



Society of Pediatric Echocardiography Quarterly Newsletter

www.sopeonline.org

Winter 2022

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

Message from SOPE President, Tim Slesnick MD and Co-Chair, Bernadette Richards, RDCS

As we pass the half way point on this academic year, we are excited at the continued progress that our SOPE community has made over the last 6 months. Our monthly Society of Pediatric Echo Education Dates (SPEED) have been very well



attended, with a range of topics from Strain imaging, COVID-19 and the Heart, Targeted Neonatal Echo, and more. Our website has received a makeover, and we are adding new content under our Repository that we hope will serve as helpful references for many labs. We co-hosted an Echo Lab Director's meeting in early December along with the ASE Pediatric Council which focused on Sonographer workforce issues as well as burn-out. To those ends, we have formed a new Subcommittee, Pediatric Echo Advocacy and Sonographer Education (PEASE), that will focus on several of these areas both short and long-term.

Looking forward, we have several upcoming dates for you to mark on your calendars. This month's SPEED webinar will be Drs. Colan and Srivastava discussing Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 8 – 8:30 PM EST). We are co-hosting a webinar entitled, "Academic promotion for Imagers: Early steps to prep for success" along with the SCMR (Wednesday, January 19, 2022 from 7-8 EST). Our inaugural "Membership Meeting" will be a forum for you, our members, to actively engage the SOPE Board and Sub-committees to learn about ongoing changes and new opportunities within the Society (Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 7:30-8:30 EST). We hope that this provides a better sense of continuity with the Society, rather than our old model of relying solely on our annual Symposium as the only full membership event. Finally, we are tentatively planning (cont. pg 2)



Inside this issue

SOPE Executive Board.....	2
SOPE Events.....	3
Subcommittee Updates	5-6
On My Days Off.....	7
Spotlights.....	8-9
SOPE Social Media Links	8

Special points of interest

- What's happening on our SOPE Subcommittees? Check out pages 5 and 6
- Get to know our executive leaders, Tim Slesnick and Bernadette Richards spotlighted on pages 8 and 9
- What does Leo do on his days off? Page 7
- Career Opportunities! Page 6

Message from SOPE President (cont.)

for our Annual Symposium to be held on the Friday evening of the ASE Scientific Sessions, June 10, 2022. Our topic this year will be “Waves of the Future”. Although the forum has not been decided yet (virtual vs in person), we hope to make it our most interactive symposium to date, regardless of the venue. More details will be available in the next month or two, but please mark your calendars and we hope to be able to see everyone in person this year.

If you did not receive emails about any of these exciting events, please reach out to Tara Foy (tfoy@firstpointresources.com) and she can forward you the registration and meeting links. We will also be asking for nominations for both our Subcommittees and the Secretary position on our Executive Team this spring, so if you or one of your colleagues is interested in getting more involved with SOPE, please let us know. We look forward to a great start to 2022!

Sincerely,

Bernadette and Tim

Bernadette Richards, RDCS, FASE

Tim Slesnick, MD, FASE

SOPE Executive Board Members

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FirstPoint Management Resources

SOPE Member Opportunities

Academic Promotion for Imagers



Society of Pediatric Echocardiography

Academic Promotion for Imagers: Early Steps to Prep for Success

January 19, 2022
7pm EST

Speaker

Kan Hor, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Nationwide Children's Hospital

Lorna Browne, MD
Professor of Radiology
Children's Hospital Colorado

Panelists

Julie Glickstein, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Columbia University / Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital

Jimmy Lu, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
University of Michigan

