Cardiovascular Disease in the Young

Council Newsletter

Winter 2007
Report From the Chair
Catherine L. Webb, MD, FAHA Chair

This year’s CVDY Scientific Sessions proved to be extremely educational, stimulating, and exciting. The Program Committee did a wonderful job of planning the various sessions with excellent help from all of us, including the ACHD, AHoy, CVDY, Early Career and Mentoring and RFEKD committees. Congratulations and thanks to all for your hard work and enthusiasm.

I’m sure all would agree that Dr. Jeffrey Towbin’s Jones Lecture and Dr. Heather Ross’s Rashkind Lecture at Sessions this year were superb. In order to ensure lectures of such high quality in the future, I again would like to encourage you to think about speakers you would like to hear for the Nadas and Rashkind Lectures at Sessions, 2008. It is important that we hear from you so we know your preferences for the future. Also, if you have a special talent or have had a unique experience in your life, let us know. It might be Rashkind Lecture material! Please contact Dr. Seema Mital (seema.mital@sickkids.ca), Chair of the Program Committee, with your ideas.

The CVDY Early Career and Mentoring Committee has awarded two CVDY Visiting Professorships for 2007–08. Dr. Macdonald Dick will visit the University of Iowa and Dr. Lisa Hornberger will visit Oregon Health Sciences University. This new program has generated a great deal of interest and we continue to encourage applications for next year. Remember that this is an important educational opportunity which primarily emphasizes mentoring, so in addition to lectures, a mentoring schedule for young faculty and Fellows should be outlined in the application. Also, the AHA’s International Mentoring Program currently has an opportunity to significantly increase the number of international connections for next year’s Sessions. You will hear more about this in future newsletters. If you are asked to participate in this mentoring program, please do so enthusiastically.

Membership in the CVDY Council is very important and I continue to encourage you to renew your membership at the premium professional level. Additionally, I ask for your help in recruiting new members for CVDY.

As I mentioned at the Rashkind Lecture, I would also encourage all members at the premium professional level to consider becoming Fellows of the American Heart Association (FAHA). The application can be found at: http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3005387. You will need to demonstrate an element of service to the AHA at any level (local or national) and be sponsored by a current FAHA. The list of current FAHAs can also be found at the same link. The CVDY Leadership Committee votes to admit new FAHAs twice a year at the November and April meetings. Don’t delay! Apply now.

The CVDY continues to be an important AHA Council. We have many dedicated pediatric cardiologists who volunteer considerable time to make sure this Council meets the needs of our discipline. We are also strong advocates for children with heart disease. Interest in working with the Council is burgeoning. A number of people have expressed a desire to work with us, but not all could be accommodated this year. Please be assured that we are aware of your interests and will do what we can to tap your expertise in the future, as needs arise. Please reiterate your interest to any member of the CVDY Leadership Committee or Nominating Committee.

Committee/Liaison Reports
Congenital Cardiac Defects
Paul G. Matherne, MD, FAHA

The Congenital Cardiac Defects Committee met at Scientific Sessions 2007 in Orlando. The committee continues its work in preparing scientific statements as well as working on patient education information. A scientific statement on the use of oximetry in screening for newborn heart disease is almost ready for peer review, the statement on monitoring for children on stimulant is currently under review and should be in press within the next six months, and several other statements are under consideration. Writing groups are being put together — and manuscript oversight committee applications are being prepared — for a scientific statement on the use of anticoagulation in patients with congenital disease, and an update on the scientific statement on interventional cath in congenital heart disease.

From the Editor
Craig A. Sable, MD, csable@cnmc.org

We are continuing to work to improve the Web site and the newsletter. If you have suggestions, postings for job opportunities, People on the Move, or conference announcements, or want to volunteer to help, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are also looking for suggestions (and authors) for feature articles and member spotlights.
Atherosclerosis, Hypertension and Obesity in the Young
Brian McCrindle, MD

The committee also worked to update and revise the “If Your Child Has a Congenital Heart Defect” booklet. This information was updated to reflect the new endocarditis prophylaxes guidelines, and provide additional information about surgery for specific defects. This booklet is currently undergoing science review by the American Heart Association and should be available for purchase early next year. The booklet will also be placed on the AHA Web site with links to more extensive explanations of some available diagnostic tests. The committee’s next meeting will be held in conjunction with Lobby Day in April. If you have any suggestions for scientific statements or patient education materials that the committee should consider working on, please do not hesitate to call me at 434-924-5365.

