

It has now been just over 2 months since our first meeting of the Pediatric Transplant Cardiology Study Group in San Diego. The executive committee, consisting of Jay Fricker, Debra Dodd and myself, would like to solicit suggestions from all who attended our first group in order to make plans for our next gathering in November during the AHA meetings.

Some of the points that were made in San Diego include:

1. A group would be invaluable to all involved in pediatric heart transplantation.
2. We could address the common, and unique issues that relate to the pediatric transplant population, and therefore facilitate multicenter trials or studies, which would not interest the adult working group.
3. A database is possible, perhaps together with the database already in place in Alabama. A subcommittee consisting of Dan Bernstein, Barbara George and Bob Morrow was formed to look into this complex problem.
4. The format of the meeting will consist of a few speakers giving brief talks centered around one specific topic relevant to our patient population, followed by informal and we hope lively discussion. Case presentations could be made from other centers looking for advice or to educate the rest of us. Following this, will be discussions and planning for protocols and future meetings.

Some questions to be answered:

1. What is the best name for our group? Some suggestions have included Pediatric Transplant Cardiology Study Group, and Pediatric Heart and Lung Transplant Study Group. We need more choices but please make the name easy to remember.
2. There were 22 participants from 16 institutions across the country at our first meeting. We need suggestions of people to add to our mailing list and active participant list. Write me, call me, or FAX me names and addresses of people who you feel should be involved. I will then be able to send each of you a "directory" prior to our next meeting.
3. We need to choose a topic for discussion in November. We had planned to talk about coronary disease for the ISHLT meeting, however, never got down to the presentations. Should we keep the same?

We would appreciate if everyone can send, FAX or call in their information by the end of August so that we can get it all collated, and arrangements made well before November. We are very excited about what we could accomplish, and feel that we could make our group as productive and informative as the

adult cardiologists have been able to do with their working group. Debra Dodd and Robert Boucek already have 2 collaborative protocols ready for perusal so hurry and respond so that we can get them out to all interested. Suggestions, suggestions, suggestions.....

Sincerely yours,

Linda J. Addonizio, M.D.
Columbia University

F. Jay Fricker, M.D.
University of Pittsburgh

Debra A. Dodd, M.D.
Vanderbilt University

send comments to:

Linda J. Addonizio, M.D.
Medical Director,
Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Service
Babies Hospital 102A
Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center
3959 Broadway
New York, NY 10032
Telephone: 212/ 305-2535 or 6575
Fax: 212/ 305- 7834 or 3020