

## Introduction

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AS I HAVE EMPHASIZED IN PREVIOUS SUPPLEMENTS, Florida is the fourth largest state in the United States of America. The programme for care of children with congenital cardiac malformations at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is one of the largest, and most prestigious and comprehensive in the world. The Congenital Heart Institute of Florida is the largest programme providing services for patients with congenital cardiac disease in Florida. "Heart Week in Florida", the joint collaborative project sponsored by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia together with the Congenital Heart Institute of Florida, has now become recognized as one of the major planks of continuing medical and nursing education for those working in the fields of diagnosis and treatment of heart disease in neonates, infants, children, and young adults. In 2006, however, we broke from our previous mould, since the component of our "week" organized by the group from Philadelphia was organized in Phoenix, Arizona, thanks to the support provided by our colleagues working at Children's Hospital in Phoenix. It was a huge success, diminished only slightly by the inclement weather facing those who needed to journey back from sunny Arizona and Florida to the frozen and snowy northeast coast of the United States. All institutions involved with the organization of the events of 2006, nonetheless, are very grateful to Bob Anderson, and the team at Cardiology in the Young, for their support of "Heart Week in Florida", and for the opportunity to publish this Supplement.

The postgraduate course in Pediatric Cardiovascular Disease organized by Children's Hospital of

Philadelphia for 2006, therefore, was held in the balmy setting of Scottsdale, Arizona. This marked the ninth consecutive year that the team from Philadelphia has gathered an international and multi-disciplinary faculty to provide a comprehensive update on issues in the delivery of pediatric cardiovascular care. This move to Arizona, after eight consecutive highly successful years in Orlando, marks the change to an ongoing plan to alternate every other year between programmes in Orlando, Florida and Scottsdale, Arizona. The part of the joint programme to be organized by the Congenital Heart Institute of Florida will continue to take place in St. Petersburg, including the years when the part designed by Philadelphia will be held in Arizona, as will occur in 2008. Even during these years when the Philadelphia meeting is held in Arizona, "Heart Week" will continue to be a collaborative project as manifest by the collaborative publication of this Supplement, as well as the various shared international faculty members. As is stated on the web site for the programme coordinated by Philadelphia, "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, perfusionists, respiratory therapists, social workers and many others. All of these various practitioners must be experts in their own area, but should also be knowledgeable in what the other members of the team provide to the overall care of the patient." This statement presents the rationale for not only the annual part of the meeting emanating from Philadelphia, but also for "Heart Week in Florida". A highlight of the meeting organized by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is the featured lectures in Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, and Nursing (Table 1). As usual, this year, in Scottsdale, the lectures were of unanimously outstanding quality.

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Table 1. The Featured Lectures given thus far during the Annual Postgraduate Course in Pediatric Cardiovascular Disease organized by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The "C. Walton Lillehei" Lecture	
2000	Thomas R. Karl
2001	Marc de Leval
2002	Aldo R. Castaneda
2003	Thomas L. Spray
2004	William G. Williams
2005	Edward L. Bove
2006	Martin Elliott
2007	Pedro del Nido
The "William J. Rashkind" Lecture	
2002	Thomas P. Graham
2003	Welton M. Gersony
2004	Jane W. Newburger
2005	Norman H. Silverman
2006	Andrew Redington
2007	Phillip Bonhoeffer
The "T. Garrett Rauch" Memorial Nursing Lecture	
2000	Jane Barnsteiner
2001	Nancy Eckle
2002	Catherine K. Madigan
2003	Patricia A. Hickey
2004	Mary Fran Hazinski
2005	Elisabeth C. Smith
2006	Kathleen Mussatto
2007	Martha Curley

In 2006, the component of the joint programme organized by the Congenital Heart Institute of Florida, along with All Children's Hospital, and representing their own sixth annual International Symposium on Congenital Heart Disease, was held one week subsequent to the meeting in Arizona, but was also blessed with wonderful weather, and awesome presentations from the stellar faculty. In Table 2, I highlight the featured topics and speakers from the meeting held in St. Petersburg. The true summit of this meeting is the George Daicoff Lecture, given by the featured speaker so as to honour the founder of our surgical programme in St. Petersburg. We have now reached the situation whereby the proceedings of the meetings held in 2003, 2004, and 2005 have been published as supplements to *Cardiology in the Young*.<sup>1-3</sup> This supplement is the second we have produced jointly with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, our first joint effort gathering together the written account of the activities of the meeting held in 2004.<sup>2</sup>

It is gratifying for me, as a representative of the Congenital Heart Institute of Florida, to confirm our ongoing commitment to continue "Heart Week in Florida", combining the International Symposium on Congenital Heart Disease organized by All Children's Hospital and The University of South Florida with the annual postgraduate course in Pediatric Cardiovascular Disease organized by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I thank Gil Wernovsky, Director of the meeting organized by

Table 2. Featured topics and speakers during the symposiums organized by the Congenital Heart Institute of Florida and All Children's Hospital.