AHA Cardiovascular Disease in the Young
Seema Mital, MD

At Scientific Sessions 2007, was well attended and the attendees had an opportunity to hear exciting new results from leading researchers, including updates on molecular approaches to congenital heart disease and late outcomes from therapies for heart disease in the young.

Dr. Jeffrey Towbin from Baylor College of Medicine gave the T. Duckett Jones Memorial Lecture. “Inflammatory Viral Heart Disease: A Shifting Epidemiology” and Dr. Heather Ross from Toronto, Canada gave the William J. Rashkind Lecture: “Antarctica: Magic and Mayhem on Mount Vinson.”

The recipients of the Outstanding Research Awards in Pediatric Cardiology were:

Raluca Ionescu-Ittu, Montreal, Canada
Increases in Folic Acid Intake in the Preconceptual Period Reduce Birth Prevalence of Severe Congenital Heart Disease

Marco Stramba-Badiale, Milan, Italy
Electrocardiographic and Genetic Screening for Long QT Syndrome: Results from a Prospective Study on 44,596 Neonates

Pediatric Cardiovascular Nursing Subcommittee
Pat O’Brien

Research: The research networking lunch with the theme of nurse-physician collaboration had excellent attendance and a very lively discussion about research issues. The multi-site research project on feeding strategies in infants with single ventricle has enrolled over 100 infants and they are starting to analyze preliminary results.

Program: We are working on a number of program ideas for Sessions in 2008. There were two “How-To” sessions on pediatric nursing topics that were well attended, an oral abstract session on the impact of heart disease on children and families and a joint session on late heart transplant outcomes with CVDY.

Projects: A scientific statement on transitioning adolescents to adult care is being jointly developed with CVDY. We have several projects under consideration for action in the coming year.
CVDY Liaison to Women in Cardiology Committee
Therese M. Giglia, MD

The American Heart Association’s Council on Clinical Cardiology Women in Cardiology Committee was created to facilitate the professional development of women cardiologists and positively impact the number of women cardiologists in the country. The committee’s mission is two-fold: 1) to promote and foster successful clinical and research careers among women physicians in the field of cardiology; and 2) to encourage and increase participation and visibility of women in the activities of the American Heart Association.

One of the mechanisms by which these goals are achieved is through annual programs for women cardiologists and women cardiology Fellows at the AHA’s Scientific Sessions:

The WIC Trainee Award for Excellence (formerly WIC Travel Grant Program), sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., recognizes outstanding academic and clinical performance in women cardiology Fellows by awarding 25 women trainees grants to attend the AHA’s Scientific Sessions. This program encourages and recognizes outstanding academic and clinical performance in women cardiology Fellows during cardiovascular-related specialty training. Women must be enrolled in ACGME or AOA approved training programs and only the top applicants are selected. The review committee looks for trainees who exemplify a balance between clinical expertise and scientific interests. In addition to receiving $1,000, recipients are invited to participate in a series of educational and networking events including:

- Early Career Development Program (Saturday afternoon)
- Awardees Speaker Training Seminar (Saturday evening)
- Awardees Dinner (Sunday evening)
- WIC Networking Luncheon (Tuesday)

CVDY congratulates the following pediatric cardiology Fellows who received 2007 Trainee Awards for Excellence:

- Elizabeth Fortescue, MD
  Children’s Hospital, Boston
- Christina Miyake, MD
  Children’s Hospital, Boston
- Elizabeth Yellen, MD
  Children’s Hospital, Boston

Applications for next year’s Trainee Awards for Excellence may be found on the Council on Clinical Cardiology Web site http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3021298.

The application deadline will be in June 2008 for Scientific Sessions 2008.

Early Career and Mentoring Committee
David Lawrence, MD

Most pediatric residents transitioning into subspecialty training anticipate fellowship being the final destination of their formal training. However, pediatric cardiology, more so than most other pediatric subspecialties, has become hyperspecialized. Over the previous two decades, the field has witnessed areas once regarded as niche areas of interest burgeon into disciplines unto themselves. Disciplines such as electrophysiology, interventional catheterization, transplantation medicine and imaging require competencies and skill sets near impossible to acquire during a three-year fellowship. Most academic centers and private practice programs generally have rigidly defined curricula. As such, the structure, content and duration of this additional training is subject to wide interinstitutional variation. Indeed, while commonly referred to as a fourth year, advanced fellowship training can span from three to 24 months. During this period, the trainee can expect total immersion in the chosen discipline. Institutions with recurrent fourth-year programs generally have rigidly defined time commitments whereas other institutions may afford some degree of flexibility in training duration to suit the candidate’s individual needs and goals. This type of flexibility may allow the trainee to embark upon three to six months of advanced training to augment what may have been a robust exposure during fellowship and therefore, obviate the need for an entire fourth year of training. In addition, the trainee may choose to divide the fourth year between two host institutions. Also variable is the classification of the advanced trainee. Though not ACGME recognized, some institutions regard the advanced trainee similarly to categorical fellows. The trainee’s appointment is that of house staff with compensation and benefits in accordance with those of “regular” fellows. In these situations, the 4th year fellow assumes overnight and weekend coverage duties in the same call pool as the categorical fellows with some degree of faculty supervision. On the other hand, the trainee may receive the appointment of junior faculty, thus entitling them to enhanced compensation and benefits as compared to the categorical fellow. This trainee may then participate in the attending call pool and in turn provide supervision to house staff.

