UPDATE ON STEM CELL CLINICAL TRIALS

This session at the HFSA will include the topic of “Is Cell Therapy Beneficial in Dilated Cardiomyopathy?”

LAS VEGAS (September 15, 2014) – The Heart Failure Society of America’s (HFSA) 18th Annual Scientific Meeting will feature an update on stem cell clinical trials. Within this update will be a session entitled “Is Cell Therapy Beneficial in Dilated Cardiomyopathy?” This session will take place on Monday, September 15th from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, and will be run by Joshua Hare, MD of the University of Miami Health Center.

This session will feature the presentation of results from recent clinical trials performed using bone marrow derived mesenchymal stem cells, as well as cardiac stem cells to treat patients with heart failure. The results will be taken from four clinical trials which were completed over the past few years, in addition to one trial that is currently ongoing.

“We started our trial program in 2008, so we’ve been conducting trials for about six years,” said Dr. Hare. “All told, we’ve treated somewhere between 130 and 150 patients as part of these trials, and we’ve got exciting clinical results that show significant improvement.”

The trials were conducted at the University of Miami Health Center, as well as Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, MD. These were among the first trials to focus on clinical points such as six minute walk distance and functional quality of life in both ischemic and nonischemic cardiomyopathy.

For a complete list of annual meeting sessions or for details on attending the conference, visit www.hfsa.org and click on Annual Scientific Meeting. There is also an app for the Annual Meeting available in the Apple Store by searching HFSA. There is no registration fee for accredited journalists. Interview areas will be available on-site in addition to a press room. You may follow news from the meeting on Twitter @HFSA and #HFSA.

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About Heart Failure
Heart failure is a progressive condition in which the heart muscle becomes weakened after it is injured, most commonly from heart attack or high blood pressure, and gradually loses its ability to pump enough blood to supply the body's needs. Many people are not aware they have heart failure because the symptoms are often mistaken for signs of getting older. Heart failure affects 4.6 to 4.8 million individuals in the United States. Demographic and clinical evidence strongly suggests that the prevalence of heart failure will increase throughout the next decade. Ten to 15 years ago heart failure was considered a "death sentence;" however, recent advances in treatment have shown that early diagnosis and proper care in early stages of the condition are key to slowing, stopping or in some cases reversing progression, improving quality of life, and extending life expectancy. For more information on heart failure, please visit www.abouthf.org.

About the Heart Failure Society of America
The Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) is a nonprofit educational organization, founded in 1994 as the first organized association of heart failure experts. The HFSA provides a forum for all those interested in heart function, heart failure research and patient care. The Society also serves as a resource for governmental agencies (FDA, NIH, NHLBI, CMS). The HFSA Annual Scientific Meeting is designed to highlight recent advances in the development of strategies to address the complex epidemiological, clinical and therapeutic issues of heart failure. Additional information on HFSA can be found at www.hfsa.org.