Featured Member: Dr. Brian McCrindle

Dr. Brian McCrindle, a senior CHSS member, is Statistical Consultant for the CHSS Data Center and is a Cardiologist at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He obtained his BMedSc and MD at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada and continued to complete his MPH and pediatric cardiology training from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. McCrindle has a strong interest in outcomes research and is a key member of the Data Center Research Team. His research interests include:
- Clinical aspects of lipid disorders and cardiovascular risk factors assessment and intervention, clinical trials.
- Cardiologic aspects of Kawasaki disease, particularly assessment and intervention for cardiovascular risk.
- An evidence-based approach to common pediatric cardiovascular disorders and complaints.
- Psychosocial, neurodevelopmental and quality of life aspects relevant to pediatric cardiology.
- Outcomes assessment of congenital heart disease and interventions, both in children and adults.

To date, Dr. McCrindle has published 435 papers, and his work is regularly presented at many scientific meetings. He is the Associate Editor for Progress in Pediatric Cardiology, has many professional affiliations and activities and multiple committee memberships.

As a skilled mentor, Dr. McCrindle is behind the success of many research trainees including the training of 5 Kirklin/Ashburn Fellows at the CHSS Data Center. Recognized for his mentorship, he is the recipient of many teaching awards, including Honorary Membership in the Golden Key International Honor Society.

In addition to his statistical expertise, Dr. McCrindle brings to the CHSS Data Center a scope of knowledge from his leadership in Preventive Cardiology in Pediatrics, for which he was recently awarded the Harold N. Segall Award of Merit from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, to spearheading a vast amount of successful multi institutional studies, including those of the CHSS.

Research Update: AAOCA Surgical Techniques

Dr. Constantine Mavroudis led an AAOCA surgical techniques data abstraction group at the Fall 2012 work weekend. The purpose of this endeavor was to identify the spectrum of surgical techniques for management of AAOCA. The group had a follow-up conference call in January this year. Your Data Center team has completed the data abstraction and entry into the database.

We thank the CHSS member surgeons and all the research team members who have volunteered their time and efforts for this project. Dr. Jeff Poynter from the Data Center is currently working on the analysis. There will be a conference call for the Working Group, including those who had participated in the data abstraction during the previous Work Weekend last November. We expect to move forward quickly with this project.

Announcing the next Kirklin-Ashburn Fellow: Dr. Travis Wilder

Your CHSS Data Center is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Travis Wilder as the next CHSS Kirklin-Ashburn Fellow. Dr. Wilder is a third year general surgery resident at the University of California at San Diego. He completed his Bachelor of Science at The University of Arizona and MD at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. While in the fellowship, he plans to pursue Masters in Statistics at the University of Toronto in the Institute of Medical Sciences.

Dr. Wilder’s previous experience includes research in the areas of neurophysiology, and cardiac electrophysiology. While in medical school he worked closely with Dr. Shaun Setty who sparked his interest in congenital heart surgery and helped him publish an article in The Annals of Thoracic Surgery. He plans to learn statistical analysis techniques and research methods at the Data Center. Apart from working on the current CHSS studies and projects, his interests include pursuing a career in cardiothoracic surgery with an emphasis on congenital heart surgery.

For the Kirklin-Ashburn Fellowship, Dr. Wilder was recommended by Dr. Lambert. He also gives great thanks and appreciation to his mentor in CT surgery at UCSD Dr. Eugene Golts, and his faculty advisor Dr. Allen Hemming. He plans to stay involved with the Data Center while preparing for his transition in the fellowship and move to Toronto in June 2013. He would also like to give thanks to his supportive family who has supported him throughout all of his training and to his girlfriend Jennifer Baker who has helped motivate and support him through training.
Spring Work Weekend: April 12-14, 2013

The CHSS Data Center Spring 2013 Work Weekend will be held in Toronto on April 12-14. 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!

Work Weekend Spring 2013
Venue: CHSS Data Center
The Hospital for Sick Children
555 University Avenue
Toronto, ON, M5G 1X8, Canada
Date: April 12-14, 2013

LVOTO Work Weekdays: March 21-22, 2013

Your CHSS Data Center invites your participation in a special endeavor to abstract data for the LVOTO cohort on March 21-22 in Toronto. The prospective cohort on Left Ventricular Outflow Tract Obstruction (LVOTO) patients started enrolling in 2005. Thanks to your efforts, we have enrolled over 600 eligible patients. We collect these patients’ surgical and imaging data among other details about their management.

In the upcoming work week days, our aim is to use the expertise of CHSS researchers to abstract this data for future analysis. Dr. Christo Tchervenkov from Montreal Children’s Hospital will be leading this important data abstraction effort. Many member surgeons have participated in the data abstraction efforts and contributed significantly to the congenital heart surgery literature through the CHSS studies. The LVOTO work weekdays are another effort by your Data Center to foster this camaraderie in an informal environment and generate new knowledge through our collaborative efforts. For any assistance with your participation, travel arrangement and any other information, please contact us at chss.dc@sickkids.ca.

Atrioventricular Septal Defect Cohort Updates

Your CHSS Data Center is happy to provide key updates for the AVSD Cohort, the latest of the CHSS research endeavors.

- The study enrollment has picked up well. Many new patients have joined. The patient enrollment has significantly increased as well. In the first two months of 2013, we have received over 40 new patients. We will continue to provide you with enrollment updates as we go forward.
- A webinar for echocardiologists and echocardiographers from the participating institution was held on 7th March. Over 20 researchers from 17 institutions called in. For those who have missed calling in, we will hold another webinar in end of March. We will circulate the call-in details to all participating institutions.
- Many institutions have been working on their ethical and legal approvals with more and more joining the cohorts. For any help with this process, please contact us at chss.dc@sickkids.ca.

Generous donation from the Michael H. Ludwig Memorial Foundation

Your CHSS Data Center would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Michael H. Ludwig Memorial Foundation for their generous donation to further the congenital heart disease research. The Ludwig family has pledged $25,000 for 2013 to support Data Center personnel engaged in the maintenance of the AAOCA Registry, and a separate gift of $20,000 to support start-up and year one maintenance of a Virtual Echo Core Lab for AAOCA studies. The CHSS cohort on AAOCA is one of the largest prospective studies on this heart condition and will immensely benefit from this donation.

To learn more about the CHSS AAOCA cohort, please click here.

CHSS Data Center receives The Children’s Heart Foundation Grant

Your Data Center is proud to announce that The Children’s Heart Foundation has awarded a research grant of up to $200,000 over two years to the CHSS Aortic Valve Stenosis (AVS) cohort to study the Functional Health Status of patients transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. After a competitive review process, the grant submitted by Dr. Jeff Poynter, current CHSS Kirklin-Ashburn Fellow under the guidance of Dr. Brian McCrindle was selected for this award. A large part of this grant covers the cost of exercise testing for the patients who are also part of the Aortic Valve Stenosis cohort. Your Data Center will soon reach out to all participating institutions with further information.