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Heart Failure Society News

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8th Annual Scientific Meeting Raises the Bar Again

The Program Committee, chaired by Thomas Force and Peter Liu, has once again developed a stimulating scientific program for the annual meeting. The many symposia will include clinical, basic science, and translational topics, "how to" sessions, debates, and poster presentations.

One symposium has the intriguing title, "The New Nanotechnologies: Where Will They Take Us?" It will look at targeted imaging, tissue engineering, and cell-based biosensors. The guidelines symposium will take a case-based approach, focusing on chronic heart failure with systolic dysfunction, heart failure with preserved systolic function, and acutely decompensated heart failure. A session devoted to acute decompensated heart failure will look at "The Challenge of Drug Development" from the perspective

of investigators, industry, the FDA, and the Cardiorenal Advisory Committee.

Last year's inaugural Basic Science Workshop is back. This year's session will focus on stem cell therapy for cardiac regeneration and is being more appropriately called a "Special Scientific Session". It has been scheduled for 1:00-5:30 PM on Sunday, September 12th. Speakers include Michael Schneider, Piero Anversa, Victor Dzau, Andreas Zeiher, Stefanie Dimimmler, Amy Wagers and Donald Orlic. Other basic science sessions are scheduled throughout the meeting.

Hyde Park, Court-is-in-Session, and the debates will keep things lively. Court-is-in-Session, presided over by "Judge" Marvin Konstam, will put on trial "Inotropic Therapy for Heart Failure" (Lynne Warner

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HFSA Now Nationally Accredited Provider of CME

The Heart Failure Society of America is now accredited by the Accreditation Council of Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) as a provider of continuing medical education. Physician credit for the 2004 Annual Scientific Meeting and satellite programs plus the web cast of the 2004 primary care update will be provided by HFSA.

The process began with a pre-application in the spring of 2003, followed by the submission of an extensive self-study in August of 2004. In December, two reviewers from ACCME visited the HFSA headquarters in St. Paul to review the self-study and several activity files. Notice of approval came in late March of 2004.

The ACCME rigorously evaluates the overall continuing medical education programs of organizations according to the standards adopted by all seven sponsoring organizations of the ACCME. These are: the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association,

the American Medical Association, the Association of Hospital Medical Education, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, and the Federation of State Medical Boards.

In July 2003 Bart Galle joined the HFSA as CME Administrator. Bart spent twenty years as Director of CME at the University of Minnesota, which had been the CME provider for HFSA's annual meetings since their inception. Thus he comes to HFSA with extensive experience in CME and a working knowledge of HFSA meetings.

HFSA already has a history of high-quality educational programs. Professional education is a central component of its mission. As an accredited provider of CME, HFSA has one more incentive to continue serving its members and other health professionals with scientifically-strong, clinically-relevant education about heart failure and its treatment.

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Stevenson and Gary Francis). The debates will center around the following two premises:

- The Results of ICD Trials Should Be Applied Generally to the Heart Failure Population (Arthus J Moss and NA Mark Estes III)
- Mortality Should Remain the Major Primary Endpoint for Heart Failure Trials (Christopher O'Connor and Jay N Cohn)

Two joint sessions are planned with organizations that have a vested interest in heart failure: The European Society of Cardiology (ESC)/HFSA session will focus on the "Comparison of Approaches to Heart Failure Across the Atlantic;" and the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)/HFSA session will look at the "Current Role of Surgical Approaches to End-Stage Heart Failure."

In addition to the scientific program, attendees will be able to choose among 21 satellite symposia supported by pharmaceutical and devices companies. Eleven are scheduled for Sunday, four each on Monday and Tuesday, and two on Wednesday. Though not part of the scientific program, the satellite symposia provide excellent opportunities to hear the latest about options in the treatment of heart failure.

New This Year

If this year's program is "new and improved," so are some of the processes for attendees.

On-line Registration

New this year is online registration, which has worked well in its inaugural year. As in the past, "swipe-card" technology will be used to register for the satellite symposia and the Sunday Special Scientific session.

Meeting Evaluation Kiosks

Touch-screen evaluation kiosks will allow registrants to quickly provide the HFSA an evaluation for the main scientific meeting.

CME Certificates On-line

CME certificates will be available on-line on the HFSA website October 1, 2004. The goal is to simplify and streamline tedious tasks.

CE Credits

The annual scientific meeting, Sunday Special Scientific Session, and all satellite symposia will carry CE credit for physicians through HFSA, nurses through the AACN, and pharmacists through the University of Minnesota. HFSA has approval through the AMA to offer category 1 credit to physicians from outside North America.

