



WORLD SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND CONGENITAL HEART SURGERY

WORLD SOCIETY *News*

Volume No. 1 Issue 1 Fall 2007



From the President Christo I. Tchervenkov

*Dear Colleagues
and Friends,*

Several months have passed since the Historic Inaugural Meeting in Washington, D.C. in May 2007. On behalf of the leadership of the World Society I would like to thank you for your enthusiastic participation and for making this meeting a historic success. The meeting was attended by a total of 385 delegates from 61 countries and from all continents. I would also like to thank Richard A. Jonas, the local host, and the Program Committee for putting together an unforgettable meeting. I would also like to thank Christine Prader from our Management Company and her tireless team, who in less than

6 months have helped us organize the World Society and put together a first class meeting in Washington, D.C. I would like to thank the members of the leadership of the World Society for their hard work, enthusiasm and support in this exciting journey.

Let us reflect on our achievements since the first meeting of the Constitutional Council in Philadelphia on April 28, 2006. The Constitutional Council, composed of 30 members from all continents, meeting several times, has put together the Constitution of the World Society, which was adopted by the membership at the Business Meeting in Washington, D.C., on May 4, 2007. Since the launch of the Founding Membership drive in the fall of 2006, the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery has become the largest organization in the world for pediatric and congenital heart surgery, regrouping 495 Founding Members from 66 countries.

Since Washington your leadership has been busy ▶ **page 2, President**

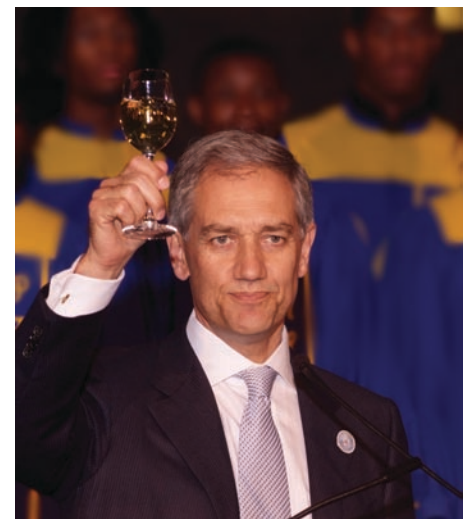
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From the Local Host of the WSPCHS Historic Inaugural Meeting in Washington DC, USA, May 3-4, 2007 **Richard A. Jonas**

It was an honor and a pleasure to welcome the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery to Washington DC for its inaugural meeting. The meeting represented the culmination of a huge effort by the constitutional council, the executive officers, our management company ably directed by Christine Prader, as well as the vision and energy of President Christo Tchervenkov.

The timing of the inaugural meeting was immediately prior to the annual scientific meeting of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. Although concern had been expressed by the AATS that the society might draw ▶ **page 2, Local Host**



Richard A. Jonas giving the inaugural toast at the World Society Gala Dinner "World Beat" May 4, 2007

▶ **The vision of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery is that every child born anywhere in the world with a congenital heart defect should have access to appropriate medical and surgical care.**

► **continued from page 1, President** planning the next phase in the journey of the World Society. Over the next year, the World Society will be on a fact finding mission to determine the current state of pediatric and congenital heart surgery services across the world. This is essential in order to establish the needs and work on finding solutions to improve the care of children and adults with congenital heart disease across the world. This will be a difficult and long undertaking, but we have to start somewhere, and do it in an organized fashion. We cannot do this alone. We need to work with our partners from the related specialties dealing with the treatment of pediatric and congenital heart disease. We will need the cooperation of everyone. At the last meeting of the Governing Council in Geneva, we have accepted the first research fellow of the World Society, to help gather the necessary information from across the world. His name is Dr. Pierre-Luc Bernier, a third year resident in Cardiac Surgery at McGill University who is spending a year doing research. Over the next several months, you will receive multiple questionnaires from Dr. Bernier on behalf of the World Society. I encourage you all to help him out. We need to also find individuals from each country that will be responsible to gather additional information on how is the care for patients with congenital heart disease organized, where are the centers performing pediatric and congenital heart surgery, how are the surgeons trained and how they maintain competence, how is data collected and what are the processes for quality of care assurance.