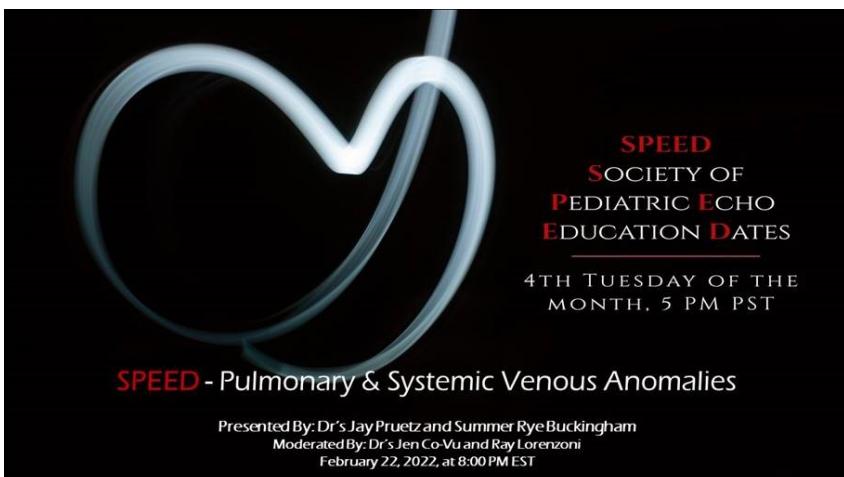
Ritu Sachdeva, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Emory University School of Medicine

FREE one-hour webinar, panel discussion, and Q&A.
The session will be recorded and available through SCMR and SOPE.

The event can be useful for pediatric non-invasive imagers at all levels of career, including fellows-in-training. This live webinar will be on **January 19, 2022 from 7-8pm EST**.

A recording of this past event will be posted in the SOPE online library SOON!

January SPEED



SPEED
SOCIETY OF
PEDIATRIC ECHO
EDUCATION DATES

4TH TUESDAY OF THE
MONTH, 5 PM PST

SPEED - Pulmonary & Systemic Venous Anomalies

Presented By: Dr's Jay Pruetz and Summer Rye Buckingham
Moderated By: Dr's Jen Co-Vu and Ray Lorenzoni
February 22, 2022, at 8:00 PM EST

SPEED (Society of Pediatric Echo Education Dates) occurs every 4th Tuesday of the month. This month SPEED presents: Pulmonary and Systemic Venous Anomalies Presented By: Dr's Jay Pruetz and Summer Rye Buckingham on **February 22 at 8 pm EST**.

Inaugural SOPE Membership Meeting

The Society of Pediatric Echocardiography, SOPE, announces our inaugural membership meeting regarding the state of the society. This meeting will be open to 2020, 2021, and 2022 members of SOPE.

DATE and TIME:

February 10, 2022

7:30-8:30 pm EST

Contact Tara Foy if you have not received an email with the Zoom link for this meeting
tfoy@FirstPointResources.com

Thank you to all who responded to the SOPE annual survey sent out in December – results will be reviewed at the upcoming membership meeting on February 10th

American Society of Echocardiography

ASE2022

H Y B R I D

SOUND WAVES IN SEATTLE:
CONNECTING THE WORLD

June 10-13, 2022
Seattle, WA

33rd Annual Scientific Sessions • Seattle Convention Center

#ASE2022 • ASEScientificSessions.org



2022 Call for Science!

Abstract submission is open, and the deadline for submission and editing is February 9. Abstracts will be accepted for consideration in the following categories:

Clinical Cases

Original Science—Disease/Pathology-based

Original Science—Technique/Procedure-based

[2022 Call for Science | The American Society of Echocardiography - Scientific Sessions \(asescientificsessions.org\)](#)

Registration is OPEN!

[| The American Society of Echocardiography - Scientific Sessions \(asescientificsessions.org\)](#)

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

We are tentatively planning for our **Annual SOPE Symposium** to be held on the Friday evening of the ASE Scientific Sessions, June 10, 2022. Our topic this year will be “Waves of the Future”.

So, save the date for an evening of interactive fun and learning!

