

## President's Message

by Thomas P. Graham, Jr., MD

The Society had a very successful meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2003, just preceding the American College of Cardiology meeting in Chicago, IL. There was an outstanding presentation regarding the use of magnetic resonance imaging in adults with congenital heart disease by Dr. Tal Geva from Boston Children's Hospital.

Following this presentation, Dr. Elyse Foster from the University of California San Francisco presented the experience of the adult congenital heart disease group at UCSF. Dr. Foster also reported on the new monthly meeting for physicians interested in adult congenital heart disease in the Bay area which appears to be gaining significant momentum.

We are continuing to get excellent exposure in the *International Journal of Cardiology* with Dr. Michael Gatzoulis as the Associate Editor. The website is continuing to be expanded and is used widely by both patients and physicians.

The Project Committee is hard at work with the manuscript on adults with Fontan repair being submitted by Dr. Foster, and the abstract on pulmonary valve replacement presented by Dr. Graham. The pulmonary valve replacement study is in its second draft and

should be sent out later in the Fall for publication.

An exciting new development in the Project Committee was brought forward by Dr. Debra Gersony of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. Dr. Gersony has planned and submitted a proposal for a prospective study on the effects of pregnancy on women with atrial repair of transposition of the great arteries as well as other patients with systemic right ventricles. Funding has been received for this study and members are urged to enter patients. For the second meeting in a row there was excellent attendance and participation by members and guests.

Plans are almost complete for the November meeting just preceding the American Heart Association national meeting in Orlando, FL. We will be meeting in the Rosen Hotel which is just adjacent to the Convention Center on Sunday, November 9, 2003, at 7:00am.

I am delighted to announce that Dr. Joseph Perloff will be our invited lecturer, and the title of his lecture will be "Congenital Heart Disease in Adults: An Historical Perspective with Personal Reminiscences." Please make your plans now to attend and bring a colleague with you.

In addition to the lecture, we will have updates on other areas of the Society including a report regarding the *International Journal of Cardiology* by Dr. Gatzoulis and the opportunity to talk with the publishers and be shown the latest issues by them. We will also get updates by the Project and the Nominating Committees.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. David Sahn and two former presidents of the Society, will be soliciting ideas for President-Elect and other officers of the Society. My term will end in March 2004 at the New Orleans meeting, and Dr. Michael Gatzoulis will assume the presidency at that time. We will need to announce at that meeting the new officers who will serve with Dr. Gatzoulis.

If you have ideas about topics for our biannual meetings, please do not hesitate to email me these ideas at [tom.graham@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:tom.graham@vanderbilt.edu).

I look forward to seeing you in Orlando. I'd like to also have one further plea: please respond promptly to the second dues notice that will go out shortly. We need to replenish the coffers a bit to continue with the mission of the organization, including organizing and carrying out the annual meetings.

## 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.*

# Executive Committee

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# MRI in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease

On March 30, 2003, at the ACC meeting in Chicago, Tal Geva from the Department of Cardiology, Children's Hospital, Boston, reviewed the role of magnetic resonance imaging in adults with congenital heart disease. MRI has evolved over the past 20 years, such that this imaging modality is providing more precise anatomic delineation and an increasing amount of functional information including blood flow analysis, tissue characterization and myocardial tagging.

As an alternative to echocardiography, MRI has certain advantages. It is not limited by an acoustic window, does not usually require sedation and provides a wider field of view. However, it is more costly and fewer practitioners have the training and expertise necessary for this technique. Pacemakers and devices in many adult patients currently preclude the use of this valuable imaging modality.

Ventricular function is evaluated using a gradient echo cine MRI sequence. Breath holding shortens the imaging time from approximately 40 seconds to 10 seconds per location. Highly reproducible measurements of ventricular volumes, mass and ejection fraction are obtained.

ECG-gated phase velocity cine MRI is used for flow analysis.

MRI has an important role in the evaluation of patients following surgery for repair of tetralogy of Fallot by providing accurate measurements of RV and LV volumes and function. Pulmonary regurgitant volume and ejection fraction can be derived. The pulmonary artery anatomy is delineated to exclude branch pulmonary artery stenosis. Dr. Geva reported their findings in 100 consecutive patients who were long-term survivors of TOF repair with a median f/u of 21 years. The median regurgitant fraction was 32% and tended to be greater in those patients with patch annuloplasties as opposed to conduits. The median RV ejection fraction was 48% and the median RV end-diastolic volume index was 128 ml/m<sup>2</sup>.

