



6th WORLD CONGRESS

Paediatric Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

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Cape Town, South Africa

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From the Editor:

The World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery: “The Olympics of our Profession”

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Abstract The first World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology was held in London, United Kingdom, in 1980, organised by Dr Jane Somerville and Prof. Fergus Macartney. The idea was that of Jane Somerville, who worked with enormous energy and enthusiasm to bring together paediatric cardiologists and surgeons from around the world. The 2nd World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology took place in New York in 1985, organised by Bill Rashkind, Mary Ellen Engle, and Eugene Doyle. The 3rd World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1989, organised by Chompol Vongprateep. Although cardiac surgeons were heavily involved in these early meetings, a separate World Congress of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery was held in Bergamo, Italy, in 1988, organised by Lucio Parenzan. Thereafter, it was recognised that surgeons and cardiologists working on the same problems and driven by a desire to help children should really rather meet together. A momentous decision was taken to initiate a Joint World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. A steering committee was established with membership comprising the main organisers of the four separate previous Congresses, and additional members were recruited in an effort to achieve numerical equality of cardiologists and surgeons and a broad geographical representation. The historic 1st “World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery” took place in Paris in June, 1993, organised by Jean Kachaner. The next was to be held in Japan, but the catastrophic Kobe earthquake in 1995 forced relocation to Hawaii in 1997. Then followed Toronto, Canada (2001, organised by Bill Williams and Lee Benson), Buenos Aires, Argentina (2005, organised by Horatio Capelli and Guillermo Kreutzer), and most recently Cairns, Australia (2009, organised by Jim Wilkinson). Having visited Europe (1993), Asia-Pacific (1997), North America (2001), South America (2005), and Australia (2009), and reflecting the “African Renaissance”, the World Congress is coming to Africa. The 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 22 February, 2013. Cape Town is a sublime and compelling African destination with irresistible appeal. The South African Heart Association is the host. Information about The 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery can be found at <http://www.pccs2013.co.za>.

THE 6TH WORLD CONGRESS OF PAEDIATRIC Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (Fig 1) will

be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 22 February, 2013. Cape Town is a sublime and compelling African destination with irresistible appeal. The South African Heart Association is the host, and we look forward to welcoming delegates to our city, our country, and the African continent.

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Information about The 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery can be found at <http://www.pccs2013.co.za>.

The 6th World Congress will build on the interdisciplinary educational and scientific foundations established through the five previous World Congresses. The history of this event reflects a unity of purpose between surgeons and physicians. The first World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology was held in London, United Kingdom, in 1980, organised by Dr Jane Somerville and Prof. Fergus Macartney. The idea was

that of Jane Somerville, who worked with enormous energy and enthusiasm to bring together paediatric cardiologists and surgeons from around the world.

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Figure 1.

Table 1. Steering Committee of The World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (2012).

First name	Last name	Specialty	Country	Continent
Zohair	Al Halees	Surgery	Saudi Arabia	Asia
Lee	Benson	Cardiology	Canada	North America
Horacio	Capelli	Cardiology	Argentina	South America
Sertac	Cicek	Surgery	Turkey	Europe/Asia
John	Deanfield	Cardiology	United Kingdom	Europe
Junbao	Du	Cardiology	People's Republic of China	Asia
Welton	Gersony	Cardiology	United States of America	North America
Christopher	Hugo-Hamman	Cardiology	South Africa	Africa
Krishna	Iyer	Surgery	India	Asia
Jeffrey	Jacobs	Surgery	United States of America	North America
Marcelo	Jatene	Surgery	Brazil	South America
Tom	Karl	Surgery	Australia	Australia/Oceania
Hiroimi	Kurosawa	Surgery	Japan	Asia
Heung Jae	Lee	Cardiology	Korea	Asia
Maurice	Leung	Cardiology	Hong Kong	Asia
Folkert	Meijboom	Cardiology	The Netherlands	Europe
Shakeel	Qureshi	Cardiology	United Kingdom	Europe
Jane	Somerville	Cardiology	United Kingdom	Europe
Susan	Vosloo	Surgery	South Africa	Africa
Pascal	Vouhé	Surgery	France	Europe
Gil	Wernovsky	Cardiology	United States of America	North America
James	Wilkinson	Cardiology	Australia	Australia/Oceania
Bill	Williams	Surgery	Canada	North America

by Bill Williams and Lee Benson), Buenos Aires, Argentina (2005, organised by Horatio Capelli and Guillermo Kreutzer), and most recently Cairns, Australia (2009, organised by Jim Wilkinson). Having visited Europe (1993), Asia-Pacific (1997), North America (2001), South America (2005), and Australia (2009), and reflecting the “African Renaissance”, the World Congress is coming to Africa.