The World Society will then hold a World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education and Cardiac Care in Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease on June 19-21, 2008 in Montreal. We have reserved a great venue in downtown Montreal at the Sheraton Center Hotel. The fact finding mission will prepare us for the Montreal Summit where the results will be presented. The Montreal Summit will be a great opportunity for the World Society and its members as well as

interested parties and partners to clearly define the challenges and brainstorm on a systematic plan to begin the long process of improving care for children and adults with congenital heart disease across the world. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend and take active part in the deliberations. I also hope that many of you will populate the various committees that will get the work done.

I encourage all of you to let me know your ideas for precise topics of discussion and possible expert speakers. We need to think outside the box, and get as many key parties involved, whether they are from governments, medical organizations, humanitarian organizations, foundations, parents and patients groups, industry etc. We need as many countries as possible to be represented in this process from all regions of the world.

This is the first World Society Newsletter. I believe that it will be a great information instrument for all of us to stay connected and to inform as many as possible on the activities of the World Society. As many of you have asked me for the text of the Presidential Address I delivered in Washington, on May 4, it is published further in this Newsletter, along with the letter of support we received from Mr. Nelson Mandela. The World Society Newsletter would also like to publish material that you submit to us, if we believe it to be of interest for the membership. For the next newsletter we would like to get your feedback on your impressions of the Historic Inaugural Meeting in Washington and your thoughts on the World Society and the challenges it will face.

Finally, on a personal note, I thank you for having chosen me to be the Founding President of the World Society. I consider this to be not only the highest honor I have received, but also the biggest challenge of my professional life. I will do my best to serve you and the World Society to the best of my abilities, with enthusiasm, diligence and a great sense of respect for the confidence I have received. *I send all of you my best regards and I hope to see you all in Montreal in June 2008!*

► **continued from page 1, Local Host**

away participants from the congenital components of the AATS meeting including the postgraduate congenital course, the reality was that the highly successful World Society meeting almost certainly served to increase the attendance at the AATS. Part of the credit in achieving this must go to Christine Prader who was able to secure the conference venue at the Renaissance Hotel. The

Renaissance Hotel is immediately adjacent to the new Washington DC convention center and served as the headquarters hotel for the AATS. Thus this was an extremely convenient location for participants who were able to continue their stay in the Washington area to comfortably attend the AATS meeting. In addition to securing the luxurious Renaissance Hotel we were also able to secure the Ronald Regan International Building for a spectacular finale dinner. During the Gala Dinner, awards were presented to the honorary members of the World Society who represent leaders and pioneers in the field. In addition,



Multispecialty representatives at a Planning Dinner for a multispecialty World Federation for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease at the home of Richard A. Jonas, May 2, 2007

outstanding entertainment was provided by a local youth singing group who sang to the rhythm of "world beat".

It goes without saying that the scientific component of the meeting was of an outstanding quality which contributed to the large number of attendees. Fortunately, President Tchervenkov and our management company had the foresight to cater for such a large number of registrants which allowed for a comfortable enjoyment both of the scientific meeting as well as the social program.

In addition to having the pleasure to be local hosts for the inaugural meeting my wife

Katherine and I were honored to welcome representatives of the World Society as well as representatives from all of the major pediatric cardiology, anesthesia and ICU and surgical groups to our home on the evening before the World Society meeting began. During the dinner enthusiastic discussion was held regarding the benefit of organizing a world federation of societies which are focused on the care of children

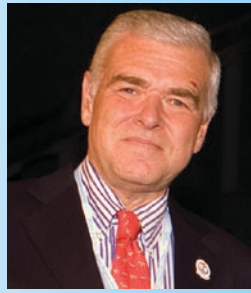
with heart disease. There was consensus that although there will clearly be a place going forward for a society whose members have a primary focus on surgical care, there is also a need for a unified group that represents all of the subspecialty organizations involved in the care of pediatric and congenital heart disease. It was a tremendous pleasure to hear about the unconditional and unanimous support for such a federation from all our dinner guests.

