

Thank You Dr. Fontan

Every time I look at this photograph, I am overcome with emotion. My son Drew is standing between two heroes. On the left, is one of Drew's cardiovascular surgeons, Dr. Carl Backer. On the right is a doctor from Bordeaux, France, Dr. Francis Fontan – the Dr. Fontan, a true visionary who revolutionized congenital heart defect (CHD) surgery with the development of the Fontan circuit. One recent evening, through a series of serendipities, I found myself in front of this man who has helped save countless lives. To those of us in the CHD world, Dr. Fontan is a giant, a superstar. He is Michael Jordan, Walter Payton, and Eric Clapton rolled into one.



Dr. Carl Backer, Drew and Dr. Francis Fontan

I wanted to say something profound, to express my immense gratitude, and to speak for the thousands of parents who owe so much to this incredible man. All I could manage was "thank you." Thank you. My words sounded trite and woefully inadequate.

I have been in the position before of saying thank you to surgeons, like Dr. Backer, who quite literally held my son's heart in their hands. I have experienced the intense emotions that came from watching my child being wheeled into the operating room and then waiting many, many long hours for the surgery to be completed. Later, when the doctor appeared to tell us how the procedure went, it was almost impossible to string a sentence together. I wanted to thank him for repairing Drew's tiny heart and giving our child back to us. Yet the only words that came out of my mouth were "thank you," quickly followed by "How soon can I see my son?" I thought my words were insufficient then, but here I was looking at Dr. Fontan, the man who pioneered the surgeries that saved not only Drew's life but also the lives of tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of others, and I still struggled to find the right words to say.

In 1968, before it was fashionable to do so, this man thought outside the box--way outside. A normal heart should have four chambers: two atria and two ventricles that act in unison

to maintain the body's circulation of blood. However, some babies are born with only three chambers, but they cannot continue to live that way. While most in this field were trying to figure out how to fashion a fourth chamber from a three-chamber heart, Dr. Fontan decided to make these tiny hearts into two-chamber structures instead, thereby taking away half the work the heart must do.

With CHDs like Drew's, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, the baby is born without the left ventricle or "pumping chamber" of the heart. To correct this heart defect, Dr. Fontan thought to make the right ventricle that normally pumps the oxygen-poor blood to the lungs, instead perform the job of the left ventricle and pump the oxygenated blood to the body. The question then remained: "How would the blood that needs oxygen get to the lungs?" Dr. Fontan theorized and proved that the blood needing oxygen could flow passively to the lungs, rather than being pumped there.

What a breakthrough! A medical and engineering marvel! For almost 40 years, doctors around the world have performed the Fontan surgery and have given children with CHDs an opportunity to live. Over the years, the Fontan operation has been modified and changed for various heart defects, but all of the surgical procedures still carry the name of this amazing man--there is the Classical Fontan, the Lateral Tunnel Fontan, the Extracardiac Fontan and the Hemi-Fontan.

Thanks to this pioneer and the research that sustained his work, the Fontan circuit is now an integral part of the surgical treatments for hypoplastic left heart syndrome, tricuspid atresia, pulmonary atresia, and other single ventricle pathology. At some point in time, someone gave Dr. Fontan the opportunity to put his theories to the test, confident that his methods would save children's lives. This leap of faith was well placed, resulting in new hope for children with CHDs. And, that's what research can do. Research saves lives.

Is there another Dr. Fontan out there? A medical innovator whose research can change the way pediatric cardiac surgery is viewed and performed? Is there another trailblazer, like Dr. Fontan, who can determine the genetic marker for CHDs and thereby eliminate the need for surgeries altogether? There must be, but there is only one way to find out: fund research. ♥

