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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW GUIDELINES AIM TO OPTIMIZE IMAGING STRATEGIES FOR DETERMINING CARDIAC SOURCES OF STROKE

Morrisville, NC—Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the Western industrialized world, and according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), accounts for one of every 19 deaths in the United States each year. Over 80 percent of strokes are ischemic in nature, caused by clots and other obstructions in vessels that supply blood to the brain, and cardiac embolism accounts for approximately one-third of all cases of ischemic stroke. Echocardiography in general and transesophageal echocardiography in particular are essential for evaluation, diagnosis, and management of stroke and systemic embolism. A new document, ***Guidelines for the Use of Echocardiography in the Evaluation of a Cardiac Source of Embolism***, will appear in the January 2016 issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography (JASE)* and provides the first set of guidelines from the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) specific to this topic.

The writing group for this guideline was chaired by Muhamed Saric, MD, PhD, FASE, Director of Echocardiography and Associate Professor of Medicine at New York University Langone Medical Center in New York, New York. Dr. Saric noted, “Strokes and transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) caused by an embolism from the heart or the thoracic aorta often have higher rates of morbidity and mortality than other types of ischemic stroke, so echocardiography is extremely important in helping clinicians pinpoint the underlying reason for a stroke, and ultimately guiding treatment and prevention of future strokes. This document should serve as a tremendous resource for clinicians and hopefully will help standardize practice and improve care for stroke patients.”

The guidelines outline in detail the various cardiac sources of embolism and imaging strategies for each, in harmony with previously published ACCF/ASE/AHA/ASNC/HFSA/HRS/SCAI/SCCM/SCCT/SCMR 2011 Appropriate Use Criteria for Echocardiography, as well as a dedicated section on cardiac sources of embolism in pediatric populations. The document also contains over 40 figures, 9 tables, and 43 videos, which include imaging techniques, strategies for overall evaluation, reporting recommendations, and comparisons of echo modalities.



In conjunction with the publication of the guideline document, Dr. Saric will conduct a live webinar, including a question and answer section, on February 1, 2016 at 5:00 pm ET which will be available for free to all ASE members and open to all other clinicians for the low fee of \$25. This webinar, and all ASE-hosted web sessions, are archived on www.ASEUniversity.org to facilitate education for those who cannot attend the live webcast.

The full guideline document is available on the *Journal of American Society of Echocardiography* (JASE) website (www.onlinejase.com). This document and all ASE Guideline documents are also available to the medical community at www.asecho.org/guidelines.

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, visit www.asecho.org or ASE's public information site, www.SeeMyHeart.org.

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