) cardiac intensive care. The candidate should have a strong clinical background in pediatric cardiology with expertise and interest in at least one of the areas listed above. The candidate(s) will join a 20-member division with a growing, expanding clinical program, an active fellowship program, and an active, growing clinical research program (the division is one of the participating centers in the NIH-funded Pediatric Heart Network).

Primary Children’s Medical Center is a tertiary referral center for a three-state area located on the hills overlooking Salt Lake City. The area offers an excellent quality of life with immense cultural and recreational opportunities readily available.

Interested individuals should send or e-mail a cover letter and CV to:

Lloyd Y. Tani, M.D.
Chief, Division of Pediatric Cardiology
University of Utah School of Medicine
Lloyd.tani@imail.org
or FAX (801) 662-5404

The Heart Center at Nationwide Children’s Hospital (NCH, formerly Columbus Children’s) and the Ohio State University Medical Center (OSUMC) are seeking a third adult congenital heart disease (ACHD) specialist at the assistant or associate professor level to join our active established program. Candidates with pediatric and/or adult cardiology training who demonstrate proficiency in the medical management of the ACHD patient will be considered. Candidates would be expected to provide consultation to in-patient services at both NCH and the OSUMC campuses as well as to conduct regular ACHD clinics. The ability to perform independent and collaborative laboratory or clinical research in this field is expected. Our ACHD program includes two dually trained & board certified pediatric and adult cardiology physicians, ACHD nurse practitioners, nurse clinicians, a research nurse and dedicated technical staff. Additionally, we have an accredited ACHD five-year fellowship program currently with three fellows in training. Our program actively manages nearly 2,000 ACHD patients and has an emerging transitional ACHD program. State-of-the-art imaging, interventional catheterization & surgery, electrophysiology, intensive care, CHF and heart, heart-lung and lung transplant programs are integrated with the ACHD program. Candidates may submit their curriculum vitae to

Curt Daniels, MD
Nationwide Children’s Hospital
700 Children’s Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205
or via e-mail to curt.daniels@nationwidechildrens.org.

The Ohio State University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.