Of course, all of this will occur in the exciting city of Toronto. The Metro Toronto

Annual Scientific Meeting Dates

2004: September 12-15,
Toronto, ON, Canada

2005: September 18-21, Boca Raton, FL

2006: September 10-13, Seattle, WA

2007: September 16-19, Washington, DC

Travel Arrangements for the Annual Scientific Meeting

Travel arrangements, including discounted fares, may be arranged through Stratton Travel Management at:

(888) 387-5435,

(201) 405-1999;

fax (801) 729-2032

Convention Centre, where the meeting will be held, is Canada's largest convention center. It is right in Toronto's dynamic downtown area, close to many cultural attractions, fine dining, and equally fine shopping. Toronto is a remarkably diverse cosmopolitan setting for the first annual meeting outside the United States.

HFSA Unveils New Approach in Latest Webcast

The web cast of the 2004 HFSA primary care symposium went online in late May. Each year for the past three years, tapes and slides from the symposium have been adapted for the Internet and made available on HFSA's website in order to reach a broader primary care audience. This year changes were made to try to increase participation in the activity.

This year's symposium, "Heart Failure 2004: Update for the Primary Care Physician," was held in Dallas in early February. Like the two previous symposia, it was six hours long. In the past, the entire six hours was made available as a single

CME activity. This year, the symposium was divided into three sections of two hours, each with its own CME credit, allowing more physicians to take part in this valuable educational activity. Nursing credits are also available on the web cast. The three sections are: (1), Prevention and Recognition, (2) Treatment Options, and (3) Patient Management. Each section concludes with a case study.

HFSA has also streamlined the credit application process. The post-test for each section can be taken online and can be repeated until the physician achieves a passing score. After completing an

evaluation, the physician can then generate his/her own credit certificate immediately and print it out. A record of all participants will be maintained electronically.

Preliminary results from a mailing to 216,000 general family practitioners in May indicate a significant interest in this web cast program. HFSA also has audiotapes and CDs based on the primary care symposium that are developed and distributed to Audio Digest family physicians. CME credits are also available for the audiotapes and CDs.

FDA Workshop Focuses on Device Trials in Heart Failure

Continuing the exchange started at last year's workshop, over 150 representatives from the heart failure community, the FDA, and 14 device companies met April 1-2 in Washington DC to discuss "Key Issues in Endpoint Selection and Measurement for Devices in Heart Failure." The meeting was planned and organized by HFSA.

The key issues addressed were:

- Assessing Mortality Effects
- Defining Device Safety
- Composite Endpoints
- Surrogate Endpoints
- Endpoints for Diagnostic Devices
- Approaches to Unblinded Trials

Setting the stage for discussion, brief presentations were given by a heart failure specialist teamed with a representative of the FDA. A panel, including representatives from industry, statisticians, quality of life experts, FDA and physicians, discussed pre-selected questions germane to the issue being examined. For example, the discussion about assessing mortality effects considered these questions:

- When is it necessary?
- How long should it be monitored?
- With what certainty should mortality decrement be excluded?
- Is "meaningful" survival – ie neurologically "intact" survival – meaningful?

As might be expected, there were many differing points of view expressed by speakers, panelists, and audience members. Although consensus was not reached, the format provided opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of the concerns between constituents, clarify the issues, establish productive dialogue, and move toward consensus wherever possible. Position papers on each topic will be published in the Journal of Cardiac Failure.

Future workshops are planned to continue the productive trajectory of the first two meetings. The workshops, initiated by President Marvin Konstam, represent an important step in which HFSA can work with governmental agencies and industry to improve the treatment of patients with heart failure.

HFSA Web Watch

During 2003 there were more than a half million visits to hfsa.org and abouthf.org, up dramatically from 2002, when total visits were 325,548.

Here are a few brief facts about the two websites:

	hfsa.org	abouthf.org
Annual visits	209,604	301,445
Visitors from US	66%	78%
International, undetermined	34%	22%
Average visit length	13:55	12:04

The most frequently visited pages for hfsa.org, after the home page, were (in order):

1. Guidelines for Left Ventricular Dysfunction
2. Annual Scientific Program Agenda
3. Latest Developments
4. Quick Facts
5. Journal of Cardiac Failure
6. News Items

For abouthf.org, the most frequently visited were:

1. Heart Failure Information and Education
2. Symptoms of Heart Failure
3. The Stages of Heart Failure—NYHF Classification
4. Following a Low-Sodium Diet with Heart Failure

These preferences were reflected in the files most frequently downloaded. For abouthf.org, most-frequent downloads (in order) were:

1. Module 2 (Low-Sodium Diet)
2. The FACES card
3. Module 3 (HF Medications)
4. Module 4 (Treatment Plan)

For hfsa.org the most popular files were:

1. Module 2 (Low-Sodium Diet)
2. Module 1 (Taking Control)
3. Module 3 (HF Medications)
4. Module 8 (Lifestyle Changes)

The first few months in 2004 have shown a 35% increase in visits to abouthf.org compared to the same time period in 2003. Nearly 1,200 turnkey kits and 350 sets of heart failure education slides were downloaded leading up to and just after Heart Failure Awareness Week.