*Free for SOPE members!
Join or renew your membership
at:
[https://
membership.sopeonline.org/](https://membership.sopeonline.org/)*

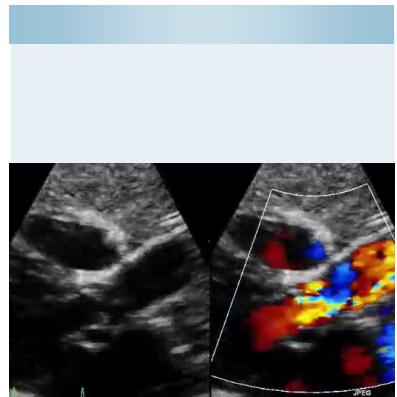
SOPE Symposium

Early Career Development Subcommittee News

On January 19, 2022, the early career subcommittee co-sponsored a live webinar with the early career subcommittee of the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR) pediatric section to great interest. The webinar was titled “Academic Promotion for Imagers: Early Steps to Prep for Success” and consisted of an overview of the promotion process from Dr. Kan Hor (from Nationwide Children’s Hospital) and a panel question/answer session with cardiologists and radiologists around the United States. Our panelists (Drs. Lorna Brown, Julie Glickstein, Jimmy Lu, and Ritu Sachdeva) had a robust discussion answering questions from the audience and moderators. A recording will be available on the member section of the SOPE website in the near future. After requests from both panelists and audience members, a future webinar to build on topics discussed is now in the planning stages.

Further, our subcommittee is planning a series of webinars on the pillars of career building, with the goal of expanding upon our discussion with Dr. Julie Glickstein from last summer. We will have a series of webinars for both sonographers and physicians with topics ranging from work/life balance, research, program building, career advancement, and clinical work. More information and the date of our first in the series will be coming out soon!

Subcommittee members: Bernadette Richards, RDCS (co-chair), Andrew Rodenbarger, MD (co-chair), Mary Donofrio, MD, Lauren McCann, RDCS, Mike DiLorenzo, MD, and Julie Glickstein, MD.



SOPE Online Library

The SOPE Library is birthed from the Education Subcommittee as a repository to house educational materials related to the Pediatric Echocardiography community. The Education Subcommittee has vetted each of the documents housed within the library. We hope this collection of materials, books and media aide in the development of careers and to broaden the scope of knowledge of our community. The library is available to SOPE members:

[SOPE Library | SOPE
\(sopeonline.org\)](http://sopeonline.org)

Education Subcommittee News

The Education Subcommittee activities include monthly meetings of the committee on the first Tuesday of the month, and monthly educational webinars. These monthly webinars - **Society of Pediatric Echocardiography Education Dates (SPEED)** - occur on the fourth Tuesday of the month 5:00-5:30 pm PT, and have been well received. Topics include Myocardial Strain Imaging, COVID and the Heart, Targeted Neonatal Echocardiography. The topic for January is Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (see page 3). All SPEED talks are loaded to the SOPE website under the Library tab.

The Education Subcommittee has new co-chairs and has expanded their team with a fellow and another sonographer. **Subcommittee Co-Chairs:**

Seda Tierney, MD; and Joan Lipinski,
MHS, RDCS; **Subcommittee Members**
Carolyn Wilhelm, MD; Shaji Menon, MD;
Jen Co-Vu, MD; Shubhi Srivastava, MD;
Neha Soni-Patel, RDCS; Ray Lorenzoni,
MD; and Tara Foy.



Seda Tierney, MD



Joan Lipinski, RDCS

Career Opportunities:

- ◆ Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN is seeking a Pediatric Cardiac Sonographer. For details click here: [12f16b_95cc79b6b6c3420e9a3cc656e3090ef2.pdf\(sopeonline.org\)](https://12f16b_95cc79b6b6c3420e9a3cc656e3090ef2.pdf(sopeonline.org))

- ◆ University of Florida Health in Jacksonville, FL is seeking a full time Pediatric Echo Tech. For details click here: <https://ufjaxobs.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/5871>

Do you have a Job Posting you would like advertised in this newsletter and on the SOPE website? It is FREE for SOPE members to advertise. For details follow this link [Career Center | SOPE \(sopeonline.org\)](https://sopeonline.org/career-center), or contact Tara Foy at tfoy@firstpointresources.com To get your jobs listed today!