The second most common indication for MRI in their series was evaluation of the aorta including aortic dilatation and coarctation. He agreed with the conclusion by Therrien et al (*JACC* 2000; 35:997) that MRI and clinical evaluation is the most cost-effective approach for identifying late complications in patient with coarctation repair.

Dr. Elyse Foster presented the UCSF experience in their Adult Congenital Heart Disease Service. Dr. Foster and her colleague, Dr. Nelson Schiller, are currently following more than 400 adult patients with congenital heart disease. They range from age 16 to 60 with the majority in the fourth decade. The three most common diagnoses among their patients are: atrial septal defect, tetralogy of Fallot and transposition of the great vessels. Their practice has developed with the support of close ties with their colleagues in pediatric cardiology, electrophysiology and cardiothoracic surgery as well as the heart failure service.

Dr. Foster addressed some of the obstacles that their service has faced in developing a coordinated service including the lack of pre-existing data basis and limited support from the academic departments and the hospital. There has been no funding available for a nurse coordinator or for dedicated social services. Research funding and financial support for physician salaries has been absent. Nonetheless, their future plans are to expand the service to develop a joint clinic with their colleagues in pediatrics and to develop a transitional practice in congenital heart disease.

## Conference Announcement

The Bay Area Society of Adult Congenital Heart Disease along with several local hospitals is co-sponsoring the first Northern California Conference of the Adult Congenital Heart Association. The conference, entitled "Adults with Congenital Heart Disease: Looking toward the future," will take place on Saturday, October 11, in Mountain View, CA. If you will be in the area and are interested in attending, please contact Jim Wong at [JimW@achaheart.org](mailto:JimW@achaheart.org).

# Mayo Clinic & Toronto Congenital Cardiac Centre for Adults Joint Fellowship in Adult Congenital Heart Disease

The Mayo Clinic and the Toronto Congenital Cardiac Centre for Adults (Toronto/TCCCA) invite United States, Canadian, and international candidates to apply for their Joint Fellowship in Adult Congenital Heart Disease, an outstanding training opportunity for those with a commitment to this field. Mayo Clinic and Toronto are two of the largest and finest adult congenital heart disease facilities in the world.

The successful applicant will participate in a wide range of clinical and academic activities encompassing the whole spectrum of congenital heart disease. This includes congenital echocardiography, cardiac

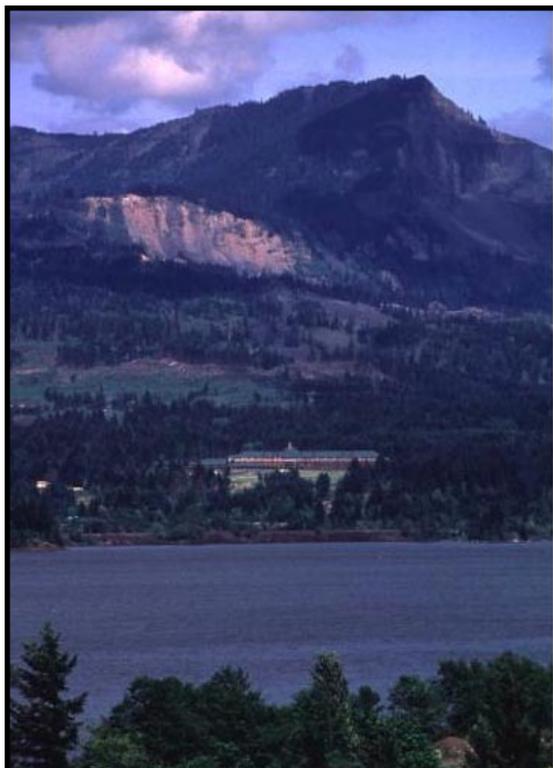
catheterization, and participation in the outpatient and inpatient practice of adults with congenital heart disease. Applicants are expected to contribute to ongoing clinical research and initiate their own projects. The tenure of appointment is one year and may begin either in the United States or Canada, renewable to a second year in the other institution. Applicants must be eligible to train in the U.S. and the province of Ontario and have completed or be near completion of their specialist training in Cardiology and/or Pediatric Cardiology.

Applicants are now invited for the position to be begin in July 2004. For information, or to

submit an application (please include CV and names of three references), contact: Dr. Carole Warnes, Director, Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinic, Mayo Clinic, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN, 55903, USA, [warnes.carole@mayo.edu](mailto:warnes.carole@mayo.edu), and Dr. Gary Webb, Director, TCCCA, Toronto General Hospital, 200 Elizabeth Street, 12-215 EN, Toronto, ON, Canada M5G 2C4, [gary.webb@uhn.on.ca](mailto:gary.webb@uhn.on.ca).

