

in this issue

02

ECHO SINGAPORE 2005

04



POSTCARD FROM AMERICA:
A FISHY TALE

05



VASCULAR &
ENDOVASCULAR SURGERY IN
THI

06

54TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC
SESSION

07

17TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC
MEETING

08

HAPPENINGS

10

A GREAT MEETING TO LOOK
FORWARD TO – AICT 2005

11

DOBUTAMINE INFUSION
SERVICES

12



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY – CMR

13

TOP TWO KILLERS –
HEART DISEASE & CANCER

15

ABSTRACTS & LATEST NEWS

16



CARDIAC CARE & CHARITY?

FEEDBACK

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Cardiovascular Ultrasound in Practice

Echo²⁰⁰⁵ SINGAPORE



Dr Eric Hong, THI @ NUH

World experts in cardiac ultrasound and imaging

were brought together again for 3 days during Echo Singapore 2005. This event was jointly organized by The Heart Institute (THI) and National Heart Center (NHC) together with the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, U.S.A.) with support from the Singapore Cardiac Society.

The venue was the prestigious Sheraton Towers. The program directors were A/Prof Ling Lieng-Hsi and Prof Bijoy Khandheria. The organizing committee were made up of representatives from the various participating institutes, Dr Ding Zee-Pin (NHC), Dr Tong Khim-Leng (CGH), Dr Yong Quek-Wei (TTSH), other members of the organizing committee were from NUH, Dr Yeo Tiong-Cheng, Dr Tan Huay Cheem, Ms Hilda H. Yang and Ms Koh Lay-Pheng. A/Prof Ling Lieng-Hsi had previously worked with Prof Bijoy Khandheria in Mayo Clinic, together, they managed to put together an impressive program focusing on topics such as diastolic function, valvular heart disease, myocardial contrast imaging, cardiac resynchronization, endocarditis, stress imaging. The delegates were mostly from the Asia-Pacific region and composed mainly of technologists and cardiologists.

... the past three days
had been a great success...

Prof Bijoy Khandheria



On the first day, A/Prof Ha Jong-Won, A/Prof Ling Lieng-Hsi, Prof Bijoy Khandheria and Prof Yu Cheuk-Man started off the conference with a session on “diastology”. This is a difficult and rapidly advancing field in cardiology and our understanding has been greatly advanced by work done by these researchers working in diverse locations such as Seoul, Korea; Singapore; Rochester, U.S.A. and Hong Kong SAR, China. The day ended with a selection of rare cases presented by Dr Yong Quek-Wei (TTSH), A/Prof Heidi Connolly (Mayo), Prof Clarence Shub (Mayo) and Dr Wong Keng-Yean (Kandang Kerbau Hospital).

LATEST TECHNIQUE OF OPTIMIZING CARDIAC RESYNCHRONIZATION THERAPY

The next day, there was a spotlight on the latest technique of optimizing cardiac resynchronization therapy. This is a highly topical issue in light of several recent publications in a major journal on the benefit of this technique. We were brought up to date on the current state of affairs in cardiac resynchronization with an excellent presentation by Prof Bijoy Khandheria. This topic brings together the echocardiologists and our colleagues in electrophysiology. One of the pioneers of electrophysiology in Singapore is Dr Teo Wee-Siong (NHC), he explained the techniques in performing this procedure and enlightened us with his personal hands-on experience, while Prof Yu Cheuk-Man presented work done by him and his team in Hong Kong on new methods of optimizing patient selection and evaluation of therapy. The day ended with a session on endocarditis, this session ended with an insight on the microbiology aspect of endocarditis by Prof Paul Anand Tambyah who is an Infectious Disease Consultant

in NUH – this illustrates the close cooperation with clinicians across many specialties that the echocardiologist has to work with.

3D ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC MACHINES

In between much needed breaks during the sessions, the delegates adjourned next door to the buffet spread prepared by the hotel, this was where the sponsors showed off their latest technological marvels including the latest portable as well as 3D echocardiographic machines, PG Books, our perennial supporter, were as usual doing brisk sales as many crowd round the stalls.

The third day started with Dr Petros Nihoyannopoulos (Hammersmith Hospital Trust, UK) speaking on the pitfalls in the diagnosis of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in light of advances in genetic diagnosis. This was followed by a session on new developments in stress echocardiography and finally iatrogenic heart disease, including those caused by radiotherapy, chemotherapy, percutaneous mitral valve balloon commissurotomy and pacemaker implantation. The closing remarks were made by the ever delightful Prof Bijoy Khandheria who felt that the past three days had been a great success with which I agree wholeheartedly and without doubt, I have already made a space in my diary for next years’ Echo 2006.