Communications Subcommittee Update

The Communications Subcommittee has increased SOPE's social media presence. Follow us on Facebook (Society of Pediatric Echo), Twitter @SOPedsEcho, Instagram, and LinkedIn (links can be found on page 10) We have also helped Tara Foy at FirstPoint Management revise and update our website.

We plan to have our quarterly newsletter include news of up-

coming events, SOPE subcommittee work, and news about our colleagues in pediatric echo. So if you have events you would like to share, or news about something great your team is working on, please reach out to any of our Communications team: Jen Co-Vu, Janet Barnes, Jeff Dayton, Elena Kwon, Melissa Wasserman, Sujatha Buddhe, and Beth Printz.

Echo Collaborative Subcommittee Update

The Echo Collaborative Subcommittee has been working on a large multicenter quality improvement study. They are currently hard at work preparing to submit an abstract for ASE titled: Rationale and Design of the First Multicenter Pediatric Echocardiography Quality Improvement Collaborative: Decreasing Pre-operative Imaging Discrepancies in Patients prior to Repair of Congenital Heart Defects.

From the first draft of the abstract Shoba Natarajan shared —

Background for this study: Echocardiography (echo) is the mainstay in the preoperative diagnosis of congenital heart disease (CHD). Inaccurate or incomplete diagnostic imaging makes it challenging for the surgeon to navigate the surgical repair and can result in multiple cardiopulmonary bypass runs, other unexpected complications and mortality. Echo laboratories around the country have different diagnostic evaluations resulting in variable error rates. Under the auspices of the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography we developed the first multi-center pediatric echo quality improvement collab-

orative. Our first project will be to reduce preoperative imaging discrepancies. We present the methods used to establish this initiative.

Participants in this study are:

Denver: Pei-Ni Jone, Carlie Brewer RDCS
Texas: Aura A. Sanchez Mejia, MD, Hasti Sanandajifar, DO, Deidra Ansah, MD, Anitha Parthiban, MD

Northwell: Preeta Dhanantwari, MD, Elena Kwon, MD, Hari Rajagopal, MD
CHOP: Shobha Natarajan (1st author), Kasey Chaszczewski (now at Wisconsin, 2nd author), Meryl Cohen (last author), Rob Olsen

Mt. Sinai: Kenan W.D. Stern, MD) and Grace Kong, MD

Stanford: Meaghan Beattie, Seda Tierney

Atlanta: Ritu Sachdeva, Joan Lipinski

Nemours: Shubhi Srivastava, Matt

Campbell, Mya , Carol Prosepéro

MUSC: Carolyn Taylor, Tammy Churchill

Michigan: Sowmya Balasubramanian

Kansas City: Nitan Madhan, Jennifer Nelson, CCRC | Clinical Trials Coordinator

Nationwide Childrens (Columbus): Katherine Connell

Vanderbilt: David Parra

Wisconsin: Kasey Chaszczewski

On My Days Off...

Featuring: Dr. Leo Lopez

By : Jennifer Co-Vu

"All work and no play makes Jack/Jill a dull boy/girl" – we've all heard this timeless saying about working without rest can make one become bored and boring. In an era where burnout and finding wellness have become central to our lives in the medical field, this has inspired us in the SOPE communications committee to start this new segment in our newsletter highlighting the hidden (or not so hidden) talents and hobbies of our fellow imagers.

When the word "talent" is heard, one of the most talented imagers that come to mind is Dr. Leo Lopez who is our feature in this inaugural *On My Days Off* article. Dr. Lopez, or "Leo" as his friends and colleagues call him, is currently a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford and is the Medical Director Echocardiography at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford. Leo talks about his hobbies and talents outside of being one of the respected imagers in our field in this exclusive *On My Day Off* Q & A.

What are your talents/hobbies outside of medicine?

I sing and dance, and I also like to perform in musicals, mostly as part of local community theaters. Over the last 10 years or so, I have been singing with the Baby Blue Sound Collective, which is a band composed of pediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, nurses, and other medical professionals from all over the world. We usually perform in conjunction with some big meeting, like the World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, especially since many of the band members are also usually speakers at the

meetings. And since I have moved to the Bay area, I have started doing hip hop dance classes, with which I am now totally obsessed. The pandemic actually helped me build up my confidence in doing hip hop, since the absence of traveling to



conferences allowed me to take hip hop dance classes more consistently by Zoom or as outdoor classes.

