

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEDIATRIC MECHANICAL CIRCULATORY SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND PEDIATRIC CARDIOPULMONARY PERFUSION

The *Fourth International Conference on Pediatric Mechanical Circulatory Support Systems and Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Perfusion* was held at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, Oregon, May 22-24, 2008. Over 250 participants from 17 countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States attended this unique event.

The *Fourth Annual Event* continued to focus on the objective of the previous conferences, that is, to *explicitly describe the problems with current pediatric mechanical circulatory support systems, methods, and techniques during acute and chronic support and to suggest solutions*. Of the 101 slide and poster presentations at this event, 48 were invited lectures by leading scholars from around the globe on selected topics. Conference Proceedings of the *Fourth Event* are now available on the conference web site <http://www.ohsu.edu/CPBConference>. The Proceedings contain details of the final scientific program, as well as all abstracts from slide and poster presenters and invited lecturers.

New Features of Conference

New features of this year's Conference included a pre-conference workshop, a wet-lab for perfusionists, a showing of surgical videos, and two debates between experts on pulsatility vs non-pulsatility and circuit miniaturization. For the first time, an *Audience Response Polling* system was used. As various questions were asked, the audience responses were immediately available and projected on the screen. This created a very lively and interesting question/answer session.

Acknowledgements

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References

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2. Ündar A. Welcome to the Fourth Annual Event. *The Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Pediatric Mechanical Circulatory Support Systems and Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Perfusion* 2008; 4: 4-5.