Cape Town is now the beneficiary and provides an ideal meeting place for the global coalition of doctors, nurses, and health scientists who use research and technological development to provide better care for babies, children, and adults with congenital and acquired cardiac disease. The World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery is the major international scientific event for our global community and an opportunity to highlight and review 4 years of research and technological developments in basic sciences, translational and clinical research, and therapeutic interventions. The international faculty now includes over 300 members and promises an exceptional scientific programme across the different disciplines from interventions, imaging, procedures, and surgery through to critical care.

The World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery supports the notion that all children with cardiac disease ought not to be denied the benefits of medical science, and our vision is to use this Congress as a platform to spread cardiac care to those children in regions without access. It is an occasion to emphasise the glaring inadequacies in delivery of cardiac care in many countries, and to use this global forum to find creative humanitarian solutions to develop new services in resource-poor environments.

Of course, the limitations to developing cardiac care in the presence of financial, managerial, and human resource constraints are problems shared with colleagues from wealthier nations. Science alone will not meet these challenges, and our Congress offers health policy planners, health system managers, and health economists a unique forum to find health systems solutions necessary to initiate, develop, and improve cardiac care for children.

There are six “tracks” for delegates to follow over the 5 days of the Congress:

- Interventional cardiology (with live case transmission)
- Health systems and heart disease
- Cardiac surgery, anaesthesia, and intensive care
- Adult congenital heart disease
- Cardiology and the imaging revolution
- Nursing science.

Parallel sessions mean delegates can switch across tracks as they please. All the scientific sessions are open to any delegate; in other words, delegates are not

hostage to any of the five tracks on any day or at any time. The programme is a mix of popular plenary sessions, debates, lectures, and live cases. The Congress is enriched by the participation of many institutions that have taken the opportunity to arrange their own breakfast or evening symposia. Over 1400 abstracts have been accepted either for oral presentation or as E posters in the digital “abstract café”.

Numerous international societies and institutions have shared the vision that “The World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery”, held every 4 years, is the defining international event in the lives of those of us committed to helping children with cardiac disease and adults with congenital cardiac disease. This issue of *Cardiology in the Young* is dedicated to HeartWeek in Florida, and the organisers of HeartWeek are pleased to cancel our 2013 meetings to support the World Congress in South Africa. In fact, several institutions and societies cancelled their own meetings in 2013 in favour of The World Congress, and in that regard we acknowledge the magnanimous gestures of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, All Children’s Hospital of Saint Petersburg, Florida, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery. Each of these organisations will actively participate in the 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. A special session on Surgery for Rheumatic Heart Disease will be held with The World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.

With Table Mountain as a backdrop, the “mother city” is instantly recognisable as a major international tourist destination. The competing attractions of Robben Island, the Table Mountain National Park, the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, the beaches, and the winelands offer visitors to Cape Town a formidable choice of historical, cultural, botanical, and fun destinations. The game reserves with their vast array of African wildlife are not far off and provide delegates with the perfect reason to extend their visit to South Africa.

The World Congresses have been successful in bringing together delegates from many countries across very different health-care environments for stimulating educational meetings where individuals can network and learn from one another. The World Congress has been effective in fostering a collegial spirit between the many specialities involved in children’s heart health, providing a range of opportunities for trainees and established practitioners to upgrade skills, cooperate, and collaborate for the good of children with cardiac disease around the world. Bigger is not necessarily better, but the 6th World Congress promises to be a very worthwhile experience and important global event. You too can be an “Olympian” in Cape Town in February!