Once again, it was an honor and a pleasure to welcome the World Society on its historic inaugural meeting to the great city of Washington DC.

World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery **Governing Council**



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Christo I. Tchervenkov
Montreal, Canada



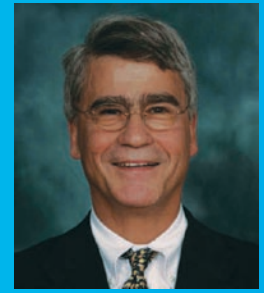
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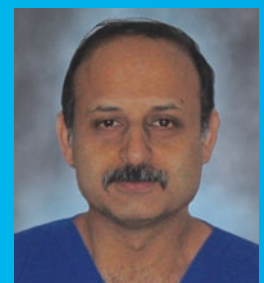
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Historic Inaugural Meeting of THE WORLD SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND CONGENITAL HEART SURGERY

THURSDAY MAY 3
& FRIDAY MAY 4, 2007
RENAISSANCE DC HOTEL
WASHINGTON DC, USA



THURSDAY MAY 3 Richard Van Praagh delivers the “*Stella Van Praagh Memorial Lecture*” on the History and Anatomy of Tetralogy of Fallot, the highlight of the Symposium on Tetralogy of Fallot dedicated to the memory of his late wife Stella Van Praagh.

The Governing Council has decided to recognize the monumental contributions of Stella Van Praagh in teaching numerous physicians from around the world the anatomy of congenital heart disease and to establish the “*Stella Van Praagh Cardiac Anatomy Lecture*” at future scientific meetings of the World Society.



◀ **FRIDAY MAY 4** Honorary Guest Speaker Aldo R. Castañeda delivers a lecture entitled: “*Pediatric Cardiac Surgery: A Challenge and Outcome Analysis of the Guatemala Effort*”.

The Governing Council has decided to recognize Dr. Castañeda’s monumental contributions to pediatric and congenital heart surgery and to establish this as “*The Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture*” at future scientific meetings of the World Society.



Group picture of the attendees at the Gala Dinner “World Beat” at the spectacular Atrium of the Ronald Reagan Building, May 4, 2007

“Hearts for Life across the World”

Christo I. Tchervenkov, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, President, World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery

52 739 240. Almost twice the population of Canada. Seven times the population of the country of my birth, Bulgaria. Almost the population of France or United Kingdom or Italy. One sixth the population of the United States. More than the population of California and Texas combined, the two most populous states. 52 739 240. The world's population of human beings with Congenital Heart Disease. How did I get that number? I multiplied the population of the world by the incidence of CHD. $6\,592\,404\,991 \times 0.08 = 52\,739\,240$ people with CHD. More than twice the world population infected with HIV. A quarter billion people are or have been in the immediate family with people with Congenital Heart Disease. Congenital Heart Disease affects or has affected the lives of more than a quarter billion people.

Are these the real numbers? Of course not.

The real numbers of human beings alive with Congenital Heart Disease are much lower. Why? Simply because many children with Congenital Heart Disease die without treatment. Why, when the overwhelming majority of congenital heart defects can be successfully treated with outcomes undreamed of twenty years ago? Because they happen to be born in developing countries where there are no adequate medical and surgical services.

What are the real numbers? We do not know. Why don't we know? We need to know.

A quarter billion people are or have been in the immediate family of sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, grandsons and granddaughters born with Congenital Heart Disease. Although this statement is probably close to the truth, the sad reality is that many of these sons and daughters, brothers and sisters and grandsons and granddaughters are no longer among us. Why not? Because 90 % of the more than a million children born with

The paradigm shift of the 21st century is to find a way to extend the care to the 90 % of children born with Congenital Heart Disease without any or appropriate care. I believe that this paradigm change requires the following key elements:

- Responsibility*
- Education*
- Sustainability*
- Partnership*
- Empowerment*
- Care & Commitment*
- Teamwork & Trust*

Congenital Heart Disease each year in the world lack adequate medical and surgical services. Each year there are 133 million babies born across the world. More than 1 million are born with Congenital Heart Disease. Only 10% are born in developed countries that can provide first rate medical and surgical services. More than 900 000 children born every year lack adequate or totally lack medical and surgical services. This is not just the problem of the developing world. This is everyone's problem.