Article written by Drew's Mom; Martha Hauber, CHF Board Member

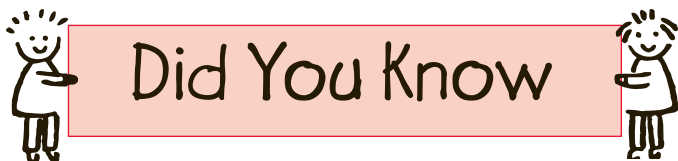


President's Message

by Leo Cole, CHF President

MacKinzie Kline, National Spokesperson

“M”ake your future bigger than your past.” This is the theme of a book by Dan Sullivan which I am currently reading and it is perfect for how the board and staff must approach the future of the Children’s Heart Foundation. And we are. The past, we learn from it. It is the foundation on which we grow and mature. The present, we are living it, pain and growth, learning and teaching. The future, it is what we can and will make it. Recently the staff and board gathered for a strategic planning session to chart the path for the future. CHF’s mission, which is the same today as it was in the beginning, lays the ground work for this exciting future. Over the next three years, we will see great growth in the number of chapters and in the fund raising efforts all over the United States. The Medical Advisory Board will continue to evolve and grow, extending its legacy as the premier advisory council of CHD research in the world. CHF has become the “go-to” organization for research of congenital heart defects, whether you are a researcher looking for seed money to get your cutting edge research off the ground or a private foundation or corporation looking to make a difference in children and their family’s lives. Our future is certainly bigger than our important and successful past. I can hardly wait to see the progress we bring through the large increases in funding of CHD research: “Saving Children’s Lives, One Heart at a Time.” ♥



GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it’s powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.



Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter The Children’ Heart Foundation as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! ♥



2007 Chicago Family Benefit Committee ♥ Many thanks to Martha Hauber and Jaymi Griesmeyer (co-chairs), Erin Smith, Darlene Buenzow, Kathy Moran, Mary Paul Doyle, Christa Sorenson, Shanin Trivanovic, Tracey Keenan and Sue Donnellan. Your tireless efforts made this year’s family benefit a huge success.

Deerfield High School, Notre Dame High School, and Saint Francis Xavier ♥ for providing assistance and volunteers for our Annual Family Benefit.

Jamie Broza ♥ for volunteering time & boundless energy in entertaining everyone at our Annual Family Benefit.

Paul & Claire Dobek ♥ for your generosity in establishing the Amelie Dobek Memorial Research Fund. All donations made to the fund go directly into our research account.

Philip & Carol Dudt ♥ for your continued support of CHF. The proceeds of the Caden Dudt Memorial Research Fund in 2006 partially funded the research being conducted by Dr. Margaret Kirby at Duke University Medical Center.

New Jersey Golf Outing Committee ♥ Many thanks to Joe Bier, Dan Napoli, Gary Kramer, Rob Cowen & Tony Bernheim for their continued fundraising efforts in support of CHF in honor of MacKinzie Kline.

Levenfeld Perlstein ♥ Thanks to the efforts of CHF Board Member & Levenfeld Perlstein attorney, Chris Griesmeyer, this recent companywide fundraiser contributed over \$5,500 to CHF.

Dragons on the Mini ♥ Thanks to the efforts of their committee, the Dragons on the Mini event held in North Carolina contributed over \$1,000 to fund congenital heart defect research this year.

Alpine Children’s Charity ♥ for your continued support of CHF. Alpine Children’s Charity held their third annual ski event on March 31st. Once again, we were named as one of their beneficiaries.

St. Turibius National Junior Honor Society ♥ for researching and voting CHF their beneficiary for monies raised from a Jeans Day and a Car Wash.

The 3rd Annual Mac Kline Golf Classic Committee ♥ for all of your hard work and incredible commitment to CHF. This year’s event was held on Friday, April 6th at LaCosta Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, CA and raised \$35,000 to support research funding. ♥



The Medical Advisory Board Update



Carl Lewis Backer, M.D.
Medical Advisory Board
Chairman

The Medical Advisory Board met on October 14, 2006 and reviewed and ranked 28 separate research proposals. These proposals came from all over the country. The results of the grant review were submitted to the Children's Heart Foundation board which met on November 6, 2006. Based on the scoring of the grants and the level of the funding available, we are very pleased and proud to announce that five research proposals were selected for funding in 2006.

- ♥ **Ching-Pin Chang, M.D.** (Stanford University) "Dyrk Kinase and Contential Heart Disease in Down Syndrome" – \$99,839
- ♥ **Jeffrey P. Jacobs, M.D.** (All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg, FL) "Congenital Heart Disease Multi-Societal Database Project to Create a Universal Encyclopedia for Definitions of Preoperative Risk Factors and Postoperative Complications Related to Congenital Heart Surgery and Interventions" – \$50,000
- ♥ **Margaret L. Kirby, Ph.D** (Duke University Medical Center) "Normal Cardiac Outflow Tract Development depends on Retinoic Acid Signaling" – \$88,073
- ♥ **Brian W. McCrindle, M.D.** (Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto) "Late Functional Status in a Cohort of Survivors with Pulmonary Atresia Intact Ventricular Septum" – \$86,308
- ♥ **Henry Michael Spotnitz, M.D.** (Columbia University) "Myocardial Protection and Support in Cyanotic Congenital Heart Disease" – \$96,938

The total amount of funding of these five separate proposals is \$421,158.00! In addition to funding these five projects, the Pediatric Heart Disease Clinical Research Network received \$50,000 in funding to continue the Single Ventricle Reconstruction (SVR) trial, the initial funding of which was through the NIH/NHLBI. This study is comparing the outcomes of patients with a single ventricle randomized to a right ventricle-pulmonary artery shunt or a modified Blalock-Taussig shunt. The specific end point to be analyzed with our funding is the long-term ventricular function.

