ISACCD meets at ACC in Chicago – March 30, 2008

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers
301 East North Water Street
Chicago, IL 60611
312-464-1000

NOTE NEW EARLIER START TIME FOR MEETING: 6:30 am. We will finish by 7:45 am.

ISACCD will be meeting in Chicago in conjunction with ACC’08, as is our tradition. Because of changes in the ACC meeting schedule (official ACC programming begins on Sunday at 8 AM this year) we have decided to start our ISACCD meeting a bit earlier and make it a bit shorter. We are sure this will pose no obstacle to our enthusiastic and dedicated members and guests. Your commitment to ACHD and support for its institutions will no doubt empower you to spring from your beds to meet your colleagues over early breakfast, find out about ISACCD’s activities and progress, join in the discussions, and support our society.

The highlights of the agenda follow. Please remember to publicize this meeting among your colleagues and trainees. There are many who may wish to attend, but if they are not already ISACCD members, they may not see this e-mail newsletter unless you forward it to them. Please do so. All are welcome, members and non-members alike. All you need is an interest in ACHD, though being an early riser also helps.

Highlights of the meeting:

• Outgoing president’s remarks – Dr. Jack Colman
• Passage of the gavel to the incoming ISACCD president, Dr. Michael Landzberg
• Introduction of the revamped ISACCD website – Dr. Fred Wu
• Multi-centre research – Dr. Michael Landzberg
• Round-table discussion with and about status and activities of ACHD patient support-advocacy groups around the world – Chaired by Dr. Michael Landzberg and Ms. Amy Verstappen
• Update on the US Joint Council for Congenital Cardiac Disease’s “ACHD Training Summit” held at ACC Heart House in Washington DC, January 28, 2008

Mission Statement

The purpose of the International Society for Adult Congenital Cardiac Disease is to promote, maintain and pursue excellence in the care of adults with congenital cardiac disease.

The Society is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and training in medical disciplines pertinent to congenital heart disease in adults.
President’s Message

ACHD instead of a Hawaiian Holiday?

It has been my privilege to help represent the ACHD community during the past 2 years that I have been president of our society. We remain a small society, yet wield influence because of the importance of our mandate and the wisdom of those who established ISACCD as a voice for ACHD, at a time when there was no organized voice.

I had the luck to join the ISACCD executive board as the wave of ACHD awareness was rising at an accelerating rate. That wave has not crested yet. I wish I were a surfer and the ACHD wave a real wave off Maui, because I think the ACHD wave is looking to be one of those great surfing waves that come once a generation; it would be an amazing ride. Most of us are not surfers, but we can still experience the thrill of riding the ACHD wave over the years to come, ultimately providing us with more satisfaction than the evanescent thrill of the surf.

Major cardiology organizations are paying attention to the needs of our patients and their caregivers. Training programs are growing in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. A new regional ACHD Society is likely to be founded in the Asia-Pacific region this spring. Work is being done in the US, in Europe, and elsewhere on ACHD certification pathways. Patient and family advocacy and support groups have begun to flourish and to take charge of their own destiny.

ISACCD is well-positioned to facilitate, link, catalyze, and support this rising wave. This may mean some structural change. Perhaps we will want to shift from a small organization of individuals willing to volunteer $100 per annum to say we belong, and find a different structure that will more completely encompass the entire ACHD community and help us continue and expand our work. The ACHD world is looking at how to define and organize its constituent parts for the future. ISACCD can play an important, perhaps central, role in that process if you who belong to the Society, and you who share its goals, wish it to.

It will be exciting to see how this develops over the next few years. The analogy to surfing fails here, because a Pacific Ocean wave grows, crests, and eventually falls away in a crash of breakers as it nears shore. In contrast, we can expect the field of Adult Congenital Heart Disease to continue to grow from success to success, from strength to strength, an ever-rising wave.

What a ride!

Jack Colman
President, 2006-2008

PS. I went to Maui once, last year, for a week. It rained every day. Worst weather in 25 years. I shall stick to ACHD surfing.

