



## Society of Pediatric Echocardiography

[www.sopeonline.org](http://www.sopeonline.org)

**Welcome to the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography Newsletter for Summer, 2020!**

**SOPE Mission Statement:** *To provide a unique environment for the pediatric and adult congenital echocardiography community to collaborate with other imaging societies to promote networking, education, advocacy, research, and program development*

### SOPE Executive Board Members

**President:** Mark Lewin MD, [Mark.Lewin@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:Mark.Lewin@seattlechildrens.org)  
Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Washington

**Vice President:** Timothy Slesnick MD, [SlesnickT@kidsheart.com](mailto:SlesnickT@kidsheart.com)  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Emory University

**Sonographer Representative:** Bernadette Richards, [Bernadette.Richards@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:Bernadette.Richards@nationwidechildrens.org)  
Nationwide Children's Hospital, Ohio State University

**Treasurer:** Shubhika Srivastava MBBS, [Shubhika.srivastava@nemours.org](mailto:Shubhika.srivastava@nemours.org)  
Nemours Children's Hospital, Thomas Jefferson University

**Secretary:** Beth Printz MD PhD, [bprintz@rchsd.org](mailto:bprintz@rchsd.org)  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego, University of California San Diego

**Immediate Past President:** Meryl Cohen MD, [COHENM@email.chop.edu](mailto:COHENM@email.chop.edu)  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania

**SOPE Executive Director:** Tara Foy, [tfoy@FirstPointResources.com](mailto:tfoy@FirstPointResources.com)  
FirstPoint Management Resources

*We will be looking for nominations for SOPE executive board sonographer and treasurer positions early in 2021*

## President's Message



June 2020

Unprecedented times. Extraordinary times. Challenging times.

All true. This is also a time defined by extremely varied experiences with some of us in a bit of a “protective bubble”, while others going through hell. Our realities are unique, but we are all experiencing anxiety towards the future. I wrote these words a month ago; I did not realize at that time that it would apply to more than the COVID crisis.

While we are living in isolation, COVID-19 has also brought us together in interesting ways. The pediatric community has always stepped-up in these situations, and we are now seeing that occur today. For the most part our patients have been spared, but their families are frightened, and we have faced massive changes in our practices. While our in-person meetings, including the ACC and ASE Scientific Sessions have been cancelled this year, we have quickly figured out other ways to communicate and share ideas, whether it is via publication, webinar, virtual conferences, listserv, or simply reaching out to those across the land.

So, what does this have to do with the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography? We at SOPE are trying to do our part. We co-sponsored the COVID-19 ASE Statement on Protection of Patients and Echocardiography Service Providers During the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak – Pediatric, Fetal and Congenital Heart Disease. Our members have shared novel ideas and have worked in their local communities, nationally and internationally to ensure that pediatric and fetal echo is being performed in a safe and effective manner during this “challenging time”. As we have always done, we will continue to do our part, and will exceed expectations.

Turning our attention for a moment away from the pandemic, this year has been one that we have been excited to roll-out to all of you, the members of SOPE. I would like to thank the SOPE Board for their efforts (Tim Slesnick, Bernadette Richards, Shubhika Srivastava, Beth Printz, and Meryl Cohen), as well as Tara Foy who has provided expert SOPE management. Our Board has been meeting regularly, with the singular goal of answering the question: “How can SOPE bring value to its members?” We broached this question in an intentional way in November 2019 via a day long SOPE Board virtual retreat. During this retreat and for the subsequent 5 months we completed the work that we had hoped

to share broadly at the SOPE Symposium 2020 in Denver. Clearly this is not going to happen, so please allow me the opportunity to update you now:

- SOPE Symposium: our intent for this year's symposium had been to collaborate with other noninvasive imaging groups (CT/MR). We will continue our efforts to join forces with other societies (including SCMR and ASE) in order to more effectively bring value. More on our plans for a Virtual SOPE Symposium below.
- Webinar: We have held several educational webinars, with more either scheduled or in the works. These have been enormously successful, with >1000 logged in for our inaugural session!
- Subcommittee development: Education, Early Career Development, Echo Collaborative, and Communication. Many of you have applied for membership on these Subcommittees. Thank you for your engagement. Throughout this Newsletter you will find additional information regarding these Subcommittees as described by the Subcommittee chairs.
- SOPE Board bylaws and amendments: We have worked to reduce the duration of Board member terms of service in order to allow more members to participate in leadership positions. You can find our new bylaws with the amendments here:  
[http://www.sopeonline.org/SOPEONLINE/SOPE\\_Bylaws.aspx](http://www.sopeonline.org/SOPEONLINE/SOPE_Bylaws.aspx)
- Social Media: We have been intentional in our use of social media to communicate with SOPE members.
- Increase sonographer involvement on SOPE Board and Subcommittees.

Stay tuned! While we will not be together face-to-face in June, we will be having Virtual SOPE Symposium 2020 on Thursday, August 6. The Save-The-Date is included in this Newsletter, and a formal program will be emailed in the next several weeks. Our intention is to replicate the important activities that occur in the SOPE Symposium, including the ability to socially connect, to introduce the fellows and junior faculty in our groups, and to educate.

Our intent is to increase SOPE membership by demonstrating that SOPE does have value to fetal, pediatric and congenital cardiologists and sonographers. Please reach out to me at [mark.lewin@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:mark.lewin@seattlechildrens.org) if you have ideas as to how we can improve.

While few of us can change the big picture, we have the capacity for small acts of kindness. Make the effort – others will be grateful. You will feel the better for it.

I look forward to seeing you again in the not-too-distant future, and to work with you to improve our field.

Be safe. Be well.

Mark Lewin, 2019-2021 President SOPE

Together While Separate

## SOPE Symposium 2019

The SOPE Symposium 2019 included a very informative educational program about intra-operative echocardiography. This included short discussions by Dr. Michael Puchalski (“Intraop TEE- What’s new in the guidelines?”), Dr. Kenan Stern (“Epicardial Echo- Why, when and how?”), and Heidi Cuffee, RDCS (“Role of the Echocardiographer in the OR”). We also had a wonderful time introducing all the fellows, new faculty, and sonographers in attendance from each institution, with lots of networking throughout the evening!



## SOPE Symposium 2020

As we will not be able to come together in person as planned in Denver later this month, instead we are planning our first virtual SOPE symposium via Zoom on **Thursday evening August 6 at 7:30 PM EDT** just before the American Society of Echocardiography’s Virtual Meeting August 8-10. In addition to an educational session on rheumatic heart disease, we will also be including our yearly favorite introduction of fellows, sonographers and junior faculty, as well as a virtual happy hour and annual business meeting.

*More details coming soon!*

**SOPE Symposium: Taking It Virtual!**

The SOPE Board invites you to join us on  
**Thursday, August 6th at 4:30pm PST (7:30pm Eastern)**  
 for a 90-minute Virtual SOPE Symposium.  
 We hope to replicate many of the aspects of our Annual  
 Symposium:

- Introduction of Fellows and Junior Faculty
- Virtual Happy Hour
- Business Meeting
- Educational Session

More information to come!

**Save the Date!**

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## SOPE Subcommittees

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We are very excited to announce our newly formed SOPE subcommittees, including the Echo Lab Collaborative, Education, Early Career Development and Communications Subcommittees!

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**Echo Collaborative Subcommittee: Adam Dorfman, Jeanine Gruenwald, Leo Lopez, David Parra**  
**(Chair: Meryl Cohen)**

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The Pediatric Echo Lab Collaborative launched and was announced at the annual SOPE meeting in 2019. The goal is to be a learning collaborative using echocardiography to improve the quality and value of echocardiography and the outcome of children with congenital and acquired heart disease. As such, we have launched our first project entitled “**Reducing Discrepancies between Preoperative Echo and Intraoperative findings**”. This quality improvement project will determine the type of discrepancies made on preoperative echocardiography compared to intraoperative findings. Ultimately, the goal is to minimize these discrepancies. This effort has been led by Shobha Natarajan and Meryl Cohen. A pilot group of institutions will start collecting prospective data this summer and then it will be opened to the entire SOPE community at large to participate.