- ♥ **Dr. Chang** and colleagues will study the function of the Dyrk gene during fetal development and its role in the development of Down syndrome. Down syndrome is the leading genetic cause of congenital

heart disease in children. Down syndrome patients have extra copies of genetic material on chromosome 21. Normalization of Dyrk gene dosage may possibly rescue heart defects in a mouse model of Down syndrome. This may translate into genetic therapy for children with Down syndrome and congenital heart defects.

- ♥ **Dr. Jacobs** is the director of a multi-institutional study group which is attempting the very difficult, but very necessary project of creating a universal set of definitions of preoperative risk factors and postoperative complications. This will allow surgeons, cardiologists, intensivists, and anesthesiologists to more accurately determine the risk factors and complications that are important in assessing a child with a particular congenital heart defect for different therapeutic interventions with medical therapy, interventional therapy in the catheterization lab, or surgery. The goal is to publish a universal encyclopedia or text which can be downloaded and used by all centers in a standardized method to report their complications and the influence of different risk factors on outcomes.
- ♥ **Dr. Kirby** is performing a very elegant, basic science project which attempts to elucidate the origin of the cardiac chamber development, specifically the outflow tract development based on signals between the cells. Preliminary data suggests that retinoic acid is essential for controlling the levels of a growth factor called fibroblast growth factor FGF8 in the developing neck or pharyngeal region. The heart also develops in this region at the time that FGF8 is expressed. However, too much FGF8 signaling disrupts the development of the myocardium that is required for correct alignment of the aorta with the left ventricle. The current studies will test the hypothesis that retinoic acid is released by a population of cells that migrate into the pharynx, and this retinoic acid suppresses the expression of the FGF8. The retinoic acid suppression of FGF8 signaling happens at a time that is critical for addition of myocardium to the heart that controls aortic alignment with the left ventricle.
- ♥ **Dr. McCrindle** in association with the Congenital Heart Surgeon's Society is studying a very well-known cohort of patients that have a specific congenital cardiac lesion, pulmonary atresia with intact ventricular septum. This study will review the long-term outcomes of different types of heart surgery. These patients can undergo a wide variety of surgical interventions and the point of this study is to determine what factors predict which surgical procedures the patients should have to optimize

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Heart with A Check



The first and second graders from St. Athanasius School in Evanston, IL made The Children's Heart Foundation their Lenten charity. During March and April, the children raised \$722 by emptying piggy banks, doing odd jobs and having a Brownie bake sale. The money donated will be used by the Children's Heart Foundation to fund CHD research.



Chicago Golf Outing



We're delighted to announce The Children's Heart Foundation's 8th Annual Golf Outing. This year's event will be on Monday, September 17th at Conway Farms Golf Club located in Lake Forest, IL.

A private club, Conway Farms is currently ranked ninth in the state of Illinois by Golf Digest, and has previously been ranked among the top-100 modern courses by Golfweek. Tom Fazio designed this links course and it is truly one of Fazio's magnificent gems, with gentle rolling terrain and wonderful vistas, using existing trees, forests and wet lands.

The CHF golf outing will include lunch, golf, dinner, player gifts, prizes and an auction. In addition to golf clubs, country club outings and major league tickets, this years auction will include among others, a ride in the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile.

Get a foursome together and save the date of September 17th. You can register online at ChildrensHeartFoundation.org or call directly to the foundation at 847-634-6474. ❤



Family Benefit



On February 10, 2007, The Children's Heart Foundation held our annual Family Benefit. Over 750 people helped CHF "Reach for the Stars" during a fun and exciting evening at the Adler Planetarium. We were thrilled to have many members of our Medical Advisory Board attend as well as most of our Board of Directors. The event, sponsored by FTI Consulting, Goble and Associates, Levenfeld Pearlstein, Severson Environmental, LifeSource, MBLO Funding and The Little Leo Foundation helped raise over \$65,000 for The Children's Heart Foundation. This money will help CHF continue to fund the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects in children.

