December, 2013

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President's Message
by Curt J Daniels

Dear ISACHD Members,

Happy Holidays! Less than a month ago we held our ISACHD symposium at AHA 2013 (Dallas, TX, USA). We enjoyed a great mix of food, cocktails, and education, all with our international ACHD friends and colleagues. Our keynote speaker Sitaram Emani, MD (Boston) presented Surgical Options for the TV to Preserve RV Function in ACHD and Lucy Roche, MD (Toronto) presented interesting cases for debate. The audience engaged in robust discussion regarding timing of TV surgical intervention for L-TGA and the approach for repair in Ebstein anomaly and TOF.

Michael Landzberg, MD (ISACHD Past-President), presented Eisenmenger syndrome and data leading into the current Macitentan trial in this population. We are fortunate Actelion Pharmaceuticals continues to focus on the ACHD/PH population with randomized controlled trials. Erwin Oechslin, MD (Toronto, ISACHD Regional Representative) and Gary Webb, MD (ISACHD Past-President) described the developing eLearning ACHD Website as part of ISACHD Global Education initiative. This will be a tremendous resource for ACHD professionals at various stages of training and education.

Philip Moons, PhD presented by remote video ppt, an update on ISACHD multi-international study entitled Assessment of Patient-Reported Outcomes in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease - International Study (APPROACH-IS). Several programs have completed IRB approval and a few centers are collecting data.

Lastly, we received regional reports from Luis Alday, MD (South America),
ISACHD continues to move forward its agenda for improving ACHD Global Health, Global Education, and Global Research. Please join ISACHD, become a member and contribute to the work and the effort to improve ACHD care, education and research around the world.

Our next scheduled symposium will be held at ACC 2014 Washington DC, USA. Agenda will be forthcoming.

Please visit our website at www.isachd.org to learn more about ISACHD, visit the journal watch page and find the latest ACHD publications, view upcoming conferences endorsed by ISACHD and register to become a member of ISACHD.

Look forward to seeing you in Washington DC if not sooner,

Curt J Daniels, MD, President

Research Working Group Update

Update on APPROACH-IS: Assessment of Patterns of Patient-Reported Outcomes in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease - International Study

By Philip Moons

APPROACH-IS is an international research project that aims to examine the differences in patient-reported outcomes (e.g. quality of life) of adults with congenital heart disease who are living in different areas of the world and how these differences can be understood.

To date, 24 centers from around the world (i.e. Asia, Australia, Europe, North- and South-America) have agreed to participate in this cross-sectional questionnaire study. Five centers are currently collecting data and several other centers have already obtained ethical approval. The data collection period will run until 31 December 2014 and, thus, we expect the first results of the international study in early 2015.

If you are interested in learning more about APPROACH-IS or if you like to stay up-to-date with the latest developments, please contact the Project Coordinator Silke Apers (e-mail: silke.apers@med.kuleuven.be).

WG on Education

By Ervin Oechslin

Beta-Test of the ACHD e-Learning Center

Selected members of the ACHD community were invited to examine the components and functionality of the ACHD e-Learning Center, and offer us their observations, criticisms, and suggestions. On behalf of Dr. Gary Webb, Chair of the Editorial Board Members, I also invite you to provide us feedback until December 31, 2013.

This link will take you to the home page: www.achdlearningcenter.org. Please help us to improve the site before we "launch it" publicly and go to the feedback survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACHDsite_testing_survey. Photos and bios of the editorial group may be seen under "Who We Are". Clicking on "Explore ACHD Resources" will take you to the various sites that we believe are worth visiting. Each site is briefly described to assist the user. Please offer any comments you may have about these remarks. If you know of other sites with educational material that we should consider, please let us know.

Clicking on "View Cardiology Fellow Courses" will take you to approximately 8 sample 15 minute lectures designed for both adult cardiology and pediatric cardiology trainees. With the help of Kate English (UK) and Jonathan Windram (Canada), we intend to build pretest and posttest questions into what will eventually be a 50 presentation comprehensive series that trainees can receive
credit for having successfully completed in a modular fashion. Clicking on "ACHD Texts" will take you to a considerable number of CHD and ACHD texts, as well as a link to purchase many of them. We intend to have them within each category listed from newest to oldest, and may or may not have done that by the time beta testing begins.

Virtually all of the elements of the site invite scoring on a five-star scale, and also offer the opportunity for comments which will be reviewed by the editors before posting.

Please note that the links have only been done on "ASD" and "Coarctation". This will give you an idea of how the links will work when complete.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. Gary Webb, Chair of the Editorial Board, for his persistency to make this website an e-hub for ACHD education material. I also acknowledge the Cincinnati Children’s hospital for the financial and logistic support to build this Website.

Regional News

European News
Barbara Mulder

Fifth European Meeting on Adult Congenital Heart Disease
Click here for program, registration, and other related information

News from North America
By Bill Davidson

ACHD is an official ABMS subspecialty and ABIM is writing the requirements for a 2 year fellowship. The first exam for Board certification will be in 2015. The exam will be given every other year. Up through 2019 there will be a "practice pathway", after that those taking the boards will have to have been trained in a two year ABIM-approved fellowship. Meanwhile, many programs are having trouble coming up with funds for such fellowships.

Gary and Gruschen from Cincinnati will host the next international Symposium on ACHD in June (10-14) 2014.

News from Canada
By Erwin Oechslin

Please visit the President's Message at www.cachnet.ca to read about the highlights 2013 and Challenges 2014.

I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!
Endorsement of ACHD Meetings

Erwin Oechslin

- **10th DHZB Lange Symposium, Berlin (DE), January 18 / 19, 2014**
Please visit [http://www.dhzb.de/congresses/10th_lange_symposium_2014/invitation/](http://www.dhzb.de/congresses/10th_lange_symposium_2014/invitation/)

- **5th European meeting on Adult Congenital Heart Disease on Adult Congenital Heart Disease, Amsterdam (NL), April 10-11, 2014**

Click [here](http://www.roijecongressen.com/inschrijven/index.php?event_id=47) for full size image

- **Congenital Heart Disease in the Adult: 24th Annual Symposium on Adult Congenital Heart Disease (Cincinnati 2014). Cincinnati, June 10-13, 2014**
  [24th Annual Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program](http://www.roijecongressen.com/inschrijven/index.php?event_id=47)

Please be proactive and contact me at erwin.oechslin@uhn.ca if you want to endorse your ACHD meeting or if you are aware of a meeting which should be endorsed by ISACHD.

**Journal Watch**

Click [here](http://www.roijecongressen.com/inschrijven/index.php?event_id=47) for submitted Journal Watch contributions....