Funding for advanced fellowship positions is subject to inter and intra institutional variation. Sources of support may include unrestricted departmental funds, research-based training grants, industry sponsored educational grants or donor funds. For those institutions in which the trainee is appointed as junior faculty, the potential exists for that trainee to generate revenue via billing for clinical services rendering, therefore justifying their
salary support. The growing need for the super subspecialist, combined with the relatively limited training centers, has led to the idea of the sponsoring institution. In this arrangement, a practice recruiting a recent fellowship graduate for a highly specialized position will, in turn, financially cover the expenses of that recruit to engage in advanced training at a host institution.

So, once a graduating fellow has decided to pursue advanced training, how does he or she find a program that suits their needs? Unlike application to medical school, residency and fellowship, there is no standardization to the advanced year application. In fact, there is no one source for updated information regarding advanced training offerings. Traditionally, matching candidates to positions has been a word of mouth process. Given changes in funding, candidate pool and faculty numbers and expertise, some institutions are very inconsistent in the availability of training positions. Some programs choose to advertise via trade publications, directly solicit program directors or rely on word of mouth. Traditionally, the process begins with contacting institutions to simply inquire about the availability of advanced training positions and requirements for candidacy consideration. There is no match program for fourth-year positions and the application process is entirely institution dependent.

We have attempted to assemble a list of fourth-year or advanced fellowships offered in the United States for the 2007–08 academic year. This list will be made available soon online, accessible from the CVDY homepage (www.americanheart.org/CVDY). The contact information for members of the Early Career and Mentoring Committee of the CVDY will also be included to assist with questions in this area. If you have any further questions please contact mahlew@kidsheart.com.

**Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis and Kawasaki Disease Committee**

**Chair, Michael Gewitz, MD**

The Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis and Kawasaki Disease (RFEKD) Committee oversaw the publication of the new endocarditis prophylaxis guidelines, published in Circulation in 2007 (http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/reprint/CIRCULATIONAHA.106.183095). The committee is also updating the recommendations for the treatment of streptococcal pharyngitis and prevention of acute rheumatic fever. This revision (led by Michael Gerber) should be published in 2008. Additionally, the committee has just begun a focused update of the 2003 nonvalvular device-related infections paper. The update, led by Larry Baddour, will focus on EP device infections.

Finally, several RFEKD current and former committee members will be involved in the 9th International Kawasaki Disease Symposium which is cosponsored by CVDY and AHA. This meeting will be held April 10–12, 2008, in Taipei, Taiwan. More information is available at http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3051323.

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### Job Opportunities

#### California

The Department of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA seek a BE/BV pediatric cardiologist with training and expertise in echocardiography and non-invasive imaging. Experience in transthoracic, transesophageal, and fetal echocardiography is required. This position is in the clinical track at the Instructor or Assistant Professor rank and is well suited for a fourth-year imaging fellow. Academic duties include teaching of fellows, residents, and medical students, as well as clinical research. Clinical service outside the echocardiography lab includes some inpatient and outpatient responsibilities. Mattel Children’s Hospital/UCLA Medical Center is a comprehensive cardiovascular center, offering a full array of pediatric cardiovascular surgery, heart transplantation, transcatheter interventions and adult congenital heart disease programs. Opportunities for multi-disciplinary collaboration throughout the UCLA campus abound. Submit CV and letter of interest to Gary M. Satou, MD, Director, Pediatric Echocardiography, UCLA Pediatric Cardiology B2-427 MDCC, 10833 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90095-1752 (gsatou@mednet.ucla.edu). UCLA is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

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**Pediatric Cardiac Electrophysiologist**

**UCSF Children’s Hospital and University of California San Francisco School of Medicine**

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the UCSF Department of Pediatrics is seeking a Pediatric Cardiac Electrophysiologist.