When did you start your hobbies/talents?

I have been doing musical theater since high school and managed to keep it up in college and in medical school. I took a hiatus from acting during residency and fellowship, though I did continue to sing in choruses and occasionally dance with some local jazz dance companies during this time.



What intrigued you about your hobbies/talents in particular?

Performing is all about connection, communication, and authenticity. The best actors are completely present in the moment and totally connected to their fellow actors and to the audience. I actually find these skills to be tremendously valuable in my life as a physician. I love that this is completely common ground in my two biggest passions.

When do you find time for your hobbies amid your busy schedule as an imager?

We all make time for the things that we love, whether it's our family or our friends or an activity that allows for a recharge or even a reboot. It's all about recognizing how important all of these activities are in the context of our professional life. As I said, I am a better doctor because of all of the lessons I have learned as a dancer and as an actor.

Do these creative outlets help you relax/unwind, and if so, how?

Totally! Even when I am exhausted, particularly during production week of a show, there is a recharging that occurs which then helps me relax into my daily life at work. The shifting of realities that happens when you perform can also be a bit of an escape in addition to being an adventure. For these reasons, I do get a recharge and reboot at work when I do these other things. Plus I

have gotten several of my colleagues to start listening to Broadway tunes in the Echo Lab!



Board Member Spotlight - Tim Slesnick, MD

Tim Slesnick, MD, has been serving as President of SOPE since last June. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and works for Emory University School of Medicine, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Sibley Heart Center Cardiology. He is currently on the Program Committee for the SCMR Scientific Sessions and is also the Chair of the CME committee for ASE. He feels fortunate to wear a number of different hats within overlapping societies because this can assure that we are all on the same page in terms of initiatives and goals.

"I was exposed to a myriad of tremendous mentors and role models in Pediatric Cardiology which made my decision to pursue this path very easy"

What is your latest passion?

Personally: Molly and I have recently become part of the Peloton community / army / mob. She has always enjoyed spin, but it is a new activity for me. Great way to start the day with a quick 30 minute ride before work!

On the professional side, imaging innovation continues to be my primary focus and passion. There are several new technological developments in both Echo and CMR that I'm very excited to be working on. I won't go into details in order to keep our Newsletter free of vendor bias, but there are a lot of promising new techniques that everyone will begin to see in the near future that we are excited to be part of their development.

Do you have kids/family you'd like to tell us about?

My wife, Molly, and I have been married for nearly a decade now. She's definitely both my strongest supporter and my voice of reason when I need a sounding board for a difficult problem. We have two incredible kids. Avery, who is 6, and Graham, who is 3. I tell everyone they are little monsters, but in reality they are both amazingly good kids. Avery is our compassionate, thoughtful, budding artist, while Graham is a chatterbox who delights in running head first and

smashing into anything he can knock down.

What do you do to relax?

I love to fish. All types of fishing, from deep sea on vacation, to lake fishing off my in-laws pontoon boat on Lake Hartwell, to fly-fishing in the Chattahoochee river outside Atlanta. I find it both relaxing and exhilarating!



How did you choose ped cardiology (or how did it choose you?)

For me, Pediatric Cardiology is ideally located at the intersection of patient centered care, complex physiology, and imaging. I was a math major in college, and love both numbers and logic. I went to Baylor College of Medicine for medical school, and I fell in love with imaging. I debated going into Radiology, but realized I would miss the face to face patient contact. I was also fortunate enough that Baylor happened to be one of the premier Pediatric Cardiology training programs in the country (not why I selected it for Medical School, but fate smiled upon me). I was exposed to a myriad of tremendous mentors and role models in Pediatric Cardiology which

made my decision to pursue this path very easy. Then, when I moved to Atlanta, I had the opportunity to begin collaborations with several biomedical engineering labs at Georgia Tech, where we leverage expertise far beyond what simple clinicians like myself possess. I feel very lucky to have a job that I love, and each day I come to work is an opportunity to change

the life of a child for the better. What more could any of us ask for?



