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New Study Shows Promising Results for using Speckle-tracking Echocardiography after Transcatheter Pulmonary Valve Implantation in Congenital Heart Disease Patients

Portland, OR: Researchers have announced the results of a study that used speckle-tracking echocardiography (STE) to analyze early phase one results from the multi-center COMPASSION trial, which seeks to examine the safety and efficacy of a new option to replace dysfunctional pulmonary valves in a subset of congenital heart disease patients. Traditional echocardiography has been an excellent diagnostic tool for decades, providing a safe, cost-effective and non-invasive way to guide treatment for a wide variety of heart disease patients. Advances in ultrasound technology in recent years, such as speckle tracking echocardiography, continue to expand echo's capabilities and increase its value in modern healthcare.

"Congenital heart disease patients now survive much longer than in the past, but often experience secondary heart problems later in life, such as pulmonary valve dysfunction. The COMPASSION trial is showing promising early results, and our study suggests that speckle-tracking echocardiography (STE) may be a more sensitive tool than traditional echo or MRI to predict outcomes in these patients," said Primary Investigator Shahryar M. Chowdhury, MD. Dr. Chowdhury is an Instructor of Pediatric Cardiology at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC); he and his colleagues sought to evaluate the correlation between changes in STE measures of right ventricular (RV) function and changes in measures of exercise function after SAPIEN transcatheter pulmonary valve (TPV) implantation.

Researchers on the study, *Changes in Speckle-Tracking Echocardiographic Measures of Right Ventricular Function Correlate with Changes in Measures of Exercise Function after Percutaneous Implantation of the Edwards SAPIEN Transcatheter Heart Valve in the Pulmonary Position,* included Shahryar M. Chowdhury from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC; Ziyad M. Hijazi and Qi-Ling Cao from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL; John T. Fahey from Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT; John F. Rhodes from Miami Children's Hospital in Miami, FL; Saibal Kar and Raj Makkar from Cedar Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA; Michael Mullen from The Heart Hospital in London, United Kingdom; Kyle Bilhorn and Lazar Mandinov from Edwards Lifesciences, LLC in Irvine, CA; and Girish S. Shirali from Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

A poster based on the results of the study will be displayed in the Poster and Exhibit Hall from Saturday, June 21 through Monday, June 23 at the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) 25th Annual Scientific Sessions at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. Dr. Chowdhury will present this research during the prestigious 2014 Arthur E. Weyman Young Investigator's Award Competition on Monday, June 23, from 8:00 am – 9:30 am in the Portland Ballroom, where the four best abstracts submitted compete in front of a panel of luminaries for cash prizes and international recognition.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Chowdhury, please contact Andie Piddington by Friday, June 20. For on-site media inquiries please go to the Registration Desk or contact Robin Wiegerink.

As the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging, the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines. Comprised of over 16,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, and scientists, ASE is a strong voice providing guidance, expertise, and education to its members with a commitment to improving the practice of ultrasound and imaging of the heart and cardiovascular system for better patient outcomes. For more information about ASE and the 2014 Scientific Sessions, visit www.asecho.org.

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