For more information on how your center can participate in the Pediatric Echo Lab Collaborative, please email: [natarajans@email.chop.edu](mailto:natarajans@email.chop.edu) or [cohenm@email.chop.edu](mailto:cohenm@email.chop.edu). We encourage submissions of ideas for projects. Pediatric sonographers are encouraged to submit ideas directly related to their work environment.

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**Education Subcommittee: RayAnn Barnes, Joan Lipinski, Shaji Menon, Seda Tierney, Carolyn Wilhelm,**  
**(Chairs: Bernadette Richards, Shubhika Srivastava)**

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In 2019 SOPE provided its first webinar in conjunction with the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). This inaugural webinar by Bernadette Richards, FASE, RDCS, Technical Director, Echo Lab at Nationwide Children’s Hospital was titled “Shoptalk: Imaging the ACHD patient’. **There were over 1000 attendees with very positive feedback including request for more congenital webinars!**



Our second very successful live webinar took place on May 29, 2020. Mishella Perez BS, RDMS, RDCS, sonographer educator, Scripps Health San Diego presented “Fetal Echocardiography: Protocol and Technique.” This webinar followed by a Q&A session included AIUM practice parameters for the performance of fetal echocardiography and discussed how to optimize techniques to improve screening for congenital heart disease.



The society plans to continue these CME opportunities in coordination with IAC going forward. Please let us know which topics you would enjoy most by connecting with us by email or on social media by emailing Bernadette at [Bernadette.Richards@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:Bernadette.Richards@nationwidechildrens.org) or Shubhi at [Shubhika.srivastava@nemours.org](mailto:Shubhika.srivastava@nemours.org)

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**Early Career Development Subcommittee: Tracy Boge, Mary Donofrio, Lauren McCann, Andrew Rodenbarger**  
**(Chairs: Bernadette Richards, Tim Slesnick)**

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The Early Career Development subcommittee seeks to provide a range of resources for junior physicians and sonographers to help launch their careers in echocardiography. Our initial venture will pair mentors and mentees with similar interests / goals together to allow individualized guidance. Interested individuals can sign up on our website, beginning at the time of our Virtual Symposium on August 6, 2020. Future plans include webinars with expert panels on a range of topics, including job search, CV composition, and building a research career in imaging.

Please contact Bernadette at [Bernadette.Richards@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:Bernadette.Richards@nationwidechildrens.org) or Tim at [SlesnickT@kidsheart.com](mailto:SlesnickT@kidsheart.com) with any ideas you have for the Early Career Development subcommittee.

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**Communications Subcommittee: Janet Barnes, Jeff Dayton, Elena Kwon, Melissa Wasserman**  
**(Chair: Beth Printz)**

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The Communications Subcommittee plans to distribute newsletters quarterly. We will also be working on increasing SOPE’s social media presence, as well as helping Tara Foy at FirstPoint management to revise our website. Please reach out to Beth Printz at [bprintz@rchsd.org](mailto:bprintz@rchsd.org) with any suggestions you may have!

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Visit our Website (under revision): [www.sopeonline.org](http://www.sopeonline.org)

Twitter: @SOPedsEcho

Facebook: Society of Pediatric Echocardiography



## Other Messages

### COVID -19 Message from IAC:

**IAC thanks the SOPE membership for efforts to provide safe, quality care for your patients during this very stressful period. IAC makes available a COVID -19 resource page on our websites referencing societal guidance for health care professionals. The COVID -19 resource page can be accessed at: <https://www.intersocietal.org/iac/covid19.htm>**

Have a program or business you'd like to advertise?

Consider helping to support SOPE by advertising in this newsletter, sponsoring a webinar, or posting on our website. Rates: \$1000 for full page, \$500 for half page in newsletter

**Please contact Tara Foy at [tfoy@FirstPointResources.com](mailto:tfoy@FirstPointResources.com) or call the SOPE Office at 919-863-9488 for more information**

### *New Benefit of SOPE Membership – Advertising Positions!*

**Do you have a 4<sup>th</sup> year imaging fellowship position, sonographer position, or cardiology faculty position you'd like to advertise?**

**We will post it in the SOPE newsletter and send an e-blast to SOPE membership at no additional cost!**

**Please contact Tara Foy at [tfoy@FirstPointResources.com](mailto:tfoy@FirstPointResources.com)**



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