In the Spotlight: New CHSS Members

The Congenital Heart Surgeons’ Society (CHSS) inducted 11 new member surgeons in the year 2010-11. Your CHSS Data Center would like to welcome new member surgeons who have decided to devote their time and energy to further the research in Congenital Heart Diseases.

The CHSS member surgeons are leaders and drivers of cutting edge research in their respective areas of interest. While some surgeons are interested in molecular and genetic research, the others devote their time to outcomes and database research. Together they carry a comprehensive capability to significantly improve the health of the congenital heart disease patients.

Many surgeons have already participated in the Data Center research endeavors like the work weekend and writing day discussions. We look forward to continue to benefit from their expertise in the future.

Dr. Jonathan Chen is the Surgical Director, Pediatric Heart Transplantation at the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian & Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY.

Dr. Pirooz Eghtesady is pediatric cardiac surgeon at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Director of Eghtesady Lab at Washington University in St. Louis at St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Camille Hancock-Friesen is assistant professor at Dalhousie University and the President of the Maritime Heart Center at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Dr. Michael Mitchell is a pediatric cardiac surgeon at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Medical College of Wisconsin.

Dr. David Morales is an Assistant Professor in the Congenital Heart Surgery Division of the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Dr. James O’Brien is the attending cardiothoracic surgeon at Children’s Mercy Hospital and the Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Lester Permut is the attending surgeon in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery at Seattle Children’s Hospital and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Washington, School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Mark Plunkett is the Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Kentucky, College of Medicine in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dr. James St. Louis is the Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. He also holds an Aldo Castañeda Professorship in Congenital Heart Surgery.

Dr. Luca Vricella is the Director of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and Heart Transplantation Program at John Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Samuel Weinstein is the Director of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery and the Associate Professor of Clinical Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York.
TGA – Functional Health Status and Transition to Adult Care Projects

On May 19th, our first ever Writing Day was held at the CHSS Data Center in Toronto. The purpose of the day was for the TGA Working Group to review the results for both the TGA Functional Health Status and Transition to Adult Care projects, in addition to writing draft abstracts for submission to the AHA Scientific Sessions 2011.

The day was a huge success, not only did we have several members come to the Data Center, for the first time ever we used webinar technology (see below) to have those members who could not attend in person, actively participate via conference call while having the ability to view the documents we were drafting online. This technology was very well received and participants commented that they felt like they were in the room working with us.

As a result of our working day, several suggestions were made for refinement of the analysis, which was carried out, and 2 abstracts have been submitted to the American Heart Association. Thank you for all of your feedback and participation in these 2 projects. In the coming weeks, we will begin drafting the manuscripts.

If you have any comments or questions regarding either of these projects, please feel free to contact Dr. Anusha Jegatheeswaran, our current Kirklin-Ashburn research fellow at any time by phone (416-813-5184) or by email at anusha.jega@sickkids.ca.

Feedback on Newsletter: How are we doing?

We hope you have been receiving this newsletter bimonthly from your CHSS Data Center. It has been just over a year since we started the newsletter. Our aim behind starting the newsletter was to inform and engage the CHSS membership and our patients. We wanted to thank you for your participation and support.

We would like to know what you think about the newsletter and how successful we are in achieving our objectives. We invite your feedback, critique and suggestions. Please write to us at chss.dc@sickkids.ca and let us know how we are doing!

Feedback on website: www.chssdc.org

You may have noticed our redesigned website. We have updated it to become more informative and interactive. For example, we created areas for patients and families & researchers.

As the next step, we would like you to tell us what you want!

We would like to know what you think about the following:

- Look and feel of the website
- Quality of contents
- Ease of navigation between different sections
- Finding the information of your interest

We are inviting your responses, edits and suggestions for improvements. Please contact us at toll free line 1-866-477-2477 or by email at chss.dc@sickkids.ca to let us know what you think as well as the changes that you would like to see!

The Data Center starts using webinar

The participants in the recently concluded writing day would have noticed that your Data Center has started using a tool to hold meetings and discussions online. This was our first experience of conducting webinars. The webinar system that we use allows participants to connect through internet to the central network on which we can run the presentations.

Participants can also call-in using a toll-free number that is displayed on their screen. This allows live discussion between participants from wherever they are sitting. The presentation control on the screen is transferable; hence a participant sitting in their home or office can run a meeting as smoothly as if they are sitting in the middle of the room at the Data Center at Toronto.

We hope to continue using this tool to enable participation from all CHSS members who are unable to travel to Toronto for research meetings. We plan to circulate the webinar invitation along with our Work Weekend and other meeting invitations in the future. We look forward to benefit from your enhanced participation!