Imagine 10 % of the population in the United States or Canada, or, for that matter, of any developed country with great jobs and 90% of their neighbors either marginally



Christo I. Tchervenkov, President of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery, presenting “Hearts for Life across the World”

employed or unemployed. It would be a recipe for social disaster.

But there is hope. As a matter of fact there is a lot of hope. Why? Because the medical know-how and technology already exist.

This was not the case when towards the end of the 19th century Maude Abbott of McGill University in Montreal was advised by William Osler to study congenital malformations of the heart. There was then no treatment for these patients. In 1936 when Maude Abbott published her famous *Atlas of Congenital Heart Disease* proposing the first classification based on her study of 1000 heart specimens, there was still no treatment for Congenital Heart Disease. The surgical palliation of Congenital Heart Disease began with the contribution of Alfred Blalock, Helen Taussig and Vivian Thomas with the Blalock-Taussig-Thomas shunt in 1945. However, the monumental paradigm shift occurred in Philadelphia in 1953, with the first successful open heart operation performed with the heart-lung machine by John H. Gibbon Jr.

The watershed year for cardiac surgery of 1953 was highly significant in my personal journey. I was born on July 19, 1953 in Yambol, Bulgaria to two wonderful parents, both physicians, Drs. Ivan and Milka Tchervenkov. The person who would later become one of my two most significant teachers in congenital heart surgery, was a fellow of John Gibbon Jr. in 1953 at the time of this momentous heart operation. This stimulated him to become himself one of the pioneers of Cardiac Surgery. His name is Anthony R.C. Dobell, one of the outstanding surgeons of his time and a remarkable human being. It was significant that as the President of the Society for Thoracic Surgeons in 1982, Dr. Dobell gave a Presidential Address entitled “The Human Touch”. He has profoundly influenced my career and I owe him a debt of gratitude.

When I went with my family to live in Africa for 2 years in 1966, more precisely Algiers, Algeria, Cardiac Surgery was still in its infancy. There was no Fontan-Kreutzer operation or Jatene operation or Norwood operation. ► *page 8, Presidential Address*





NELSON MANDELA
FOUNDATION

Living the Legacy

19 April 2007

Christo I Tchervenkov, M.D.
President
World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery

Dear Dr Tchervenkov

I thank you for your letter on behalf of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery and on behalf of the children of the world born with congenital heart malformations. I am profoundly touched by the plight of these children as they enter life and by the challenges they will face along with their families. The fact that the majority of them are born in parts of the world devoid of adequate facilities to have their hearts repaired is heart-wrenching. The fact that medical know-how and medical technology to repair these heart defects exists in the developed world offers hope. I therefore applaud the mission of your newly established World Society to: **"...work towards the goal that every child born anywhere in the world with a congenital heart defect should have access to appropriate medical and surgical care"** as an essential step in the attempt to bridge these two worlds.

As an Honorary Patron of the Walter Sisulu Pediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa located in Johannesburg, South Africa, I encourage all those that can help in your mission to join hands with you in your challenging journey!

On behalf of South Africa, the continent of Africa and for all the children of the world I wish you good luck and Godspeed!