Heart Failure Society
of America

2005 HFSA RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The purpose of the research fellowship is to develop clinician-investigators in the field of heart failure.

Applications available on-line November, 2004

2005 Research Fellowship Application Receipt Deadline:
Monday, February 7, 2005

www.hfsa.org

Future Heart Failure Awareness Weeks

2005: February 13-19

2006: February 12-18

2007: February 11-17

2008: February 10-16

Mark Your Calendars

January, 2005:

Registration opens for the 9th Annual Scientific Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2005:

2005 Research Fellowship Application Receipt Deadline

February 13 – 19, 2005:

Heart Failure Awareness Week

Saturday, February 12, 2005:

Primary Care Symposium, Sacramento, California

Monday, April 11, 2005:

Abstract Submission Deadline for the
9th Annual Scientific Meeting

Monday, May 9, 2005:

Hyde Park Submission Deadline for the
9th Annual Scientific Meeting

Friday, May 27, 2005:

Late Breaking Clinical Trials Submission Deadline
for the 9th Annual Scientific Meeting

September 18 – 21, 2005:

9th Annual Scientific Meeting

Mission Statement

The Heart Failure Society of America, Inc. (HFSA) represents the first organized effort by heart failure experts from the Americas to provide a forum for all those interested in heart function, heart failure, and congestive heart failure (CHF) research and patient care.

The mission of HFSA is to:

Promote research related to all aspects of heart failure and to provide a forum for presentation of basic, clinical, and population-based research.

Educate physicians and other members of the profession through programs, publications, and other media to enable them to diagnose and treat heart failure and concomitant medical conditions more effectively.

Encourage primary and secondary preventive measures to reduce the incidence of heart failure; to serve as a resource for government, private industry, and health care providers to facilitate the establishment of programs and policies that will better serve the patient.

Enhance quality and duration of life in those with heart failure.

Promote and facilitate the formal training of physicians, scientist, and allied health care providers in the field of heart failure.

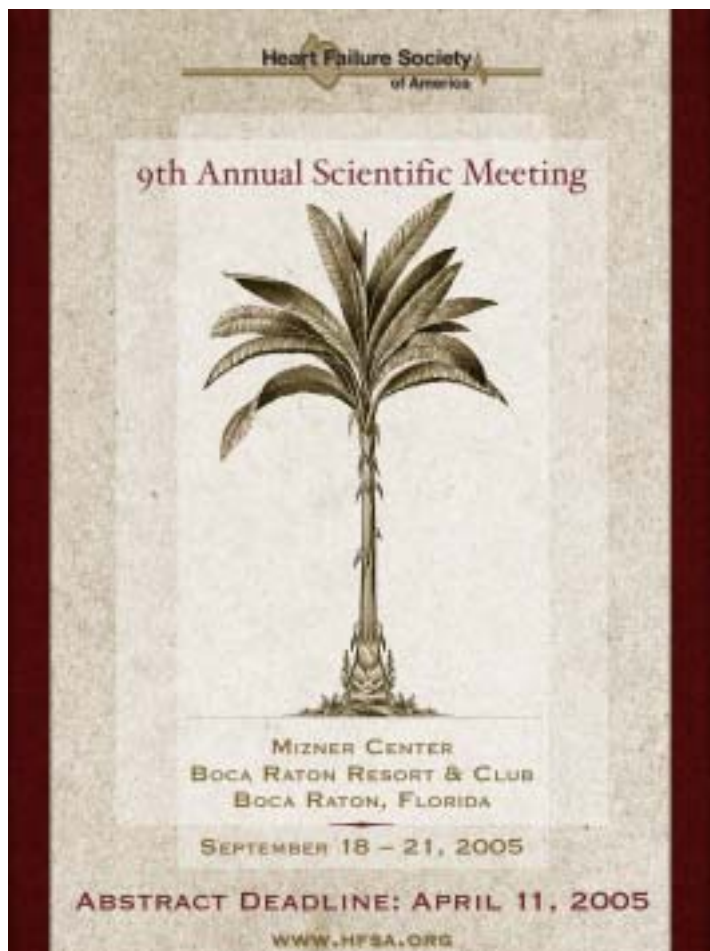


Heart Failure Society
of America

September 12–15, 2004
Toronto, Ontario
Canada


www.hfsa.org

8TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Heart Failure Society
of America

9th Annual Scientific Meeting



MIZNER CENTER
BOCA RATON RESORT & CLUB
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 18 – 21, 2005

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: APRIL 11, 2005

WWW.HFSA.ORG