The Family Benefit is a unique event because children are the central part of the evening. The same children whom CHF raises money to help, are the ones enjoying the event along with their families and friends. The children had an excellent time. They enjoyed balloon artists, face painting, hands-on science projects and the excitement of having the museum to themselves. Jamie Broza, renowned singer-songwriter, generously donated his time and multi-talents to entertain the children (and adults) with music from his latest albums. The adults helped make the silent auction incredibly successful and received some fabulous items which included hotel getaways, sports memorabilia, beautiful jewelry, fantastic restaurant certificates, and for the kids there were oodles of toys and even a week at Space Camp.

Thanks to our generous donors and outstanding supporters, "Reach for the Stars" was one of the most successful Family Benefits in years. The Family Benefit committee is already busy planning next year's event scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago. We hope to see you there! ❤





Chapter Development Update



VP of Chapter Development, Brian Smith



I am happy to report that CHF is at a very exciting and dynamic time with regard to chapter development. Within the last few months, CHF has spoken with individuals in Arkansas, Connecticut, Tennessee, Nevada, Idaho, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas and Virginia who are all at various levels of chapter interest.

♥ In **Pennsylvania**, Patty Cheshire, held her first "Hopping for Hearts" at Jumpers Interactive Jump Zone on March 3rd and raised over \$9,000. Over 150 people attended this family event which included pizza, drinks, and a great raffle.

♥ In **Arizona**, Todd Camenisch & Katie Desiato, are working hard to become an official CHF chapter. Both Katie and Todd co-coordinated the 3rd Annual "Swing Fore their Hearts" Golf Outing held on February 17, 2007. The event was well attended and was, yet again, a great success; raising over \$6,000. Next year's event is already set for February 17, 2008 at Omni Tucson National Resort.

♥ In **Massachusetts**, Kelly Walsh, held her first fundraiser at The Dockside Restaurant in Wakefield on Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day (February 14). The Dockside generously donated 10% of the evening's proceeds to CHF.

♥ In **Ohio**, Matt & Amy Pierce, conducted their first fundraiser raising over \$2,000. They held a benefit at Coach's of Centerburg, which included live music and raffle. A local band, Simply Misdirected, graciously donated its fee to CHF and Coach's donated the evening's cover charge to CHF as well.

Lastly, some very exciting news comes out of California, Washington and Iowa in regard to chapter start-up.

♥ In **California**, a foundation called Samuel Sanders CHF is in the process of converting to the Children's Heart Foundation Southern California Chapter in honor of Samuel Sanders, the late pianist, chamber musician and collaborative artist. The number of people Mr. Sanders touched during his lifetime, partnering and playing with the likes of Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma and Jacqueline DuPre, is exponential. Visit their website at <http://samsandersCHF.com>.

♥ In December, after gathering his board members, Mick Landauer filed the necessary paperwork in the state of

Iowa to become an official CHF chapter. Thanks Mick!

♥ In **Washington**, Becky Davie & Jeanette Bowers Weaver, are well on their way to becoming the CHF Washington Chapter. Both Becky and Jeanette have been busy drafting the paperwork for submission, building their board of directors, lining up the services of a local CPA, and determining their first fundraiser.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make all these events a huge success!

Should you or anyone you may know be interested (at any level) in learning more about what steps are needed to be taken to become a chapter, please contact the National CHF office at 847.634.6474. ♥



Oregon Chapter Update



Last year was again an extraordinary success for the Oregon Chapter of the Children's Heart Foundation. Our two annual events, LionHeart and PULSE, raised nearly \$100,000! PULSE, held October 7th, proved again to be one of Portland's great events with amazing local artist donating their time and talent to raise money for CHF-OC. Together these events provide an opportunity to raise awareness, fund research and celebrate the courage of children born with Congenital Heart Disease.

Moving into 2007, CHF-OC is excited to announce our theme for this year, "Building for the Future". After almost three years as President and Founder of CHF-OC, Aimee Mooney was ready to focus on one of her strengths – sponsorship. Heather Helmy, a previous board member and parent of a child born with Congenital Heart Disease, has welcomed the opportunity to lead CHF-OC for 2007. With all other Board Members returning and Laurie Price, our previous Executive Director, as Vice President, the board is strong and excited about the changes for this year. We have several positions open on our board. Please contact us at chdhelp@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining our effort to improve the lives of children born with congenital heart defects.

