

Heart Failure Society of America

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HFSA's 5th Annual Scientific Meeting Scheduled for September 9-12, 2001

Blending the solid foundation of previous meetings with innovative new sessions, the 2001 5th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Heart Failure Society of America will offer a comprehensive program packed with the latest developments in research and clinical practice in a variety of formats. A record-breaking number of attendees will choose from an impressive array of sessions that includes established favorites – such as the Hyde Park Hypotheses, debates, late-breaking clinical trial results, basic science lectures, clinical practice discussions, and practical how-to workshops – as well as new presentation formats. The meeting will be held September 9-12 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC.

“Putting together the program for this meeting is a very exciting process, because of the many developments in both basic science and clinical care,” said Barry Massie, scientific program co-chair with Michael Schneider. “Our goal is to effectively communicate these developments to attendees.”

Enhanced Integration of Content

The integrated nature of the program, blending basic science and clinical practice, has been one of the main reasons for its successful history. This year's meeting implements this approach in several new ways. “For the first time, we have focused on the interface between basic science and clinical practice in the opening session on September 10,” Dr. Massie said. “Three

outstanding scientists will review research into the genetics and genomics of myocardial disease and heart failure and explain their implications for clinical practice. Christine Seidman has been in the forefront of the study of genetic abnormalities, and R.

Sanders Williams is an expert in understanding how genetic abnormalities influence disease and populations. Eugene Braunwald is a master at synthesizing the basic science data and communicating how these developments will contribute to clinical practice.”



Barry Massie and Michael Schneider, scientific program co-chairs

Bench-to-Bedside Presentations

Another new vehicle to enhance integration of basic science and clinical practice is the development of bench-to-bedside presentations within the basic science sessions, including those on genomics and genetics, extracellular matrix and remodeling, novel

therapeutic approaches, adrenergic mechanisms, and signaling in heart failure. “We have always had excellent researchers at our meetings,” said Dr. Massie, “and this new feature emphasizes the importance of their work to clinicians.”

Broader Range of Programs

The annual meeting features a range of programs of interest. Dr. Massie said, “We have designed topics of interest to all attendees, including nurses, who are at the forefront in providing care to patients.” This approach is seen in the sessions on conti-

Heart Failure Society

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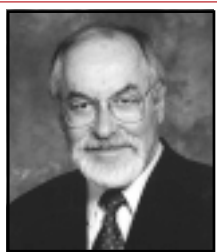
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Jay N. Cohn New Investigator Awards Nominees Named



Jay N. Cohn

One highlight of the annual meeting is the Jay N. Cohn New Investigator Awards presentations. Initiated as an important means to fulfill the Soci-

ety's mission to promote research and to provide a forum for the presentation of new research, the award's initial scope has been expanded dramatically this year with the designation of two categories: Clinical/Integrative Physiology and Basic Science. The two categories encourage the development and dissemination of information in both clinical and basic research areas; the number of nominees has increased accordingly from a total of five to ten presenting in two separate sessions. The nominees will make their presentations on Monday, September 10, and the winners will be announced on Tuesday, September 11. The awards will be made on the basis of scientific merit, presentation, use of appropriate graphics, and effectiveness of discussion.

The awards are named in honor of the Society's key founder and first President, Jay N. Cohn. Dr. Cohn stated, "I am honored and pleased to be identified with the Society's New Investigator Awards. No activity of the Society is more important than facilitating research by the next generation of physicians and scientists. To the extent that these awards will encourage excellence in basic science and integrative physiology, they constitute a vital program for the future of the Society and the well-being of patients with heart failure."

Basic Science

The Basic Science category nominees will make their presentations from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in a session comoderated by Michael D. Schneider and Leslie A. Leinwand.

