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JUNE JASE FEATURES A DOUBLE FOCUS: COVID-19 AND THE ROLE OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY IN SURGICAL DECISION-MAKING

June 2, 2020, Durham, NC – Editor-in-Chief Michael H. Picard, MD, FASE, announces a double focus topic issue for the June [Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography](#) (JASE). In his editorial titled *Life is Dynamic and So is JASE*, he writes “I had planned that this June issue of JASE would focus on the role of echocardiography in surgical decision-making and also include some cutting-edge papers that would serve as a complement to the ASE’s Annual Scientific Sessions. However, the world changed quickly, and so I felt it was important for the Journal to do so also.”

The June issue expanded its planned focus to represent the current situation for echocardiographers and include a major emphasis on the role of echocardiography in regards to COVID-19. A series of statements from ASE related to various aspects of the disease, some perspectives regarding the pandemic by authors from various hotspots around the world, and some investigative data regarding how echocardiography utilization has evolved during this crisis were published. Since material for the print version of the Journal is composed three to five months prior to its publication in the hard copy issue, Dr. Picard recognized that some of the material presented may appear out of date now however the practice statements and investigations on utilization remain relevant. In an editorial co-written by Dr. Picard and Rory B. Weiner, MD, FASE, titled *Echocardiography in the Time of COVID-19*, they state, “The COVID-19 pandemic has forced echocardiography and cardiovascular practitioners, and all medical personnel for that matter, to critically evaluate clinical workflows and how care is delivered. A potential silver lining to our current situation, if there is one, is that cardiac imaging and cardiac clinical care is being streamlined with a renewed focus on appropriate use and performing imaging and other procedures that truly stand to benefit patients. These are valuable lessons that in some form should be carried forward when the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, and perhaps we can emerge as a more efficient and patient-centered health care system that will prepare us for any future challenges that may arise. In conclusion, the model of how we provide echocardiography and to whom may be permanently modified by this current experience, and improved as we move forward.”

The focus on the use of echocardiography in surgical decision-making in the June JASE is highlighted by the inclusion of the *Guidelines for the Use of Transesophageal Echocardiography to Assist with Surgical Decision-Making in the Operating Room: A Surgery-Based Approach From the American Society of Echocardiography in Collaboration with the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons*. This document highlights how Intraoperative transesophageal echocardiography is a versatile diagnostic tool to assist in patient management in a wide range of cardiac surgical procedures. The chair of this guideline writing group, Alina Nicoara, MD, FASE, said “The intraoperative echocardiographer should be an integral and active part of the heart team. Utilizing a “catch-all” protocol as a starting point for imaging in all procedures and all

patients enables standardization of image acquisition, reduction in variability in quality of imaging and reporting, and ultimately, better patient care."

Other articles focused on this interventional topic include:

- *Adult Intraoperative Echocardiography: A Comprehensive Review of Current Practice*
- *Transesophageal Echocardiography, Mortality, and Length of Hospitalization after Cardiac Valve Surgery*
- *The Natural and Unnatural History of Ventricular Septal Defects Presenting in Infancy: An Echocardiography-Based Review*
- *Subjective Evaluation of Right Ventricular Function with Transesophageal Echocardiography*
- *Left Ventricular Hypertrophy in Beach Chair Surgery—an Echocardiography Study of Athletes and Hypertensive Patients*
- *Stereoscopic Three-Dimensional Visualization for Congenital Heart Surgery Planning: Surgeons' Perspectives*

The June issue of JASE always highlights the original research abstracts to be presented at the annual [ASE Scientific Sessions](#). Over 416 of these original research topics are featured in this issue, showing the breadth and scope of cardiovascular ultrasound now and in the future. This year, the Scientific Sessions has been transitioned to a Virtual Experience that will take place August 8-10, 2020, and while the abstracts are being published now, they will be presented in August.

About ASE

ASE is the Society for Cardiovascular Ultrasound Professionals™. Over 17,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, veterinarians, and scientists are members of ASE, making it the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging and as such the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines for the field. The Society is committed to advancing cardiovascular ultrasound to improve lives. For more information about ASE, visit: ASEcho.org and follow us [@ASE360](https://twitter.com/ASE360).

About JASE

The *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography* (JASE) brings physicians and sonographers peer-reviewed original investigations and state-of-the-art review articles that cover conventional clinical applications of cardiovascular ultrasound, as well as newer techniques with emerging clinical applications. These include three-dimensional echocardiography, strain, and strain rate methods for evaluating cardiac mechanics and interventional applications. For more information visit: OnlineJASE.com.

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