CHF-OC is looking forward to holding our 4th annual LionHeart in Laurelhurst on July 14th. This year the event Chair is Molly Bell. Molly was a key committee member in 2006 and has put together a great committee for 2007. The event has grown every year. We are excited about our upcoming day in the park to celebrate the courage of children born with Congenital Heart Disease and raise money to fund the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of congenital heart disease. ♥

Heather Helmy, President, CHF-OC

Florida Chapter Update

Marlee Huggins has stepped into her new role as president with her characteristic energy and enthusiasm.



Our fearless leader Marlee and our youngest CHD survivor Julian

This year, our change of heart fundraising activities consisted of our first annual walk, collections at local schools and Wal-Mart stores, and wrapped up with our annual swim-a-thon at Camp Or Hashemesh. Special Thank You to: board member Andrea Brennan who took charge of our first successful walk and to CHD kids Max Kramer and Lindsey Weiss who raised the most on-line donations. To date, our chapter has raised more than \$17,000 in 2007 and the year has just started.

The documentary video produced and showed at last year's gala telling Julian's story is now on our website www.chf-florida.org. Our second documentary telling the story of 4 year old Faith and 18 year old Mandy will debut on August 25th at our Sixth Annual "For Their Hearts" Gala. These CHD kids are several of many who have benefited from the research CHF is supporting.

Our Junior Board (JB) has been exceptionally busy, helping spread awareness with fundraising events in Coral Springs, New Port Richey, Oldsmar, Naples and Sarasota. In February, Danny Hill, JB member, met with Larry King Jr. (who has taken an interest in CHF) and Dr. Jeffrey Jacobs to talk about ideas for the future. We are thrilled that Dr. Jacobs has allowed our JB members to watch open heart surgery first hand. What an incredible learning experience! ♥



CHD survivors gather at Wal-Mart in Oldsmar, Florida to raise money and awareness. Look what a great turn out we had!

Advocacy

Director of Grants and Advocacy, Ellen Weiss

James and Amy Shimberg Charitable Trust. This is a charitable trust located in Tampa, FL. They have awarded Dr. Jacobs a grant for \$10,000 towards his research entitled "Congenital Heart Disease Multi-Societal Database Project to Create a Universal Encyclopedia for Definitions of Preoperative Risks and Postoperative Complications Related to Congenital Heart Surgery and Interventions." Thank you to the James and Amy Charitable Trust!! Congratulations Dr. Jacobs!

On February 13th, the Children's Heart Foundation joined forces with the Adult Congenital Heart Association (ACHA) to lobby on Capitol Hill on behalf of all Congenital Heart Defect survivors. As CHF's Director of Grants and Advocacy, I traveled to DC along with my 14 year old daughter, Lindsey, in support of ACHA's 2nd Annual Lobby Day.



Lindsey and Ellen Weiss

In addition to Lindsey and I, the Florida lobbying team included Connie Nixon, a RN from the University of Florida, Susan Timmins, a CHD parent and Chad Law, a CHD survivor.

Our message to congress was specifically crafted by lobbying consultants to open the doors for discussion and funding. Approximately 75 CHD survivors, CHD parents, and healthcare professionals gathered at the Capitol Hill Club. We met with Legislators' Health Aids to introduce them to congenital heart disease and spoke first hand about its prevalence and impact on nearly two million Americans. We stressed the important economic factors that increased funding would have on a child's life, on his/her family and on society. The Legislative Aids agreed to bring the issue forward to their congressmen and requested that ACHA follows it up with letters.

Overall, the ACHA Annual Lobby day accomplished a great deal. In total, 83 Senate and House offices were lobbied, educated about CHD issues and received requests for increased CHD education and research funding. On an individual level, the Lobbying participants all felt empowered by taking an active roll in CHD advocacy.

CHF thanks the Adult Congenital Heart Association for its hard work in organizing this important day. We're grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with ACHA on their Annual Lobby Day. Anyone interested in CHF Advocacy, please contact me at EWeiss@ChildrensHeartFoundation.org. ♥



Save the Date



lease join us at the activities below and for more information please visit our web site at www.childrensheartfoundation.org. ♥

July 14th, 4th – Annual Lionheart in Laurelhurst, Laurelhurst Park, Portland, OR

August 4th, Grant's Gala, Pat O'Brien's Restaurant, Memphis TN

August 18th, 2nd Annual Caden Dudt Memorial Basketball Tournament, Ocean County, NJ

August 25th, 6th Annual For Their Hearts Benefit (Casino Theme), Harborview Center, Tampa, FL

September 17th, 8th Annual Chicago Golf Outing, Conway Farms Golf Club, Lake Forest, IL

September 30th, CHF/CHIN Heart Strides Walk & Family Fun Day, Sesame Place, Langhorne, PA

October 13th, Medical Advisory Board Meeting, Chicago, IL

November 9th, 4th Annual Forever in our Hearts Benefit, Abbington Banquets, Glen Ellyn, IL

November 9th, "Art for the Heart" hosted by Pi Sigma Epsilon, Baton Rouge, LA

Medical Advisory Board, continued from page 3

the outcome of these complex children.

