

# Third International Conference on Cardiomyopathy in Children - May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

By Gina M. Peattie, MPA; Lisa Yue

The Third International Scientific Conference on Cardiomyopathy in Children took place on May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> in Bethesda, MD and brought together more than 60 leading researchers and clinicians to exchange ideas and discuss research direction on cardiomyopathies in children. Hosted by the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation (CCF) and co-chaired by Steven Lipshultz, MD of Wayne State University School of Medicine and James Wilkinson, MD, MPH of Children's Hospital of Michigan, the conference covered a wide range of topics on cardiomyopathy, heart failure and heart transplantation in children.



From left to right: Drs. Stephanie Ware (Indiana University School of Medicine), Daniel Bernstein (Stanford University), Paul Kantor (Stollery Children's Hospital), and Steven Webber (Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt) during a panel discussion on Advances in Personalized Medicine Relevant to Pediatric Cardiomyopathy and Heart Transplant.



Dr. Jeffrey Towbin, Chair of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Research at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, presenting on left ventricular non-compaction.



CCF Founder and Executive Director, Lisa Yue, with Conference Chairperson, Dr. Steven Lipshultz, Chair of Pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

With the goal of creating a new pediatric cardiomyopathy research agenda, speakers and panelists from across the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia shared study findings, identified research gaps and evaluated new approaches and technologies for improving patient outcomes. Representatives from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) also participated in the discussions.

The conference covered the following topics:

- Genetic and Molecular Mechanisms in Pediatric Cardiomyopathy - Session Leaders: Wendy Chung, MD, PhD of Columbia University Medical Center and Jeffrey Towbin, MD of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medicine Center
- Heart Transplantation and Pre-Transplant Device Support for Pediatric Cardiomyopathy - Session Leader: Charles Canter, MD of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
- Advances in Pediatric Heart Failure Research and Treatment - Session Leaders: John Lynn Jefferies, MD, MPH of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Joseph Rossano, MD of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Advances in Cardiac Imaging in Pediatric Cardiomyopathy - Session Leader: Steven Colan, MD of Boston Children's Hospital
- Advances in Personalized Medicine Relevant to Pediatric Cardiomyopathy and Heart Transplant - Session Leaders: Paul Kantor, MBBCh, DCH of Stollery Children's Hospital and Steven Webber, MBChB, MRCP of Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
- Interventional Studies in Pediatric Cardiomyopathy - Session Leader: Daphne Hsu, MD of Children's Hospital at Montefiore

"The medical issues and research discussed were extremely valuable, but the bottom line for all of us is finding ways to answer: How do we get to the best quality of life for children with cardiomyopathy and for their families?" said conference Co-Chair Dr. Steven Lipshultz.

Session leaders will now finalize the research agenda and form working groups to address the research priorities derived from the

meeting. Conference proceedings will be published in three dedicated issues of *Progress in Pediatric Cardiology*.

Other conference sponsors included: Global Productivity Solutions, Macquarie Group Foundation, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, MyoKardia, Berlin Heart and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation is a national organization focused on all forms of cardiomyopathy affecting children. In addition to its commitment to research and education, CCF spearheads several advocacy and awareness initiatives, develops and distributes educational materials, and offers various support services and resources for children and families affected by cardiomyopathy. For additional information, visit [www.childrenscardiomyopathy.org](http://www.childrenscardiomyopathy.org), or call 866-808-CURE.

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