The CHSS President’s Message

2012 has been a busy and productive year for the CHSS with more to come as the 3rd Joint Meeting of the Congenital Heart Surgeons’ Society and the European Congenital Heart Surgeons Association approaches (September 13-15, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois).

Two new CHSS committees have been especially busy. The Standards and Ethics Committee, chaired by Ross Ungerleider, has begun to craft policies regarding a number of issues including advertising and publicity, ethical standards for relating to industry, public dissemination of quality ratings, and the physician acting as expert witness. The Quality and Outcomes Committee, chaired by Jeff Jacobs, has also been very active. Jeff detailed much of this activity in the February 2012 edition of this Newsletter, but important accomplishments of this committee include: the publication of 21 “Quality Measures for Congenital and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery” in the January 2012 edition of the World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery, and the initiation of a joint venture with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons toward the development of a Pediatric Cardiac Care Learning Collaborative to enlist centers interested in sharing care paradigms with the objective of learning from each other and improving overall outcomes.

The Quality and Outcomes Committee has also been working with the Data Center and the Research Committee (Marshall Jacobs, Chair) to operationalize Technical Performance Scoring as a service to CHSS members. This methodology developed by Emile Bacha will permit objective evaluation of individual cardiac surgical procedures and establish benchmarks for comparison. Progress is also continuing on establishing a link between the CHSS Database and the STS Congenital Database so that centers participating in both ventures will more readily identify candidates for ongoing CHSS studies.

The Data Center itself continues to crunch numbers and pursue new projects. The unbalanced atrioventricular septal defect cohort was launched in January and centers and patients are being added. The Anomalous Aortic Origin of Coronary Artery project is also progressing. The Spring Work Weekend in April helped bring several projects up to date and resulted in an impressive analysis of our pulmonary conduit data. I am proud to say that the CHSS pulmonary conduit abstract submitted by our Kirklin/Ashburn fellow, Jeff Poynter, was not only accepted for the 2013 STS meeting, but was awarded the J. Maxwell Chamberlain prize for congenital research.

(Continued on Page 2)

Invitation to participate in AVSD Cohort

Your CHSS Data Center invites your participation in the inception cohort on Atrioventricular Septal Defect (AVSD). The cohort is lead by Dr. David Overman at the Children’s Heart Clinic of Minnesota with logistics of participation supported by your Data Center in Toronto.

The AVSD cohort is a prospective observational inception cohort. Patients with diagnosis of or referral with complete AVSD at a CHSS member institution after January 1, 2011 and within first year of life are eligible for enrollment. This includes Tetralogy of Fallot or Double Outlet Right Ventricle or heterotaxy with complete AVSD. The Atrioventricular and ventriculoarterial concordance is also required for eligibility in the cohort. Patients with partial or transitional AVSD and those with Aortic Atresia are not eligible at this time.

We have uploaded the documentation to help with your participation on our website www.chssdc.org. They include documents to help you receive ethics and legal approvals as well as the forms that explain data collection and patient follow-up. For help or questions regarding participation in this cohort, please contact us at chss.dc@sickkids.ca.

Save the Date: CHSS Fall 2012 Work Weekend

The CHSS Data Center Fall 2012 Work Weekend will be held in Toronto on 16-18 November. We will circulate a draft agenda as soon as it is formalized. We hope this announcement will help you plan your schedule in advance. For those members and researchers unable to travel to Toronto we plan to have webinar and conference calls open during sessions of interest. We hope to see you in Toronto!

CHSS Fall 2012 Work Weekend
Date: 16-18 November, 2012
Venue: CHSS Data Center
The Hospital for Sick Children
555 University Avenue
Toronto, ON, M5G 1X8, Canada

We recommend Hotel Delta Chelsea (Reservations 416-595-1975) for your stay, which is conveniently located across the street from The Hospital for Sick Children. We hope you will attend the Work Weekend.

If you need any assistance with your participation or for RSVP, please write to us at chss.dc@sickkids.ca.
The CHSS President’s Message (Continued from Page 1)

The 3rd Joint Meeting of the CHSS and ECHSA is coming up soon and promises to be an exciting event. I hope everyone will be able to attend. Carl Backer as our local host and Bill Gaynor as CHSS program chair have worked closely with Heikki Sairenen, Victor Hraska, and Harald Lindberg of ECSHA to put together a terrific program that will be both educational and entertaining.

With this meeting I will be completing my term as CHSS president and passing the gavel over to John Brown, who will continue to steer our society on a steady course. My thanks go to my fellow members who recognize the value of this small but special society and to all of the Data Center and PRRI staff that have made us a success. I hope you are as proud to be part of the CHSS as I am.

Patient Enrollment Update: Enroll in AVSD!

We take this opportunity to present our enrollment update for patients enrolled till July of this year. The graph below provides an overview of enrollment in actively enrolling CHSS Cohorts.

![Graph showing patient enrollment in CHSS cohorts]

The currently enrolling cohorts include
1. Tricuspid Atresia (TA)
2. Pulmonary Conduit (PC)
3. Critical Left Ventricular Outflow Tract Obstruction (LVOTO)
4. Anomalous Aortic Origin of a Coronary Artery (AAOCA)
5. Atrioventricular Septal Defect (AVSD)

If you have not been participating in the AVSD cohort, we invite you to do so. Many member institutions are already approved to participate and are screening eligible patients for this newest cohort. For any questions about the AVSD cohort enrollment, please contact us at chss.dc@sickkids.ca.

Technical Performance Score (TPS) Project

Your CHSS Data Center is happy to report the progress on the Technical Performance Score (TPS) project. The project, modeled upon Emile Bacha’s work at Boston aims to be a value added tool that will help participating institution assess their surgical performance in select procedures in comparison with their peers. The TPS working group at the CHSS designed the data collection form which your Data Center has used to build the electronic form and the tool that provides the institutions with results for various parameters. They include various subcomponents of a surgical procedure and the composite results for the procedure. The participating institutions will be able to enter their de-identified data into an electronic repository and be able to receive their results.

This electronic tool is housed in the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) software, developed by Vanderbilt University and housed at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Your Data Center will demonstrate these tools at the Annual Meeting and at the upcoming Work Weekend.

Announcing a new addition to the CHSS Data Center Family!

The Data Center is happy to announce a new family member. Jeff Poynter (our current Kirklin/Ashburn Fellow) and his wife Liz became proud parents of their first child, Eden Adele Poynter, at 3:07 AM on July 20.

![Image of Eden Adele Poynter]

Eden is healthy and active, and already has her Dad wrapped around her finger. Liz is recovering nicely with the help of Jeff, grandparents and friends.