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Heart Failure Society News

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HFSA 2006 Heart Failure Practice Guideline Released

The HFSA 2006 Comprehensive Heart Failure Practice Guideline was released shortly after the conclusion of Heart Failure Awareness Week as an e-publication in the February issue of the *Journal of Cardiac Failure*. The Executive Summary was included in the February issue of the *Journal of Cardiac Failure*. Both the Executive Summary and the full-text version are available on the HFSA website, www.hfsa.org, where they can be downloaded as pdf files. The search capabilities of the online version are being expanded and will be available soon.

The guideline is divided into sixteen sections with a total of 191 recommendations. The sections are:

1: Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive Heart Failure Practice Guideline

- 2: Conceptualization and Working Definition of Heart Failure
- 3: Prevention of Ventricular Remodeling, Cardiac Dysfunction, and Heart Failure
- 4: Evaluation of Patients with Ventricular Dysfunction and Heart Failure
- 5: Management of Asymptomatic Patients with Reduced LVEF
- 6: Nonpharmacologic Management and Health Care Maintenance
- 7: Patients with LV Systolic Dysfunction
- 8: Disease Management in Heart Failure
- 9: Electrophysiologic Management and the Use of Devices
- 10: Surgical Approaches to the Treatment of Heart Failure

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Seattle Meeting Will Have New Features

In addition to being in Seattle for the first time, the 10th Annual Scientific Meeting of the HFSA will feature some changes from previous meetings.

The late afternoon moderated poster sessions will be replaced by two poster highlight sessions, 12:30-1:30 PM on Monday and Tuesday. One session will focus on the physiology of heart failure and the other will be on remodeling. Brief presentations will be followed by discussion. These sessions are designed to stimulate interest and invite attendees to visit the posters during the regularly-scheduled poster sessions Monday and Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:00 PM.

New this year: Clinical Trial Row. Visit Clinical Trial Row in the Exhibit Hall to learn more about heart failure drug or device clinical trials that are in the recruitment or follow-up phase of the trial.



Find out how to become a center, what are the inclusion/exclusion criteria to participate, who is participating in the trial, who is sponsoring the trial, what are the reporting requirements, etc.

The information will be posted on a 4 x 8 poster board and staff may be available to answer your questions. Detail information about Clinical Trial Row is available on the www.hfsa.org (annual scientific meeting) web site.

Finally, attendees can say good bye to the electronic swipe cards used to track attendance at previous meetings. This year all meeting room doors will be electronically "wrapped" so that attendee's entrance and departure will be recorded automatically from a microchip embedded in their name badge. This will help us better collect information for CME certificates as well as monitor session attendance.

HFSA 2006 Heart Failure Practice Guideline Released*continued from page 1*

- 11: Heart Failure and Preserved LVEF
- 12: Acute Decompensated Heart Failure
- 13: Heart Failure in the Setting of Ischemic Heart Disease
- 14: Hypertension and Heart Failure
- 15: Heart Failure in Special Populations
- 16: Myocarditis: Current Treatment

Slides of the guidelines have been developed, and work is underway on a core set of 20-30 slides focusing on key recommendations with supporting data. Slides will be available at the HFSA website, www.hfssa.org, soon.

A pocket version of the guideline is under development and will be available later this summer. All meeting attendees and HFSA members will receive a copy.

A process for updating the guideline is being developed so that the HFSA can update and modify the guideline as needed to make this a true living document.

The comprehensive guideline was developed by the HFSA Guideline Committee, co-chaired by Kirkwood F. Adams and JoAnn Lindenfeld. The Executive Council participated in the review process. Consensus was reached following debate and discussion of the areas covered in the final document. Thank you to all who contributed their time, expertise, and clinical experience in the development of this document, which reflects the Society's commitment to not only extending knowledge about heart failure, but also improving clinical practice and patient outcomes.

Houston Symposium Focuses on Special Populations, Guidelines

"Heart Failure 2006: Update for the Primary Care Physician," was held February 11, 2006, at the Houstonian Hotel in Houston, Texas. This CME program emphasized issues in the treatment of special populations and the new HFSA practice guideline. Other topics included prevention, detection, device therapy, patient management, and the role of the primary care physician. Case studies involved a patient at high risk for heart failure and a patient with decompensated heart failure.



Chaired by Barry H. Greenberg (San Diego, CA), co-chaired by Douglas L. Mann (Houston, TX) and Frank W. Smart (Houston, TX), the program was the fifth annual HFSA symposia for primary care health care professionals. Previous meetings have been held in San Diego, New Orleans, Dallas, and Sacramento. Presentations at the symposium are used to develop CDs that are sent to family physicians and internists and a web cast that is available on the HFSA website. Both are CME activities.

