

November 23, 2010

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International Society for  
Adult Congenital Heart Diseases

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## ISACHD Newsletter

### President's Message

by Barbara J.M. Mulder



At the AHA congress in Chicago ISACHD members had a fruitful meeting at Saturday evening, with an enjoyable wine and cheese entourage.

Adrienne Kovacs, clinical psychologist in Toronto, elucidated her view on the importance of psychosocial problems in patients with congenital heart disease. She

proposed to create a psychosocial section within ISACHD. ACHD psychologists, psychiatrists, cardiologists, nurses, social workers, and other mental health professionals could have a virtual home to connect and keep one another informed about new research developments. A psychosocial section within ISACHD could provide an opportunity for asking questions, discussing ideas, and perhaps even collaboration. It might provide a venue in which members could ask general questions of a more clinical nature (e.g., recommended assessment instruments, standardized tools, useful clinical tools or resources, discussion of types of referrals or programs being offered). The audience was very enthusiastic and invited her to proceed with her plans.

Luke Burchill, clinical fellow from Toronto, presented the results of a Survey on training of ACHD fellows around the world. He had approached around 50 fellows or ex-fellows around the world and he presented the opinion of these fellows on their ACHD training. Luke is willing to coordinate a fellow section within ISACHD. At the website and in newsletters he will spread the voice of ISACHD fellows around the globe and he will coordinate job opportunities.

Philip Moons discussed the Journal Watch, which he presents every month in the Newsletter. The audience received his job with great appreciation and stimulated him to continue this activity which was considered extremely worthwhile for most members. We decided to distribute the Journal Watch separately from the Newsletters. Gary Webb suggested to expand the role of ISACHD and to initiate activities which are not yet fulfilled in regional societies. Journal

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Watch might be a good example. But also with new initiatives on international education, health care and research, ISACHD might fulfill a need in the ACHD community. The executives will work on this and they will present new proposals at the next ISACHD meeting during the ACC congress in New Orleans, April 2011. Any ideas and proposals from YOU will be welcomed!

IF by chance you have not yet paid dues for this year, please do so now, via the LINK. Your dues directly support the good work that our caregivers are able to perform in advancing the goals of greatest health for adults with congenital heart disease around the globe.

Please bring a colleague into our membership, now. Each of us has one colleague (fellow, nurse, PA, physician) that should be part of our organization. Make this small difference, and support that person, now, by inviting him/her to join ISACHD, or sponsoring the first-year membership in our organization.

Thank you,  
Barbara Mulder, President

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2006-2008

Michael J. Landzberg, MD

2008-2010