Sincerely

Mandela
N R MANDELA

Founder: Mr N R Mandela Chairperson: Professor G J Gerwel Chief Executive: Mr Achmat Dangor

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Website: www.nelsonmandela.org

► **continued from page 6, Presidential Address** There was no Ross procedure, Rastelli operation or Kawashima operations. There was no heart transplantation, ECMO or the Berlin Heart. The Fontan-Kreutzer operation was performed successfully in 1968, the year my family came to Canada, the country of my adoption. The first successful arterial switch was performed by Adib Jatene in 1975, while I was in first year Medical School at McGill University in Montreal, the year I became a Canadian citizen. Two years latter in 1977, during a medical school rotation in cardiac surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal I first met Anthony Dobell and fell in love with cardiac surgery. The Norwood operation came in the early 80's when I was a junior resident in General Surgery at McGill University. In 1986 in Boston, I met my other most significant teacher of Congenital Heart Surgery, our Honored Guest Speaker, Aldo R. Castaneda, who later became the President of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.

Under the guidance of Anthony Dobell and with the generosity of Aldo Castaneda, I had the lifetime opportunity to be the Chief Resident of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at the Children's Hospital in Boston. Aldo Castaneda has profoundly influenced my career with his pioneering surgical approach of early primary repairs in the neonatal period and early infancy. This has been the overriding philosophy of my 20 year surgical career at the Montreal Children's Hospital. Aldo Castaneda has taught me the value of team work, self criticism, humility, humanity and to always strive for perfection. I also owe him a debt of gratitude!

During my stay in Boston, I was also extremely lucky to work and learn from Dr. Castaneda 2 junior associates. They went on to have stellar careers among the leaders of congenital heart surgery. John E. Mayer Jr., is the current President of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and has been a tireless worker to unite our specialty in North America. Richard A. Jonas, as President of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery in 2006 in Philadelphia gave an inspirational Presidential Address entitled "The Globalization of Cardiac Surgery: Risks, Rewards and Responsibilities." Richard has been a primary mover and supporter of the establishment of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.

While in Boston I was also extremely fortunate to learn the anatomy of congenital heart malformations from Stella and Richard Van Praagh, dear teachers and friends to so many around the world. I also owe all these individuals a debt of gratitude.

Just as the advent of the heart-lung machine in 1953 was a monumental paradigm shift, another paradigm shift occurred in the 1980's led by Castaneda, Norwood, Ebert and others with the establishment of neonatal and infant open heart surgery. Since the 1990's another major shift is

It spells: Medicine of
R. Responsible
E. Education
S. Sustained through
P. Partnership
E. Empowerment
C. Care & Commitment
T. Teamwork & Trust
It is about Respect and
Human Dignity! The
time for Medicine of
R.E.S.P.E.C.T. is now!

occurring with the greatly increased numbers of adults with Congenital Heart Disease, who probably outnumber children with Congenital Heart Disease in the developed nations.

As so elegantly said by Bill Gaynor yesterday during his fantastic presentation on the late outcome of repair for Tetralogy of Fallot, long-term outcome for the parents of the children we operate on is really life-long outcome. The real goal of what we do is to fix Hearts for Life!

In this early part of the 21st century, the world is in great need of another major paradigm change. How do we achieve the goal that every child born anywhere in the world with a congenital heart defect should have access to appropriate medical and surgical care? This paradigm shift does not require any new medical discoveries. It requires the global organization of our specialty working along with our partners, cardiologists, anaesthetists, intensivists, neonatologists, perfusionists, nurses, parents and families and many others involved in the care of these children.

The heroes of Humanitarian Medicine are to be applauded for their efforts. They are the seed for what is required. However, without cultivating that seed, without a fertile receptive soil, without water and care, without fertilizer, the seed will not grow. Many have already shown the elements of success and the key to sustainability. Richard Jonas in Shanghai, Robin Kinsley at the Walter Sisulu Pediatric Cardiac Center for Africa, Aldo Castaneda in Guatemala and Bohdan Maruszewski in Poland, to name only a few. Since 1993, in Poland under the leadership of his artist-friend Jurek Owsiak, the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity has raised 65 million dollars, a dollar at a time from old and young, from poor and rich, from businessmen and politicians. They have mobilized an entire nation to help children!

The paradigm shift of the 21st century is to find a way to extend the care to the 90 % of children born with Congenital Heart Disease without any or appropriate care. I believe that this paradigm change requires the following key elements: Responsibility. Education. Sustainability. Partnership. Empowerment. Care & Commitment. Teamwork & Trust.