- **The Type-1 Phosphatase Activity is a Critical Determinant of Cardiac Contractile Function and Remodeling: New Avenues for Therapeutic Approaches to Heart Failure**

Andrew N. Carr, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

- **Functional Consequences of Apoptosis in Cardiac Myocytes: Myofibrillar Proteins Are Targets for Caspase3**

Catherine Communal, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

- **PKC δ Inhibition Leading to Desmin-Related Cardiomyopathy: Analysis with Mutant Attenuated Promoters**

Harvey S. Hahn, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

- **Identification of a New Locus for Autosomal Dominant Dilated Cardiomyopathy on Chromosome 9q22-31**

Sanjaya Jha, Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

- **The Role of HAP(P)H Oxidase in α 1-Adrenergic Receptor (α 1-AR)-Stimulated Hypertrophic Signaling in Cardiac Myocytes**

Lei Xiao, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Clinical/Integrative Physiology

The Clinical/Integrative Physiology category nominees will make their presentations from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in a session comoderated by Thomas D. Giles and Michael R. Bristow.

- **Cardiology Care Improves Outcomes in Patients with New Onset Chronic Heart Failure in the Outpatient Setting**

Maria Ansari, University of California, San Francisco, California

- **The Angiotensin AT1 Receptor Mediates the Detrimental Renal and Ad-**

- **renal Actions of Acute Diuretic Therapy in Human Congestive Heart Failure**

Horng H. Chen, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

- **Cardiac Function Following Acute Infarction: Effect of Human Fibroblast Epicardial Patch**

Robert S. Kellar, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

- **Impact of Left Ventricular Dysfunction on Survival in Implantable Cardiovert-Defibrillators Recipients**

Yong-Mei Cha, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

- **Partial Restoration of Peripheral Vascular Function in Heart Failure: A Prospective, Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel Group, Placebo-Controlled Study of Oral L-Arginine Supplement**

Mohammed Yousufuddin, National Heart and Lung Institute, London, United Kingdom

Future Annual Scientific Meetings

Following are the locations and dates of HFSA's annual scientific meetings 2002-2006:

- September 22-25, 2002
Boca Raton Resort and Club
Boca Raton, Florida
- September 21-24, 2003
Mandalay Bay
Las Vegas, Nevada
- September 12-15, 2004
Convention Center
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- September 18-21, 2005
Boca Raton Resort and Club
Boca Raton, Florida
- September 10-13, 2006
Seattle Convention Center
Seattle, Washington

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HFSA's 5th Annual Scientific Meeting

nuity of care and on lifestyle modification. The presentation of abstracts and the award for nursing research is another important step that Dr. Massie cited in enhancing the program's content and focus.

Debates and Hyde Park Hypotheses

Other programs warranting special attention include the four lively debates and the six provocative Hyde Park Hypotheses, always popular attractions. The debaters explore the pros and cons of revascularization of patients with symptomatic heart failure and asymptomatic ischemia, aggressive use of diuretics to maintain patients at dry weight, multisite pacing as a new modality to treat advanced chronic heart failure, and the use of ICDs in patients at high risk for sudden death. Hyde Park speakers – Ralph Shabetai, Heinrich Taegtmeier, Mario Deng, Leslie Saxon, Stefan Anker, and Milton Packer will speak out on a range of controversial issues.

Renal Pathophysiology Session

Another new session at this year's meeting will explore renal dysfunction in patients with heart failure. "Worsening renal function is a very strong predictor of mortality," said Dr. Massie, "and renal dysfunction related to cardiac dysfunction is a major area of remaining unmet needs in the management of heart failure." In discussing the subset of patients with heart failure who, despite optimal care, develop renal dysfunction, he said, "We have hit a wall as to how to manage these patients. We need to find therapies that protect the kidneys while we manage the heart failure." In this September 11 session, faculty members will explain the physiology behind this dilemma and disseminate information on the most current understanding of how to use medications most effectively and safely.

Case Discussion Panel

Another innovation in response to suggestions from attendees at previous meetings is this year's case discussion panel of experts on September 11. The purpose of this session is to offer information on the diagnosis and evaluation of patients with heart failure, especially for internists and cardiologists who do not specialize in the treatment of heart failure. Moderator James Young will present case histories, and the panel of experts will provide recommendations and discussions of options and strategies.

How-To Sessions

The number of topics and speakers at this popular event has been expanded for this year's meeting, and both research and clinical practice issues will be included. Some

sessions are designed to address areas of particular interest; others offer attendees the opportunity for more detailed and tailored discussions on topics of interest than would be available at a large general session.