Catch the wave!
ONLINE REGISTRATION for the for the ACHD Symposium in Toronto 2008 is OPEN: (http://www.uhn.ca/ACHDConference2008.asp)

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You will find useful information for accommodations and traveling to Toronto at http://www.uhn.ca/ACHDConference2008.asp

Abstract Submission Deadline: March 3, 2008 (6 EST)

I cordially invite you, your co-workers and trainees to submit Abstracts for the ACHD Symposium. Abstracts will be considered for all aspects of care for adults with congenital heart disease (ACHD), including cardiac issues in the inpatient and outpatient areas, ACHD nursing, surgical, anesthesia and perfusion research, interventional procedures, and diagnostic testing.

Work that has been previously presented at local, national or international meetings will be considered for presentation at the 18th International Symposium on Adult Congenital Heart Disease in 2008; however material that has been already published as a manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal will not be considered.

The top three abstracts will be presented as oral presentations on June 5 (Winner #3 and #2) and on June 6, 2008 (Winner #1). Winner #1 will get the Investigator Award and free access to the 19th International Symposium at Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA (USA) in 2010.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Toronto.

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News from the Joint JCCHD-ACC
Sponsored USA “Summit” for ACHD Training and Sub-Specialty Accreditation

On Monday, January 28, 2007, the Joint Council for Congenital Heart Disease (JCCHD), under its then-chair, Gerard Martin, MD, sponsored a “summit” hosted by the American College of Cardiology at Heart House in Washington, DC. The goal of the summit was to discuss the definition of optimal training pathways and potential accreditation for physicians specializing in the care of adults with congenital heart disease (ACHD) within the United States. Aims were to understand the absolute requirements defined by the American Boards of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics for the creation of a new sub-specialty, to determine the potential and absolute roadblocks in this process, and to build sufficient consensus so as to be able to take further the process of definition of optimal training and accreditation for ACHD specialists in the US. These steps towards formal accreditation of ACHD as a subspecialty have far-reaching implications for world-wide ACHD survivors and caregivers, and active participation from the ISACCD executive was requested.

In attendance were key figures including the president and the CEO of the American College of Cardiology, presidents of both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics, representatives from cardiology subboards of both organizations, all members of the JCCHD including the president and president-elect of ISACCD, heads of CHD subsections of ACC and AHA, representatives of adult and pediatric cardiology training committees, NHLBI representatives, the president of ACHA and members of the Congenital Heart Coalition for patient advocacy, as well as senior counseling clinicians who are involved currently or were involved in the past in activities directly related to the processes of definition of ACHD training and accreditation.

Some highlights follow:

• JCCHD representatives proposed that ACHD be recognized for subspecialty certification, so as to encourage the development of more training programs and increase the number of ACHD trainees.

• The ABIM provided their criteria for recognizing new subspecialty programs and encouraged further pursuit of such by ACHD representatives explaining that ABIM certification must be limited to clinicians who have received initial internal medicine certification.

• The ABP president and representatives provided their criteria for recognizing new subspecialty programs, and noted, in particular, that there has been no precedent for ABP to accredit a subspecialty that cared for patients who were not in the pediatric age range. Therefore, ABP deferred pursuit of ACHD accreditation to ABIM. This issue was hotly debated, as clinicians with initial pediatric medicine accreditation, without internal medicine accreditation, would be left without ACHD accreditation potential if this position by ABP and ABIM were to be maintained.

• Various training potentials were discussed, extending as well as limiting particular aspects of current training paradigms.

• Consensus was reached that a working group of the ACHD caregiver community would begin the process of a) working with the American Board of Internal Medicine to define optimal ACHD training, with the goal of achieving ACHD subspecialty recognition, b) working with the American Board of Pediatrics to define potential pathways for pediatric specialists to achieve ACHD subspecialty accreditation.

Overall, the "ACHD Training Summit", has potential to lead to increased ACHD awareness, improved definition and standards of caregiver training and knowledge requirements for practice, and ultimately, increased numbers of accredited ACHD caregivers, not only in the US, but for each of us in the ACHD world-at-large.

A more detailed summary will be available at the upcoming ISACCD meeting at the American College of Cardiology for those interested.

– Mike Landzberg, for ISACCD
6th Advanced Symposium on Congenital Heart Disease in the Adult

Host Institution
Royal Brompton Hospital
and the National Heart & Lung Institute
London, UK

Programme Directors
Prof Michael A. Gatzoulis
Mr Darryl F. Shore

26 & 27 September 2008
Thessaloniki - Greece
Makedonia Palace Hotel

First Announcement

For more information, visit: www.achd2008.com