Featured Announcements:

STAFF UPDATES:

William DeCampli, M.D., Ph.D
In November, the membership approved the appointment of William DeCampli, MD,Ph.D as the Managing Director of the Data Center. Dr DeCampli is currently the Chief of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at Arnold Palmer Children’s Hospital, Orlando Florida and Professor of Surgery at UCF. The staff in the data center are excited to have Dr. DeCampli “here” every week (via webinar) and periodically in person. Dr DeCampli assists with study design, provides us with a fresh look at how we manage our processes in the data center, and helps us to continually improve our services to families, patients, and our member surgeons. Welcome Dr. DeCampli to this new role.

Dr. Ed Hickey is welcomed back to the CHSS Data Center. Many of you will remember Ed as the 3rd Kirklin-Ashburn Fellow from 2006-2008.
Dr. Hickey is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto and Staff Surgeon in the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery here at The Toronto General Hospital.
Dr Hickey has been instrumental in helping with study design and statistical analysis as well as mentoring our current fellow Dr. Travis Wilder.

Dr. Maulik Baxi has resigned from his position here at the Data Center. The data center is grateful to Maulik for all his work here at the data Center. Maulik will continue his career development in a PhD program for Public Health at the University of Baroda in Gujarat India.

We wish him all the best and thank him for all his work here over these past 5 years.

Dr. Christopher Caldarone stepped down as the managing Director of the Data Center. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Caldarone for his leadership, direction and commitment to the Data Center.

Under Dr. Caldarone’s direction the Data Center became a more efficient and creative research engine, and productivity and innovation increased. In addition to conceiving and designing many of our studies, Dr Caldarone recruited and organized the CHSS members around these studies through the “work weekend” concepts, resulting in multiple publications. We are very grateful to the leadership from Dr Caldarone over the past 10 years and appreciate his continued involvement with the Data Center. Thank you “CC”.

Kirklin-Ashburn Fellows Celebrate Success

Your Data Center is proud to celebrate the success of the most recent two Kirklin-Ashburn Fellows.

Dr. Anusha Jegatheeswaran successfully defended her thesis for her PhD degree from the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. Anusha’s thesis was titled ‘A Multi-dimensional Outcomes Study in an Inception Cohort of Patients with Interrupted Aortic Arch’ supervised under the guidance of Dr. Brian McCrindle.

Dr. Jeffrey Poynter recently defended his thesis titled Application of Parametric Hazard Analysis with Time-Dependent Covariables To Analyze Durability of Right Ventricle-to-Pulmonary Artery Conduits Implanted in Infants and Young Children with Congenital Heart Disease, under the guidance of Dr. Christopher Caldarone. Jeff earned his Masters Degree from the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto.

Jeff’s paper title: Anomalous Aortic Origin of a Coronary Artery A Report From the Congenital Heart Surgeons Society Registry was published in the WJPCHS January 2014.

Many congratulations to both the Fellows and our gratitude to the CHSS membership who were instrumental in helping them achieve their goals.

Your Data Center would like to announce the dates of the Fall 2014 Work Weekend. Please mark your calendars for November 21-23, 2014!
Virtual Core ECHO Imaging Lab

Your Data Center worked closely with BioClinica over the last year to establish a “Virtual Core Lab” to allow participating institutions to securely upload their patients’ diagnostic images to an encrypted, cloud-based server. Despite the efforts of both BioClinica and the Data Center team, we were unable to build a platform that would meet our needs. However, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Luc Mertens, we are happy to announce that a Virtual Core Lab is now established at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Dr. Mertens and dedicated staff will upload de-identified images onto the secure Sickkids server once received from the institution. Although the newly established core lab will have the capabilities to de-identify images on site, we are asking participants to please de-identify images at their home institution if possible. All images will be reviewed here by Dr. Mertens and his team and we will continue to use the expertise of the dedicated echo core lab members at participating CHSS institutions. The newly established core lab will be used for our LVOTO, AVSD and AAOCA cohorts with the plan of expanding to other cohorts in the future. We would like to thank Dr. Mertens for all his hard work in getting the Virtual Core Lab up and running.

CHSS Institutional Participation

We would like to share and celebrate an important milestone with the membership. Before the end of 2013, your Data Center’s patient enrollment had surpassed all past annual enrollments. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the membership for their consistent support and participation in the studies. We would also like to express our unending gratitude to your patients and their families who contribute their valuable data to us.

We are pleased to announce that we will be having our 3rd Annual Coordinator Meeting to be held October 19-20 in conjunction with the CHSS Annual General Meeting in Chicago. This year’s theme will be: “Integrating Technology advances to improve efficiencies”

We hope that you will support your coordinators in attending this meeting. Our previous two meetings were a great success to all who attended.

PULMONARY CONDUIT (PC) UPDATE:

At the Spring 2014 work weekend, a decision was made to close the PC cohort to further enrollment. Final Date of enrollment is June 30 2014. This cohort has currently accrued over 600 infants and we are confident that this is an adequate number of patients for future analyses. We will continue with Annual follow-up and will require your assistance with all future clinical updates for patients already enrolled. We would appreciate if you could send us all data on your new patients by the August 31, 2014. Please notify your IRB that effective July 1, 2014 the Pulmonary Conduit Cohort will stop enrollment of NEW patients. All currently enrolled patients will continue to be followed by the CHSS DC and all relevant clinical updates will still need to be sent to the Data Center. If you have any questions about this or any other study, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

New Patients in 2013