Faculty at this year's program included, in addition to Drs. Greenberg, Mann, and Smart, Biykem Bozkurt (Houston,

TX), Sandra B. Dunbar (Atlanta, GA), Michelle L. Edwards (Houston, TX), Gary S. Francis (Cleveland, OH), Theodore G. Ganiats (San Diego, CA), Edward P. Havranek (Denver, CO), JoAnn Lindenfeld (Denver, CO), Mandeep R. Mehra (Baltimore, MD), Alan B. Miller (Jacksonville, FL), Ileana L. Piña (Cleveland, OH), John R. Teerlink (San Francisco, CA), and Clyde W. Yancy (Dallas, TX).

Discussion during the meeting was spirited, and evaluations of the presentations were very positive. As always, participants appreciated the clinical focus of the meeting, with practice recommendations supported by data from clinical trials. The case discussions provided an additional opportunity to tie presentations to the realities of clinical practice.

Support for the symposium is provided by funds from the Heart Failure Awareness Roundtable, which supports activities that raise public and professional awareness about heart failure. Members of the 2006 HF Awareness Roundtable are Abbott Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline, Guidant Foundation, Medtronic Inc., and St. Jude Medical.

Radio Tour:

The HFSA's 2006 Guideline was launched on February 16, 2006 in conjunction with the National Heart Failure Awareness Week. On Friday, February 10, Drs. Barry Greenberg and Ileana Piña participated in a national radio media tour in which 13 stations participated with live or taped interviews on heart failure and the new guideline. Video interviews with Drs. Gary Francis and Marvin Konstam were taped and distributed to television stations throughout the country along with related footage. A press release announcing the guideline was sent to national news and medical trade publications. Drs. Greenberg and Mandeep Mehra spoke with interested journalists, answering questions and providing detailed information on therapies to treat heart failure.

Resulting news coverage included seven taped radio broadcasts and two live radio broadcasts, 212 original TV clips, 8 print articles, 5 online articles, and more than 215 online press release postings. The 45-second video interview and footage package was broadcast 344 times to an estimated audience of 45,050,000.

Minneapolis VA Focuses Awareness on Nutrition and Exercise

The Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center continued its tradition of hosting events during Heart Failure Awareness Week with a program on nutrition and exercise for approximately 100 patients, guests, and staff. The program, held on February 14, featured presentations by Dr. Gordon Pierpont (Minneapolis, MN) and Susan Ziesche, RN (Minneapolis, MN), both HFSA members. The program was followed by a heart healthy luncheon.



Susan Ziesche, RN answering questions at Minneapolis VA Program

Heart Failure Specialists: The Next Generation

The third annual heart failure cardiology fellows conference, "Establishing a Career in Heart Failure", was held January 20-22, 2006 at Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort and Club, Aventura, FL. All fellows were first-time attendees and represented 49 cardiology training programs from 23 states, Canada and the District of Columbia.

This one-day conference is designed to introduce cardiology fellows in training to the vast array of career options in heart failure. It also provides an opportunity to interact with national and international thought leaders in heart failure. State-of-the-art updates, small group discussions and informal one-on-one time are provided to enlighten fellows on various career paths in clinical investigation, basic science, population biology, and clinical practice in heart failure.

Ample time was set aside for fellows and faculty members to spend time together in small group settings discussing their experiences both professionally and personally as a heart failure specialist. The HFSA has a commitment to dedicate time and resources to support cardiology fellows interested in heart failure as a career path.

Clyde Yancy, Program chair, was joined by national/ international thought leaders in the field of heart failure: John Chin, Jay N. Cohn, Thomas Force, Gary S. Francis, Barry H. Greenberg, Sharon A. Hunt, Mariell L. Jessup, Marvin A. Konstam, Spencer H. Kubo, Barry M. Massie, Mandeep R. Mehra, Ileana L. Piña, Lynne Warner Stevenson and William Stevenson.

The enthusiastic response from the 2005 conference was echoed in the evaluations from the 2006 meeting. Comments such as the following were typical:

"The most helpful part for me was the close interaction with faculty. I feel I got a lot more out of these sessions as compared to large annual scientific meetings."

"Interaction with faculty: lectures are geared toward fellows with excellent topics that aren't given anywhere else."

"Faculty were awesome, very helpful and knowledgeable. The interaction was well worth the trip."

Support for this conference was provided by Abbott Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline, Medtronic Inc., Otsuka America, and Scios Inc.

SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Kings County Hospital Collaborate on Series of Heart Failure Programs

Brooklyn, New York, was the site of a series of programs spanning February 13-17, 2006, in recognition of Heart Failure Awareness Week. Cooperating in the development and presentation of the programs were the Divisions of Cardiovascular Medicine and Departments of Nursing at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn.

The overall strategy was to incorporate presentations on heart failure into the major conferences for cardiology, family medicine, and internal medicine. Attendance records were broken at all three conferences, and expectations were exceeded at the inaugural Nursing Grand Rounds program at Kings County Hospital Center.