♥ **Dr. Spotnitz** and colleagues are conducting research to understand the development of ventricular stiffness in patients with single ventricle. Standard techniques will be used to measure and compare stiffness during the Norwood, Glenn and Fontan operations. They will also use a special new echocardiography technique to measure the thickness and mass of the ventricle. If it is known that a ventricle is stiff before surgery is started, treatments may be used to reduce stiffness or special management techniques can be planned during surgery. Ventricular stiffness will be measured before, during, and after the three stages of surgery for single ventricle. By comparing the results at the three stages and by relating stiffness to the results of surgery, Dr. Spotnitz and colleagues hope to develop a plan for a clinical trial that will improve the results of surgery for all babies with a single ventricle.

♥ Second year funding was approved for **Dr. Pirooz Eghtesady** at Cincinnati Children's Hospital evaluating the role of nitric oxide therapy in a sheep model of fetal cardiopulmonary bypass. Dr. Eghtesady and colleagues are performing a series of cardiopulmonary bypass studies in sheep. They have found an unexpected rise in fetal plasma cyclic GNP with cardiopulmonary

bypass. This information may some day make fetal cardiopulmonary bypass a reality. This research was presented at the American Heart Association meeting in November of 2006.

♥ **Dr. Nancy Ghanayem** at the Medical College of Wisconsin is studying the neurodevelopmental outcomes as related to postoperative hemodynamics in children with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Her goal is to understand the relationship of perioperative tissue hypoxemia and long-term neurodevelopmental morbidity in children undergoing neonatal cardiac surgery. Dr. Ghanayem is attempting to distinguish the critical threshold of oxygen delivery at which time neurodevelopmental outcome is compromised. Patient enrollment should be completed by December of 2007.

♥ **Dr. Tajinder P. Singh** is studying the coronary blood flow in patients who have had the arterial switch operation using a noninvasive nuclear medicine technique. Dr. Singh has moved from Wayne State University and began seeing patients at Boston Children's Hospital in January of 2007. Dr. Singh's research should result in a noninvasive technique for evaluating coronary blood flow after the arterial switch operation which involves transferring the coronary arteries. Late coronary artery stenosis has been a problem for some of these patients and this will facilitate ongoing evaluation of these patients.

I would like to welcome two new members to the Medical Advisory Board and thank two members that are departing. Dr. Thomas Klitzner and Dr. David Roberson served on the Medical Advisory Board for many years and we appreciate their contributions. Our first new board member is Dr. David Cooper who works at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. Dr. Cooper is triple-board certified in pediatrics, pediatric cardiology, and critical care. His insights into the postoperative care of children after pediatric cardiac surgery are a welcome edition to our scientific community. We would also like to welcome Dr. Robert Stewart. Dr. Stewart is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Stewart is board certified in surgery and thoracic surgery. Dr. Stewart has also a Master's degree in biostatistics and will be a welcome addition for evaluating the statistical techniques used in grant applications.

I want to thank all the members of the Medical Advisory Board for their tremendous input into reviewing grants this year. The five new grants selected for funding, the pediatric heart disease clinical research network project and our continued second year funding, I believe will provide outstanding contributions toward attaining the mission of the Children's Heart Foundation. ♥

*Carl Lewis Backer, M.D.
Chairman, Medical Advisory Board*

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About CHF



The Children's Heart Foundation was established in 1996 by Betsy and Steve Peterson to honor the memory of their son, Sam, who died from congenital heart disease at age eight. Today, the Foundation is a national organization with local chapters and a network of volunteers working to eradicate congenital heart disease as America's number one birth defect. To date, CHF has distributed \$2.5 million through 30 research grants. ♥

Our Goal



The goal of The Children's Heart Foundation is to bring health, hope and happiness to children impacted with congenital heart defects, the number one birth defect in the United States. We accomplish this goal by funding the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects in children.

Saving Children's Lives – One Heart at a Time ♥



The Children's Heart Foundation

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