

**FEBRUARY 6 - WEDNESDAY**

## Welcome to Cardiology 2008

By Gil Wernovsky, MD



On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to thank you for joining us in Scottsdale for our annual multidisciplinary meeting on the care of the child and young adult

with cardiovascular disease. I wanted to give you a brief history of this meeting. In middle of the winter in 1994, a small group of pediatric cardiologists (~60) led by Dr. Arthur "Rap" Raptoulis and Dr. Charlie Kleinman held a small meeting at the Contemporary Resort in Orlando, Florida. I was fortunate to be invited to join the faculty in 1995.

That February, it was cold, the days were short in daylight, but long in work-hours, and we all needed a little break. Leaving Philadelphia, where the temperature was well below freezing at the time, and arriving to the warm, sunny weather in Florida, it was clear to me that a mid-winter meeting to gather together those of us who were passionate about improving the care for children with heart disease would be a good idea. Dr. Alan Friedman, myself and "Rap," working with Janet Livingston from the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Women and Children (APH) met each year to plan future meetings. The meeting was small in scale initially, but grew in size and scope steadily. Along with the staff at APH, the meeting was co-organized by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in 1998 and 1999; it was during this time that a dedicated cardiovascular nursing component was added, with valuable input from Cathy Madigan and Katie Dodds.

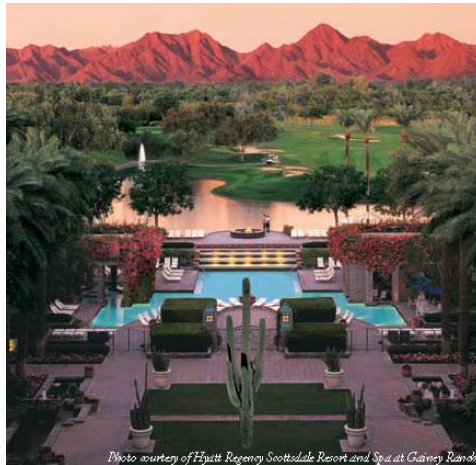
In 2000, "Cardiology Y2K" was solely sponsored by The Cardiac Center at CHOP, and organized by Tina Mannices and her remarkable staff in the Office of Continuing Medical Education. Since that time, we have seen the meeting grow from a small group of primarily pediatric cardiologists, to a large, multidisciplinary meeting with faculty and registrants from around the world. Posters presentations

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*Photo courtesy of Elvett Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch*

and an outstanding investigator competition were added in 2004 (at the suggestion of Dr. Geoff Bird), as well as dedicated tracks for perfusionists, organized by Tami Owens. Geoff was also instrumental in moving the conference into the 'digital era,' with improvements in audio-visuals, and by archiving the conference material into a conference CD as enduring materials. Importantly, with the help of Janet Livingston, Mary Beth Mauer, Mary Anne Kessel and the late Kathy Milligan, an administrative track has evolved that brings together department heads, managers and administrators to help improve the delivery of care to our patients.

At the time of this writing, we are anticipating over 800 attendees, faculty, exhibitors and staff to gather at the Gainey Ranch and Spa, in beautiful, sunny Arizona. Just under half of the attendees are non-physicians, representing nursing, perfusion, sonographers, administrators, physician assistants, clinical pharmacists, respiratory therapists and many others. There are attendees from over 25 countries, and over 135 abstracts were submitted. We are excited about the new material from the faculty and abstract presenters, as well as the receptions, debates, musical ensemble and even a game show! Mixing important science and research, controversies and opinions, with a nice venue and a little bit of 'downtime' and fun has proven to be a successful formula. What I am most proud of, however, is the multidisciplinary nature of the course, with an increasing number of 'teams' who travel together from programs throughout North America and abroad to join the course, and learn more about what each discipline has to offer to the care of the young patient with cardiovascular disease.

Providing optimal care for neonates, children and young adults with heart disease requires a multidisciplinary team approach including physicians (from cardiology, cardiac surgery, cardiothoracic anesthesia, neonatal and pediatric critical care medicine, and multiple consulting services), nurses, sonographers, perfusionists, respiratory therapists, social workers and many others. All of these various

practitioners must be experts in their own areas, but should also be knowledgeable about what the other members of the team provide to the overall care of the patient.

Although there are many successful meetings for sub-specialists who care for children with heart disease, this annual course employs a multidisciplinary faculty from multiple institutions to present a balanced approach to diagnosis and management.

The course faculty, chosen from 32 institutions in the United States, Australia, Canada and Great Britain, will present more than 150 plenary and subspecialty lectures, small group breakouts and hands-on sessions in all aspects necessary to the care of neonates, children and young adults with cardiovascular disease. All of the material will be available after the meeting on the conference CD.

### Course Highlights

- Live demonstrations of anatomical specimens and review of perioperative care, imaging and outcomes.
- Debates on current controversies, including DHCA, myocarditis, aprotinin, ACHD care, ECG screening and perioperative monitoring.
- An exclusive panel of experts discussing current strategies and issues in fetal cardiology and HLHS.
- Discipline-specific breakouts in echocardiography, electrophysiology, cardiac catheterization, cardiovascular nursing, administration and perfusion.
- A mini-symposium on neurodevelopmental outcomes and other issues affecting health-related quality of life.
- Sessions on heart failure and pulmonary hypertension in children and young adults.

### Trainees and Junior Faculty

A special half-day seminar for trainees and junior faculty early in their career to provide guidance on career choices, financial security, work-life balance and other practical guidelines for long-term success in cardiovascular medicine.

### Administrative Topics in Cardiovascular Disease

Increasingly complex guidelines, hospital requirements and government mandates have changed the landscape of providing care for children with heart disease. Throughout the conference, hospital administrators, nursing and physician leaders will discuss challenges and solutions to these complex problems, including the Fifth Annual Meeting of the North American Pediatric Cardiovascular Administrators Consortium (NAPCAC) tomorrow afternoon.



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On Friday, February 8th, the plenary session will conclude with a Keynote Address by Jean Chatzky, an award winning expert on financial matters, especially strategies to help deal with debt. Jean's son Jake, who I helped care for nearly 14 years ago, will share his perspective on what it is *REALLY* like to be a teenager with CHD, following Jean's unique perspective on the financial aspects of CHD. The session will conclude with an evening reception, and will be followed by our Cardiology 2008 Ensemble---a collection of over 20 musicians and singers from the faculty and attendees. We will perform a variety of genres of music and song, from classical to pop, to Broadway and jazz. We hope you will join us for what is certainly going to be an 'interesting' evening.

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Finally, I would like to specifically thank Tina Mannices, Alan Friedman, Katie Dodds, and Geoff Bird, who among many others, have been part of this initiative from the very beginning (Al and I have been doing this consecutively for 14 years!). Their year long work behind the scenes, in addition to the input from our organizing committee and hard work of the CME staff, are responsible for much of what makes this conference run smoothly. In contrast, all complaints should be addressed to me!

Enjoy yourself, be an active participant, question dogma, and let us know your ideas for Cardiology 2009!

*Gil Wernovsky, MD, RC  
Director of Program Development  
Course Director*

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