Quality Improvement Initiatives

Improving patient care is the focus of a special session on September 12 moderated by Marvin Konstam and Edward Havranek. Speakers, including representatives of the Health Care Financing Administration, will provide updates on measures to improve the quality of care and overcome obstacles to effective care in the managed care environment.

Conclusion

"This year's meeting builds on past successes and offers new content and approaches, a record number of faculty members and sessions, and a broader approach to meet the needs of interests of all members," concluded Dr. Massie. Detailed information on the meeting is available on the HFSA website at hfsa.org. □

New Session Explores Cardio-Renal Dysfunction

Tuesday, September 11
4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Moderators: Inder Anand and Maria Ansari

- Renal Pathophysiology in Heart Failure
Robert Schrier
- Prognostic Importance of Renal Dysfunction in Heart Failure
Harlan M. Krumholz
- How to Optimize Diuretic Therapy in Severe Heart Failure
D. Craig Brater
- Managing the Cardio-Renal Syndrome
Glen Chertow
- The Risks of NSAIDs in the Patient with Heart Failure
John G. F. Cleland

Guidelines/Clinical Positions Committee to Present Considerations Related to New Comprehensive Guideline

The Guidelines/Clinical Positions Committee members will discuss a number of issues important to the development of the new comprehensive guideline for the management of heart failure at a session on September 12.

Committee chair Kirkwood Adams explained, "When the document is finalized, we will have a complete guideline that covers the entire spectrum of heart failure. We are developing sections on diagnosis and prevention, general measures, ischemic heart disease evaluation, acute decompensation, surgery, special populations, diastolic heart failure, and asymptomatic heart failure. We plan an extensive disease management section that includes end-of-life issues and strategies for patient education." The document is scheduled for publication in the *Journal of Cardiac Failure* in mid to late 2002.

Dr. Adams said, "It is very exciting to see it come together and to envision its completion. This is the first time the

Society will have developed a comprehensive guideline. Much work remains to be done, but the committee is hard at work. We hope that the process will ultimately include interaction between the Society and its members and between the Society and other professional organizations with an interest in heart failure. The goal is to establish a living document that will be updated frequently."



Kirkwood Adams

The committee members are exploring multiple formats that include print and web publication as well as other possible avenues for dissemination. "We plan to adapt to the web and include multiple links to related websites, making the guidelines as user-friendly as possible," Dr. Adams said.

Serving on the committee with Dr. Adams are J. Malcolm Arnold, David Baker, Kenneth Baughman, Uri Elkayam, Mihai Gheorghide, Denise Hermann, Marvin Konstam, Barry Massie, Mandeep Mehra, Debra Moser, J. Herbert Patterson, Marc Silver, and Lynne Stevenson. □

Nursing Research Award Nominees Selected

The Nursing Committee has announced the selection of five finalists in its first annual competition to foster research in heart failure nursing. The five nominees will present their findings at the HFSA's annual scientific meeting on September 10, and the winner will be announced at a special awards session on September 11.

Nursing Committee Chair Debra K. Moser, DNSc, RN, said, "The committee developed the award as one highly visible way to foster research and to highlight the important work of nurses to improve the management and care of patients with heart failure. Much of what nurses do is fundamental to patient compliance and significantly affects outcomes."

The committee members were encouraged by the quality and quantity of the

submissions. "We had a great response, and we were impressed by the high quality," she said.



Debra K. Moser

whether it provided a sound basis for further nursing research. Dr. Moser commented, "The work that will be presented at the annual scientific meeting provides an excellent overview of the type of contributions that nurses make, including those to psychosocial and psychological issues, self management, symptom manage-

ment, and behavioral change. She added, "We hope nurses will continue to submit abstracts in future years. This competition is an important initiative, and the quality of the awards depends in large part on the quality of the research being done and submitted."

As HFSA members, the Nursing Committee members are active participants in the work of other committees, particularly in the development of practice guidelines and projects involving end-of-life care, and patient education and counseling. A number of nurses responded to the earlier invitation by the Nursing Committee to participate in an initiative to develop certification standards for nurses who specialize in heart failure. Nurses interested in working on this project or others to contact the chair of the Nursing Committee via email at moser.45@osu.edu.