Deadline for applications for the July 2004-2005 year will be November 15, 2003, or until the successful applicant has been identified.

*If you are not receiving this newsletter via e-mail, please contact the society at [info@isaccd.org](mailto:info@isaccd.org) or (919) 861-5578, so that we can update our records with your current e-mail address.*



## **15th Annual Congenital Heart Disease in the Adult - A Combined International Symposium**

### **Directors:**

David J. Sahn, MD, FACC  
Peter P. Liu, MD, FRCP(C), FACC  
Gary D. Webb, MD, FRCP(C), FACC

***Skamania Lodge, Stevenson,  
Washington***

***June 6-9, 2004***

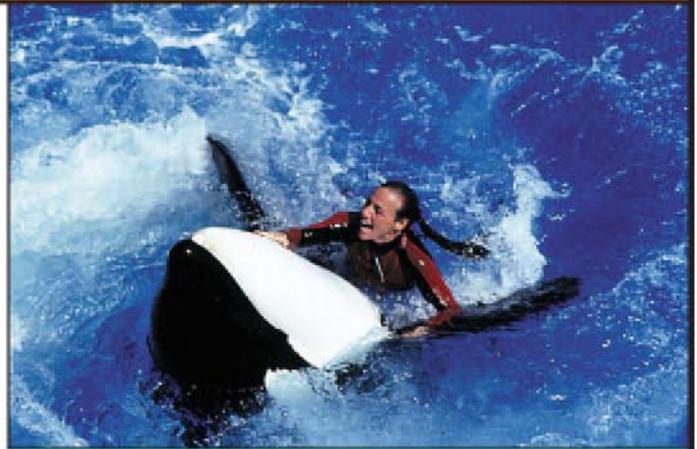
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(503) 494-2191

# ISACCD to Meet in Orlando!

**Sunday, November 9, 2003  
7:00 - 8:00 am**

**Rosen Centre Hotel  
(Room Salon 1)  
9840 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819-8122  
(800) 800-9840  
[www.rosencentre.com](http://www.rosencentre.com)**



The semi-annual meeting of the International Society for Adult Congenital Cardiac Disease (ISACCD) is scheduled to be held during the Annual Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association.

The ISACCD meeting will take place Sunday, November 9, 2003 at the Rosen Centre Hotel. All are encouraged to attend! We look forward to seeing you in Orlando.

**If you will be attending the meeting, return this form by October 31, 2003 by mail, fax or e-mail.**

Yes, I will attend the semi-annual meeting of the ISACCD November 9, 2003 in Orlando, FL.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

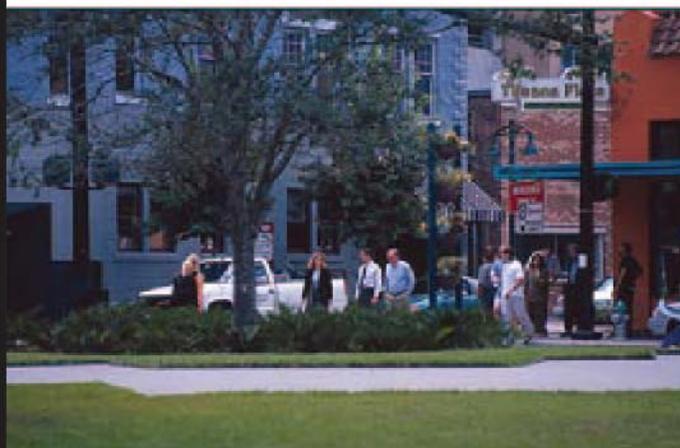
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Send registration to:**

ISACCD  
1500 Sunday Dr., Suite 102  
Raleigh, NC 27607

Fax: (919) 787-4916  
Email: [info@isaccd.org](mailto:info@isaccd.org)

**Please RSVP by Friday,  
October 31, 2003!**





**3rd Joint European/North American Symposium on  
Congenital Heart Disease in the Adult  
27-29 September 2004**

**Venue:**

**Royal College of Surgeons of England, London, England**

**Host Institution:**

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**Programme Directors:**

**Dr Michael A Gatzoulis**

**Dr David Sahn**

**Mr Darryl F Shore**

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International Society for



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