This paradigm change requires a Medicine of Responsible Education Sustained through Partnership, Empowerment, Care & Commitment and Teamwork & Trust.

It spells: Medicine of R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

It is about Respect and Human Dignity! The time for Medicine of R.E.S.P.E.C.T. is now!

Just as the experience in Poland has demonstrated, resources can be mobilized by a coalition of health care professionals, industry, governments, humanitarian foundations, families and the society as a whole.

I challenge the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery and its numerous partners to engage in this paradigm shift and lead the way.

Dr. William Frist, the former United States Senate Majority Leader and a fellow cardiac surgeon, recently said during his address to the Society of Thoracic Surgeons in San Diego: Medicine as a Currency for Peace! I would respectfully add three more words to this saying: Medicine as the Currency for Peace, Respect and Human Dignity!

The faces you have seen during this talk are among the lucky 10% of children with congenital heart disease to received advanced care and services. Let's now work to extend this care to the remainder 90%.

I would like to thank all my teachers and colleagues that have helped me fulfill my dreams. I would like to thank my family: my brother and his family, my mother and my late father. I would like to thank my children, my son John and my daughter Lisa, who is here today. Above all I would like to thank my beautiful wife, Sophia, an obstetrician/gynecologist, who has been at my side during my professional journey. It is a real thrill to sometimes operate on the babies she has delivered. Unfortunately she could not be here today because of a ski injury sustained a few weeks ago. I thank the members of my family for their patience and support, their love and understanding. I love them dearly. My family has been my most precious commodity.

Finally I would like to read to you a letter I received a few days ago, from someone special. (Reading the letter from Mr. Mandela)

Let's work to truly achieve: "Hearts for Life across the World"
 Imagine what we can do together. *Just imagine!*



A world map with red circular callouts indicating the number of countries in each region. The numbers are: North America (184), South America (36), Europe (73), Africa (13), Asia (76), and Australia (3). The map is overlaid on a background of children playing.

A world map showing the number of countries in each of the 100 most popular countries. The map is color-coded by continent: North America (light blue), South America (light green), Europe (light orange), Africa (light yellow), Asia (light purple), and Australia (light pink). Red lines connect the country names to their locations on the map. The numbers are in red circles.

Country	Number
United States of America	169
Canada	28
Mexico	8
Guatemala	2
El Salvador	1
Venezuela	2
Colombia	7
Ecuador	2
Chile	2
Bolivia	1
Argentina	7
Peru	3
Brazil	15
Uruguay	1
Morocco	2
Tunisia	1
Ghana	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1
Sudan	1
Egypt	8
South Africa	6
Israel	1
Iran	2
Oman	1
Qatar	1
Iraq	2
Saudi Arabia	13
Syria	1
Jordan	2
India	14
Pakistan	1
Thailand	1
Philippines	1
Indonesia	4
Malaysia	3
Australia	3
Turkey	15
Georgia	1
Bulgaria	1
Romania	1
Moldova	1
Korea	11
Japan	22
China	10
Nepal	1
Bangladesh	2
Thailand	1
Philippines	1
Indonesia	4
Malaysia	3
Australia	3
Denmark	1
Austria	2
Poland	7
Sweden	2
Finland	1
Czech Republic	1
Estonia	1
Hungary	1
Ukraine	1
Russia	4
Belgium	3
France	6
Switzerland	3
Italy	19
Portugal	2
Greece	4
Netherlands	4
Germany	24
United Kingdom	15

For their generous support in making a success of the Historic Inaugural Meeting in Washington DC, in May 2007, the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery gratefully acknowledges:

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Become a Sponsor of the 2008 Summit

The World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education and Cardiac Care in Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease will be held on June 19 - June 21, 2008 at the Sheraton Centre Montreal in Montreal, Canada

To discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact Judith Obadia at 514 483-1865
[judith @wspchs.org](mailto:judith@wspchs.org)

WSPCHS RESEARCH FELLOW

At the Governing Council meeting held in Geneva in September, the World Society has accepted its first Research Fellow. Dr. Pierre-Luc Bernier graduated from the McGill University School of Medicine in 2005 and started his residency in cardiac surgery with Dr. Christo I. Tchervenkov as a mentor. His interest in congenital heart surgery and his vision of international collaboration will define his research.