The faculty appointment will be at the Assistant/Associate Professor rank depending on qualifications. Preference will be given to individuals with strong academic background and interest in pursuing a career in clinical research and teaching. The position is in our Division of Pediatric Cardiology, with 13 faculty and 6 fellows. The successful candidate will be part of the combined...
electrophysiology program at UCSF and Stanford, and will direct the UCSF component, where a new Siemens biplane fluoroscopy electrophysiology laboratory with 3-dimensional mapping capability was recently installed. The combined electrophysiology program includes 3 full-time faculty and is directed by Dr. George Van Hare, who is jointly appointed at UCSF and Stanford. The program performs about 360 invasive procedures a year, evenly divided between the two campuses, and trains advanced 4th year fellows in electrophysiology. This position provides an ideal environment for collegial interactions, mentorship, clinical research, and excellent clinical care. In addition to attending in the electrophysiology laboratory, the successful candidate will attend on the in-patient cardiology service, run outpatient arrhythmia, and pacemaker clinics, and participate in the teaching of medical students, residents and fellows. The applicant must be board certified in pediatrics and board certified/eligible in pediatric cardiology.

Candidates should forward a letter of interest and CV listing three references to: David Teitel, M.D., Chief, Pediatric Cardiology, University of California San Francisco, 505 Parnassus Avenue, Room Mi235, San Francisco, CA 94143-0544, david.teitel@ucsf.edu. 415-353-4140.

UCSF is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The University undertakes affirmative action to assure equal employment opportunity for under-utilized minorities and women, for persons with disabilities, and for Vietnam-era veterans and special disabled veterans. UCSF seeks candidates whose experience, teaching, research, or community service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and excellence.

Illinois

The Division of Cardiology at Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL, is seeking two board-certified/eligible pediatric cardiologists to fill positions in non invasive cardiology and heart failure-transplant cardiology.

1) The Division of Cardiology at Children's Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine is recruiting a non-invasive, full-time BC/BE pediatric cardiologist at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with a major interest in echocardiography to join its rapidly growing academic program. The successful candidate will receive a faculty appointment at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and will join an experienced group of 8 echocardiographers dedicated to interpreting over 12,000 studies per year. This includes telemedicine studies from 9 remote sites and 800 fetal studies. Applicants should have a sound clinical background in all areas of pediatric cardiology. Responsibilities will include clinical inpatient service and teaching, with protected time for clinical research. Salary for this position is open and negotiable. The proposed start date for this position would be July 1, 2008, or sooner if possible.

Children’s Memorial Hospital is ranked in the top hospitals for children nationally. The Cardiology program, which includes 18 experienced pediatric cardiologists, is the largest in Illinois and provides expertise in echocardiography, electrophysiology, interventional cardiac catheterization, transplant, adult congenital heart disease and preventative cardiology.

Northwestern University and Children’s Memorial Hospital are committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, with a negotiable start date. Interested individuals should forward letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and three (3) references to: Luciana Young, MD, Director, Echocardiography Laboratory, Children’s Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 2300 Children’s Plaza, Chicago, IL 60614; phone: (773) 880-4553; E-mail: lyoung@childrensmemorial.org.

2) The Division of Cardiology at Children’s Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine is recruiting a full-time BC/BE pediatric cardiologist at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with a major interest in heart failure/transplantation to join its rapidly growing academic program. The appointment will be at the non-tenure level in the clinician track, either at the Assistant or Associate Professor level in Pediatrics, depending on experience. Candidates must have an M.D./D.O. degree and eligibility for an Illinois medical license. Applicants must be board eligible or board certified in pediatric cardiology. We are seeking an individual with interest/expertise in clinical heart transplantation and cardiology. The position will include participation in inpatient and outpatient consultation and evaluation of patients with heart failure and transplantation. The program follows a large number of transplant recipients (about 100) and cardiomyopathy/heart failure patients (200), with 4 dedicated nurse practitioners and an active clinical research program. Teaching of house staff and clinical research will be expected. Opportunities for translational research and collaboration through the Children’s Memorial Research Institute and the Feinberg Research Institute of Northwestern Medical School will be encouraged; applicants with funded research would be given protected time. Applications will be accepted until the
position is filled, with a negotiable start date. Academic rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications. Northwestern University and Children’s Memorial Hospital are affirmative action/equal opportunity employers. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should forward letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and three (3) references to: Elfriede Pahl, MD, Director, Cardiac Transplant, Children’s Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 2300 Children’s Plaza, Chicago, IL 60614; phone: (773) 880-4553; Email: epahl@childrensmemorial.org.