2002		<i>Second Annual Symposium</i>
Focus		Abnormalities of the ventricular Inlets and Atrioventricular valves
Day 1		Echocardiography
Day 2		Tricuspid valve
Day 3		Mitral valve
Day 4		Common atrioventricular valve
Featured Guest Speaker		Bob Anderson, Great Ormond Street, London, United Kingdom
2003		<i>Third Annual Symposium</i>
Focus		Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Day 1		Echocardiography
Day 2		Staged palliation and the Norwood Operation
Day 3		Replacement therapy and Cardiac Transplantation
Day 4		Biventricular repair
Featured Guest Speakers		Leonard L. Bailey, and his wife Nancy, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda, California
2004		<i>Fourth Annual Symposium</i>
Focus		Controversies concerning the Ventriculo-arterial junctions
Day 1		Echocardiography
Day 2		Pulmonary valve and reconstructions of the right ventricular outflow tract
Day 3		The aortic valve and the Ross procedure
Day 4		The arterial switch procedure
Featured Guest Speaker		Martin J. Elliott, Great Ormond Street, London, United Kingdom
2005		<i>Fifth Annual Symposium</i>
Focus		The Functionally Univentricular Heart
Day 1		Echocardiography
Day 2		Shunts and Bands
Day 3		Glenn and Fontan procedures
Day 4		Cardiac transplantation
Featured Guest Speaker		Marc deLeval, Great Ormond Street, London, United Kingdom
2006		<i>Sixth Annual Symposium</i>
Focus		Ventricular inlets and atrioventricular valves
Day 1		Echocardiography
Day 2		Tricuspid valve
Day 3		Mitral valve
Day 4		Common atrioventricular valve
Day 5		Discordant atrioventricular connections
Featured Guest Speakers		Ross M. Ungerleider, and his wife Jamie Dickey, of the Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon
2007		<i>Seventh Annual Symposium</i>
Focus		Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Day 1		Echocardiography
Day 2		Staged palliation and the Norwood operation
Day 3		Replacement therapy, Cardiac Transplantation, Hybrid Procedures, and Biventricular Repair
Day 4		Mini-Symposium – Adults with Congenital Heart Disease
Featured Guest Speakers		Constantine Mavroudis and Carl Backer, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, as well as Tina Mannices, Manager of Continuing Medical Education at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and also Tom Spray and Bill Gaynor, for their support. For 2007, the two meetings will come together again in Florida. The part to be held in St Petersburg will take place from February 16 through 20, 2007, and will focus on hypoplastic left heart syndrome, with a special one day mini-symposium about adults with congenital heart disease. The tenth update provided by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will be held in Orlando on February 21 through 25, 2007. This meeting will once again provide a comprehensive post-graduate course for pediatric cardiologists, neonatologists, surgeons, nurses, intensivists, anesthesiologists, sonographers, perfusionists. In essence, it will provide something for all those involved in the care of neonates and children with cardiovascular disease. The drive from Saint Petersburg to Orlando is only 90 minutes, and the programme has been designed to provide ample time for those attending both segments to make this short transfer.

The Supplement that you are now about to read, therefore, focuses on Controversies and Challenges of the Atrioventricular Junctions and Other Challenges Facing Pediatric Cardiovascular Practitioners and their Patients. It has four sections, which have been prepared so as to give a flavour of the presentations given in Florida and Arizona in February of 2006. The reviews in the first part discuss the anatomy, along with diagnostic and therapeutic strategies, related to the atrioventricular valves, with manuscripts covering the tricuspid valve, the mitral valve, and the common atrioventricular valve. In the second part, attention is given to the anatomy, nomenclature, echocardiographic evaluation, and treatment of patients with discordant atrioventricular connections. In the third part, our chosen experts address the long-term outcomes for patients subsequent to treatment for their congenital cardiac malformations. In our final part, we have gathered together additional reviews of miscellaneous topics given that were simply too good to be excluded.

Over the years, Heart Week in Florida has provided many opportunities for the excellent scientific exchange of ideas, and the development of awesome friendships (Fig. 1). I would like to thank Bob Anderson for all of his help, support, trust, and patience during the preparation of this Supplement. I would also like to thank my good friends and co-editors of this Supplement, Gil Wernovsky and J. William Gaynor. I am especially grateful to Jean Francis and Michael Epstein, Vice Presidents of All Children's Hospital, for facilitating the publication of this Supplement. I would also like to thank several additional members of our team at All Children's Hospital, namely Gary Carnes, President



**Figure 1.**

*Over the years, Heart Week in Florida has provided many opportunities for the excellent scientific exchange of ideas and the development of awesome friendships, as demonstrated by this photograph showing Bob Anderson, during a business meeting held at Heart Week in Florida, appointing Gil Wernovsky to be the Editor with responsibility for the supplements of *Cardiology in the Young*.*

and Chief Executive Officer of All Children's Hospital, Joel Momberg, Cindy Rose, Pat Clark, Melodye Seals, Ron Volden, Tina Merola, Kas Sheehan, and all our cardiac nurses. Further thanks are due to the other Directors of our St. Petersburg meeting, namely James C. Huhta, Richard Martinez, David Cooper, and my partner James A. Quintessenza. Jim Huhta initiated this meeting, and I am grateful that he gave me the opportunity to work with him. The meeting would not have been possible without his leadership and vision. Finally, I would like to thank my current partners, Jim Quintessenza, Paul Chai, and Harald Lindberg, and my former partner Victor Morell, for their constant support and guidance, and my wife Stacy, and children Jessica and Joshua, for their understanding and patience. It continues to be an ongoing fact, as I have emphasized in previous introductions, that all of the family members of the authors of the reviews included in this Supplement are owed a debt of gratitude, because writing manuscripts markedly decreases the time available with them. Unfortunately, even with the passage of time, these periods of writing and editing are showing no signs of disappearance.

## References

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3. Jacobs JP, Wernovsky G, Gaynor JW, Anderson RH (eds). Controversies and challenges in the management of the functionally univentricular heart. *Cardiol Young* 2006; 16 (Suppl 1): 1–104.