Debates Foster Exchange of Ideas

The two popular debate sessions will provide spirited forums for energetic discussion of controversial issues.

Sidney Goldstein and Marc Pfeffer will be comoderators of the first session on Monday, September 10, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., which will feature two debates.

- Robert Califf will support, and Milton Packer will oppose, the proposition that “Patients with Reduced Ejection Fractions and Symptomatic Heart Failure and Asymptomatic Ischemia Should Be Revascularized.”
- Lynne Warner Stevenson will favor, and James Young will deny, the proposition that, “Patients Live Better and Longer When They Are Aggressively Maintained at Dry Weight.”

Kenneth Baughman and Koon T. Teo will serve as comoderators of the second session on Tuesday, September 11, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., which will include two debates.

- William Abraham will speak in favor of the proposition that “Multisite Pacing Is an Effective Modality for Treating Heart Failure,” and Steven Gottlieb will speak in opposition.
- Arthur Moss will defend the proposition that “Patients at High Risk for Sudden Death Can Be Identified and Should Have ICDs Implanted,” and William Stevenson will speak against it.

Late-Breaking Clinical Trials Session Will Present Latest Results

Barry Massie and Bertram Pitt will serve as comoderators of this special session on Wednesday, September 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- RITZ 1: A Double-Blind, Multicenter, Placebo-Controlled Study to Assess the Efficacy (Symptomatology) and Safety of Tezosentan in Patients with Acute Decompensated Heart Failure
John R. Teerlink
- MIRACLE: Multicenter InSync Randomized Clinical Evaluation: Results of a Randomized, Double-Blind, Controlled Trial to Assess Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy in Heart Failure Patients
William T. Abraham
- The MUSTIC Study: One-Year Long-Term Results
Serge Cazeau
- VENTAK CHF/CONTAK CD Bioventricular Pacing Study
Leslie A. Saxon

Hyde Park Hypotheses Back by Popular Demand

What the Hyde Park Hypotheses might lack in scientific rigor, they more than make up for with enthusiasm, energy, humor, and provocative proposals in a fun-filled and interactive forum. This year’s session on September 11 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. promises to live up to the high standards set by its predecessors. The session takes its name from the Speakers’ Corner tradition in London’s Hyde Park, where people get up on the soap box and expound on topics of their choice.

Arnold M. Katz and Carl V. Leier will again serve as comoderators. The presenters and their topics are as follows:

Time to Relegate the Stethoscope to the Smithsonian
Ralph Shabetai, La Jolla, California

Metabolic Signaling and Energy Starvation of the Failing Heart
Heinrich Taegtmeier, Houston, Texas

The Benefit of Cardiac Transplantation Must Be Tested in a Randomized Trial

Mario Deng, New York, New York

Why Electrophysiologists Will Replace Heart Failure Physicians in the New Millennium

Leslie Saxon, San Francisco, California

Citrus Altius, Fortius: Heart Failure Therapy is Doping
Stefan Anker, London, United Kingdom

Does It Matter How Patients with Heart Failure Die? A Post-Mortem Survey of Patients Who Died in Clinical Trials
Milton Packer, New York, New York

Special Session Will Focus on HFSA-HCFA Partnership to Improve Patient Care



Marvin A. Konstam

The HFSA's collaborative relationship with the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to improve the quality of care provided to patients with heart

failure will be the focus of a special session on September 12.

HFSA Vice President Marvin Konstam, who will serve as moderator with Edward Havranek, stated, "HCFA has identified heart failure as a major target area for Medicare beneficiaries. HFSA and HCFA are quite excited about our partnership. We share the common goal of improving standards of care across the country. HCFA plays a central role in this process, and HFSA provides enormous energy and expertise."

HFSA has been working with HCFA to disseminate information through conference presentations, the HFSA newsletter, and Heart Failure Awareness Week activities, and is exploring the creation of HFSA education and patient management tools for the agency.