The opening session was a presentation on February 13 at Invasive Cardiology Grand Rounds at SUNY Downstate on "Mitral Valve Surgery in Systolic Heart Failure: Evidence of Benefit?" February 14 featured an all-day health fair at SUNY Downstate and a combined clinic and health fair at Kings County on "Increasing Awareness of the Risk of Heart Failure in Diabetic Patients."



From left to right: Judith Mitchell, MD, Cardiovascular Medicine; Luther Clark, MD, Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine; Debra Carey, Chief Executive Officer; Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; Ivan Lisnitzer, Executive Vice President; Michael Harrell, AVP Community & Government Relations; and Meriam Caboral, Coordinator Heart Failure Program

February 15 was an active day at both locations. SUNY Downstate featured presentations in Family Practice, Nursing, and Cardiology Grand Rounds, including a presentation on diastolic heart failure by Ileana Piña (Cleveland, OH). At Kings County there were fairs at both the medicine and cardiology clinics focusing on the risks of heart failure in patients with diabetes.

Stuart Katz (New Haven, CT) gave a presentation on the new heart failure guidelines at SUNY's Medicine Grand Rounds on February

16, while activities at Kings County continued with Nursing Grand Rounds, including Lorraine Evangelista (Los Angeles, CA); a diabetes clinic fair, and education on heart failure guidelines. Keith Ferdinand (New Orleans, LA) wrapped up activities on February 17 with Cardiology Grand Rounds, addressing "Heart Failure and the Metabolic Syndrome."

The extensive program was chaired by Meriam Caboral (Brooklyn, NY) and co-chaired by Judith E. Mitchell (New York, NY). Support was provided by Astellas, Scios, Vascular Biology Working Group (MedCon), and the Visiting Nurse Services of New York.

Demand for Patient Education Modules Continues

Due to continued interest in the HFSA patient education modules, some of the modules have recently been reprinted. Module 3, "Heart Failure Medicines," has been updated to reflect the new treatment option of hydralazine-isosorbide dinitrate.

The modules are available online at HFSA's website for professionals, www.hfsa.org, and on the website for the patients and families, www.abouthf.org. Modules can be downloaded or individuals can leave their name and address to receive a complimentary copy. Multiple copies can be purchased for a modest fee (see order form on www.abouthf.org). The Nursing Committee was instrumental in developing these patient education modules.



Providence Hospital Continues Tradition of Heart Failure Education

Under the banner of a proclamation by Alabama governor Riley declaring February 12-18 Heart Failure Awareness Week in Alabama, the Providence Hospital in Mobile, Alabama, conducted an array of educational activities.

Dr. Charles Parrott, Medical Director of the Heart Failure Clinic at Providence Hospital gave a dinner presentation supported by Medtronic called, "All about Heart Failure." Dr. Paul Sobotka gave a dinner presentation for physicians with the intriguing title, "The Last Standing Dinosaur of Heart Failure: Congestion Therapy." His presentation was supported by CHF Solutions.

Cheryl Quale, RN, Director of the Heart Failure Clinic at Providence, teamed with Roma DiRienzo, RN, on a heart failure update for the Mobile University Sigma Theta Tau Chapter and the Providence Hospital operating room nursing staff. Ms. Quale also gave a presentation on "Heart Failure Core Measures: Achieving a Plus, a Minus, or a Check."

Providence extended its education to the public with a free screening for Heart Failure Clinic patients that included a BNP assay, 3D echocardiogram, and impedance cardiography. The activity was supported by Biosite.

Jacksonville Uses Multifaceted Approach to Heart Failure Education

Spearheaded by Alan B. Miller, Professor of Medicine at the University of Florida in Jacksonville, a number of different heart failure activities were presented for professionals and the public in the Jacksonville, Florida area during Heart Failure Awareness Week. A dinner program February 13 attracted 43 physicians to a multidisciplinary discussion of two heart failure cases. The next day, another faculty member gave a presentation to the JCA. On February 15 a taped television program focused on a heart failure patient and the patient's disease management nurse. Two days later the program's cardiac nutritionist and physician's assistant gave a lunch program at a local YMCA. Evaluations were uniformly excellent.

Mobile Program Attracts 175 Nurses

Kenneth Burnham of Cardiology Associates in Mobile, Alabama, gave a presentation on the new HFSA guideline for the treatment of acute heart failure as part of a program for nurses organized by Elizabeth Leffard, Ashley Anders, and Ginger Rouse. The meeting was sponsored by the Heart Failure Clinic at Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center in Mobile, and it attracted nurses from southern Alabama, Mississippi, and northern Florida. The program also addressed pathophysiology, sleep disturbances, anemia, common comorbid metabolic derangements, CRT and CRT-D, diuretics and diuretic resistance, ultrafiltration, and the patient's perspective.

Heart Failure Society
of America

10TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

September 10 - 13, 2006



Washington State Convention & Trade Center
Seattle, Washington

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