Board Member Spotlight - Bernadette Richards, RDCS

Bernadette Richards has been serving as Co-Chair of our SOPE Executive Board since last June. She is currently on the IAC Echo-cardiography Board of Directors as a representative for the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography and on the Executive Committee for the Targeted Neonatal Echo Special Interest Group for ASE. These roles allow her to advocate for initiatives important to the field of pediatric echocardiography.

My first sonography position was in an adult echo lab at the University of Florida-Jacksonville. Without any pediatric training we were occasionally asked to “rule out CHD” on patients in the NICU. I was so nervous and would wait for the pediatric cardiologist to come on site to read the echo and then sit with him and attempt to learn about pediatric echo. After a year of this routine, I transitioned into a pediatric echo position at the local Children’s Hospital. My next pediatric echo position at Nationwide Children’s Hospital brought me back to my home state of Ohio .

The happiest moments in my life are spent with my children ...”

I am excited to collaborate with SOPE members to further develop and refine the field of pediatric sonography!



The happiest moments in my life are spent with my children, Dean (16) and Vivian (14) . The three of us spend a lot of time in local, state and national parks hiking, exploring and taking in nature's beauty. My favorite stress relieving activities include hiking, weightlifting, reading and home renovation. Three years ago I purchased a great home which needed a complete update. I am finished with the first floor, exterior and basement and hoping to finish the second floor this year .

My current professional passions include sonographer advocacy related to professional development, pediatric echo education program development and injury prevention.



New Look for SOPE Website

Who Are We?

Since its formation in 1975, the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography (SOPE) has provided a forum for education, collaboration, and networking to the community of pediatric and adult cardiologists, fellows, and sonographers with a specific interest in the practice of pediatric and congenital echocardiography.

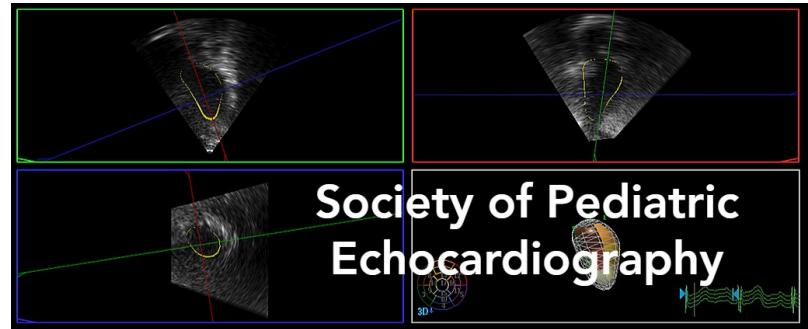
SOPE is an independent organization whose mission is to maintain and promote excellence in the echocardiographic examination of every fetus, infant, child, and adolescent as well as the adult with congenital heart disease. In addition, SOPE is committed to optimizing the training of pediatric echocardiographers and sonographers, having participated in the development of guidelines and standards for the nomenclature of cardiac septal structures as well as physician training in pediatric, fetal, and transesophageal echocardiography.

In collaboration with the American Society of Echocardiography, the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, and the IAC Echocardiography, SOPE assists in the establishment and promotion of universal standards for the nomenclature and orientation of two-dimensional transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography as well as contrast and fetal echocardiography.



Society of Pediatric
Echocardiography

www.sopeonline.org



Have you visited the Society of Pediatric Echo's Website lately? It has a new sleek look with easy links to what you need to know.

Follow the tabs at the top to join or renew your membership, read the latest news, check out the library (!), and look for upcoming events, or post a job!

Did you know that as a SOPE member you can add a FREE job posting?

SOPE | Society of Pediatric Echocardiography (sopeonline.org)



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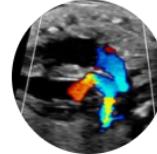
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