New Mexico
Pediatric Cardiology Positions at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque

Great opportunity for division chief of cardiology or faculty member at the assistant or associate level. To be considered, expertise in diagnostic catheterizations and simple interventions is required. Inquiries: Nancy Whalen, nwhalen@salud.unm.edu or for information regarding position qualifications, visit UNM SOM website http://hscapp.unm.edu/facultyjobs/ and scroll to School of Medicine, then to Pediatrics.

New York
The Division of Pediatric Cardiology, School of Medicine at Stony Brook is recruiting a board eligible/certified Pediatric Cardiologist for a 4th year faculty position at the assistant or associate professor level. Expertise in non-invasive procedures is required. The Department of Pediatrics has over 60 faculties at Stony Brook University Hospital, which is the principle teaching hospital of the School of Medicine.” Contact: Tbiancan@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or (631) 444-2725.

Ready for a change? Current career opportunities got you down? Finishing fellowship and you just haven’t found the “right place?” Spouse unhappy with your location (but still likes you)? Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital Division of Pediatric Cardiology is currently recruiting two BE/BC cardiologists with expertise in echocardiography, including fetal and transesophageal studies. The addition of these two candidates would bring the total complement of echocardiographers to five. Participation in the current cardiac MRI program is an option, but not required. In addition to clinical duties, the candidate would provide training at the fellowship and residency levels and would be expected to participate in the active research program of this expanding division. This is a fully digital laboratory which functions within the framework of a comprehensive cardiac center, located in the state-of-the-art, 222-bed Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital. The cardiology division includes 14 cohesive members who cover all aspects of cardiac care. There are two top-notch cardiac surgeons who perform more than 500 operations per year, of all types, with impressive results.

The Children’s Hospital is located on the beautiful Nashville campus of Vanderbilt University, nestled in the rolling hills of middle Tennessee. Nashville is a very safe, mid-sized metropolitan area with top-notch public and private schools, inviting parks and lakes, professional hockey and football, and the best music anywhere. The Children’s Hospital includes clinical service, education and research. The Heart Center at NCH has excellent programs in adult CHD, cardiology intensive care, electrophysiology, interventional catheterization, thoracic surgery, hybrid strategy and outreach clinics. The fellowship program includes pediatric and combined pediatric adult cardiology and four-year specialty fellowships. Candidates are encouraged to submit their curriculum vitae to: John Kovalchin, MD, Director of Echocardiography and Non-Invasive Imaging, ED628, 700 Children’s Drive, Columbus, OH 43205; PH 614-722-2530 or John.Kovalchin@nationwidechildrens.org

Ohio
The Heart Center at Nationwide Children’s Hospital (NCH, formerly, Columbus Children’s), the pediatric teaching facility for the Ohio State University, is seeking a board certified/eligible non-invasive imaging pediatric cardiologist to join its faculty. The NCH Echocardiography Laboratory is ICAEL accredited and fully digital. Our echocardiography laboratory team is made up of six attending physicians and nine sonographers performs more than 9000 studies annually using state-of-the-art transthoracic, transesophageal, fetal, Intracardiac, intravascular, and 3D techniques. We have an active cardiac MRI/CT service. There are numerous opportunities to engage in translational research, quality assurance initiatives and development of cutting edge informational services. The candidate would participate in programmatic growth encompassing all aspects of the Heart Center’s mission including clinical service, education and research. The Heart Center at NCH has excellent programs in adult CHD, cardiac intensive care, electrophysiology, interventional catheterization, thoracic surgery, hybrid strategy and outreach clinics. The fellowship program includes pediatric and combined pediatric adult cardiology and four-year specialty fellowships. Candidates are encouraged to submit their curriculum vitae to: John Kovalchin, MD, Director of Echocardiography and Non-Invasive Imaging, ED628, 700 Children’s Drive, Columbus, OH 43205; PH 614-722-2530 or John.Kovalchin@nationwidechildrens.org
People/Programs on the Move

Illinois

The Division of Cardiology at Children’s Memorial Hospital, and the Department of Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, are pleased to welcome three new colleagues. Dr. Peter Koenig, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, is a member of the non invasive imaging team. He trained in cardiology at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH. He comes to us via the University of Chicago. Dr. Amy D. Shah, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, is a member of the non invasive imaging team and also trained at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Jeffrey G. Gossett, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, is a member of our invasive cardiology team. He comes to us from the University of Chicago after training in cardiology at the University of Michigan.

New Mexico

Anne Greene, MD, joined the pediatric cardiology group at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in March 2007. She adds electrophysiology expertise to the practice.