According to Dr. Konstam, the partnership has already been beneficial to patients. HFSA members have developed mechanisms for communication among HCFA peer review organizations (PROs) and Society members, and the two groups are discussing the possibility of a joint task force on heart failure. HFSA members have introduced the Society's practice guidelines to the PRO community, and HCFA has collaborated in Heart Failure Awareness Week activities. HFSA has organized roundtables with HCFA and managed care plans to discuss and develop improvement initiatives. "Members have been enormously responsive," Dr. Konstam reported. "We have identified members as HCFA contacts at various PROs to facilitate the projects that the PROs are conducting."

While HCFA's primary emphasis has been on inpatient settings, the agency is exploring effective treatment strategies in outpatient settings and has developed an outpatient pilot program, the Practice Improvement Effort (PIE). Dr. Konstam, Ileana Pina, Arthur Feldman, and Harlan Krumholz have worked to facilitate the flow of guidance and communication between HFSA and HCFA so

that PROs and patients in this pilot can benefit.

Discussing the special session, Dr. Konstam said, "Last year, we focused on the participants in the process of providing care. This year, we are structuring the program systematically according to different components of overall strategy to improve care." He will provide a summary of HFSA initiatives, Harlan Krumholz will review efforts to measure the quality of care, Diana Ordin will review HCFA's efforts to improve quality of care, Michael Rich will report on the state of the art in disease management, Barry Massie will address the effects of specialty care on outcomes, and Steven Lampert will describe obstacles and solutions in the managed care environment.

Dr. Konstam concluded, "In coming years, HFSA will continue to focus on our mission to improve care and enhance the understanding of heart failure symptoms and management among patients and practitioners, and this partnership is an important means for attaining these goals." □

Executive Council Establishes Ethics Committee

To address the increasingly prominent issue of conflict of interest, the Executive Committee of the HFSA established an Ad Hoc Ethics Committee and named former President Jay N. Cohn as chairman. The committee will work to facilitate the development and application of workable principles to apply to HFSA officers, members, and programs. According to Dr. Cohn, "New guidelines are being drafted by academic organizations, societies, and journals to deal as effectively as possible with societal demands for full disclosure. Some of the new rules have appeared to be draconian and others ridiculously non-substantive. Somewhere in between is where the Heart Failure Society would like to function."

Dr. Cohn said, "I am trying to develop an ongoing process that will serve to assist our officers in providing appropriate full disclosure and to offer an unprejudiced forum for members to communicate concerns for review and action." He invites members to provide their input. Other members of the committee include Richard Walsh, MD, former Council member; Cheryl Yano, HFSA Executive Director; and Allen Farber, HFSA legal counsel.

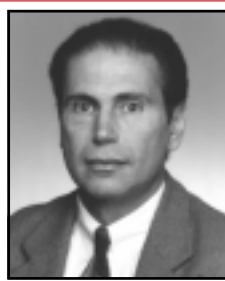
New Chair of Heart Failure Awareness Ad Hoc Committee Named

Barry H. Greenberg, San Diego, California, has been named the new chair of the Heart Failure Awareness Ad Hoc Committee, a special committee founded in October 2000 by Immediate Past President Arthur Feldman to increase public awareness of the nature of and treatments for heart failure. "The HFSA is indebted to Dr. Feldman for working so hard to develop this initiative. He has done a tremendous service to our patients and our profession. We are continuing this important work enthusiastically," Dr. Greenberg said.

According to Dr. Greenberg, "Heart failure is often poorly understood and poorly recognized at many levels throughout the country. The general public is not well-informed about the symptoms and treatments. Physicians may not always be aware of the latest developments. Health policymakers, including those in government agencies, may have an incomplete understanding of the disease."

In response to the HFSA initiative, the United States Senate declared Heart Failure Awareness Week in February 2000 and renewed this declaration "in perpetuity" in 2001. During this week, medical facilities throughout the country have sponsored an impressive range

of programs to raise awareness of heart failure in the general public, including health fairs, free screenings and risk assessments, educational materials, lectures, and public service announcements in newspapers and on television and radio stations. Other events designed to improve the understanding of health professionals included grand rounds, symposia, and continuing medical education programs. The HFSA distributed educational materials and videos and continues to provide updated consumer information on the abouthf.org website.