Dr. Bernier will occupy the WSPCHS Research Fellow position for one year. His work will be instrumental in the organization of the World Summit to be held in Montreal in June 2008.

The World Society plans to open the Fellowship position permanently for trainees who are interested in broadening their knowledge of congenital cardiac surgery and in conducting research projects related to the Society's mission.

Dr. Bernier can be contacted at pierrelucbernier@wspchs.org



Dr. Pierre-Luc Bernier

FACT-FINDING QUESTIONNAIRES

As most of you know, the vision of the World Society is to work towards the goal that every child born anywhere in the world with a congenital heart defect should have access to appropriate medical and surgical care.

To achieve this goal and more specifically in preparation for the World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education and Cardiac Care in Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease, the World Society is debuting a fact finding mission on the state of cardiac care for children and adults afflicted with congenital heart disease across the world. The first step of this endeavour will take the form of a widespread survey distributed in an online format. You will shortly be contacted by Dr. Pierre-Luc Bernier, the World Society Research Fellow, to participate in this project.

The questionnaire itself can be completed in 2-3 minutes. It includes questions pertaining to your practice, your institution and your post-graduate training. More surveys will likely follow. We are also looking for a few individuals from the various regions of the world to volunteer as "ambassadors" for their countries.

Obviously, a large response rate is necessary for the success of this project and to be able to have fruitful discussions at the World Summit in Montreal in June 2008.

We thank you in advance for your participation.

Behind the scene

from the Point-2-Point Management Team

Hard to believe that a year ago we were busy setting up the infrastructure for The World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery! Since then, our team has expanded in order to be able to service the needs and requests of the ever expanding membership.

The goal of Point-2-Point as a management company for the WSPCHS is to provide seamless communication and support to all members and meeting delegates.

We encourage you as a member to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your membership: renewal of your membership, questions about upcoming meetings or feed back on any issues. Along with membership database, we are responsible for the website and all the processes associated with payment of annual dues, membership application, conference registration and updates from the various committees.

Please visit the website for a introduction to the Point-2-Point Management Team and feel free to contact any of us. We are here to be of service to you and all members of the World Society. We consider it an honour and a pleasure to be a part of history in the making!

Looking forward to welcoming you to Montreal in June 2008 to the World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education and Cardiac Care in Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease. Please contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions. It would be my pleasure!

A Bientôt,

Christine Prader, Manager
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Thinking Outside the Box?

In the next issue, the *World Society News* would like to publish your feedback from the Historic Inaugural Meeting in Washington, your thoughts on the role that the World Society should play and your ideas for topics of discussion for the World Summit in Montreal.

As your ideas develop, you might consider applying to become an ambassador of the World Society in your country and represent your country at the World Summit in Montreal in 2008.

Please email your comments to wsnews@wspchs.org

Support the World Society and become a member *today!*

Although the World Society is founded by pediatric and congenital heart surgeons, it is open for membership to all cardiac surgeons, physicians, and allied health care professionals from anywhere in the world who have an interest in the field of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease and related specialties dealing with congenital and/or pediatric heart malformations.

To apply on-line, visit our web site: www.wspchs.org

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Be part of history!

World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education and Cardiac Care in Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
June 19 - June 21, 2008
Sheraton Centre Montreal
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INFORMATION: www.wspchs.org

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**Submissions
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before
April 15, 2008**
abstracts@wspchs.org

**Registration
online from
January 10 to
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www.wspchs.org

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► **The mission of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery is to promote the highest quality comprehensive cardiac care to all patients with pediatric and/or congenital heart disease, from the fetus to the adult, regardless of the patient's economic means, with an emphasis on excellence in education, research and community service.**