Barry H. Greenberg

Dr. Greenberg and the committee members are building on the successes of the previous two years as they plan the 2002 activities. "I very much share Dr. Feldman's vision of the importance of this issue," he said. "As the initiative proceeds, we are going to expand heart failure awareness so that it is an ongoing program. Given the magnitude of the condition, the number of patients involved in the United States, and the amount of education needed, an ongoing program will

better enable us to contribute to efforts to identify patients, ensure adequate treatment, and orient necessary healthcare resources effectively." Disproportionately low government funding for heart failure research is one example he cited of the lack of awareness on the part of governmental and other agencies that make funding available.

"Recent and ongoing research has greatly improved the understanding of the disease and the development of increasingly effective management strategies," he said. "Being diagnosed is not a death sentence."

"The Heart Failure Awareness Initiative furthers important goals of the Society's mission statement," Dr. Greenberg said, "by educating health care professionals, encouraging preventive measures, serving as a resource, and enhancing the quality and duration of life for patients. Through this program to provide optimal care and foster awareness in patients and physicians, we will go a long way to improve the care and management of this condition," he concluded.

For more information on heart failure awareness, please visit the educational website at abouthf.org. □

HFSA Websites Continue to Expand

Over the past year, the Society has made a concerted effort to reach out to individuals seeking information on heart failure. An estimated 62% of all internet users search for health-related information, and approximately 70 million Americans search for health-related information annually. The HFSA has two websites: abouthf.org and hfsa.org.

abouthf.org

Abouthf.org has enjoyed wonderful reception, growth, and visits as evidenced by the accompanying graph. This can be attributed to the Society's ongoing dedication to promote heart failure awareness, sound positioning with the major search engines, and the Society's unique role

in educating both medical professionals and information-thirsty consumers about heart failure.

Since February 2001, the abouthf.org website has had over 1400 requests (35% from health-care professionals and 65% from individuals) for the heart failure brochure, the FACES card, and the educational video.

hfsa.org

The professional site of the Society's web-based efforts continues its history of growth. Launched in 1997 with an average of 32 visitors per week, it now regularly hosts

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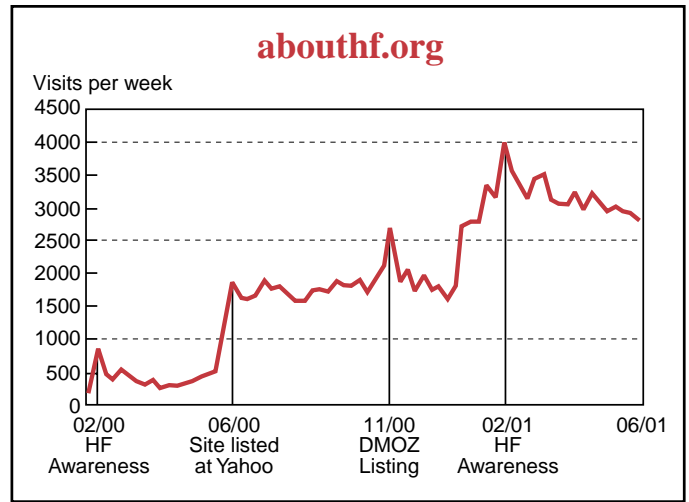
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Websites continue to expand

1500 to 2000 visitors per week, with 70% unique, that is, new within any one week. The site continues to be well positioned for keyword search terms such as “heart failure” and “congestive heart failure” on most major search engines. Over 25,000 copies of the newsletters were downloaded in the last year alone, as well as over 40,000 copies of the clinical practice guidelines.

Although most traffic comes from the United States, approximately 12% of the visitors are international. The majority of these international visitors is from the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, The Netherlands, Brazil, Mexico, Italy, and Israel.

This site is upgraded continually. A new site is under construction. This new site, while maintaining the features of the current site, has enhancements to help the HFSA continue to manage its day-to-day activities while it broadens its exposure to those interested in heart failure. As soon as all testing has been completed, the new site will be launched. Watch for the announcement on the Latest Developments page. □



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