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NEW INTERNATIONAL ECHO STANDARD AIMS TO IMPROVE INTERPRETATION GLOBALLY

Morrisville, NC – Clinicians take note: the world-wide standard for the quantification of cardiac chamber size and function, the cornerstone of cardiac imaging, is changing. Since the 2005 joint publication of recommendations for echocardiographic chamber quantification by the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI), many advances in technology and practice have occurred. As a result, the two organizations have jointly released a new document, ***Recommendations for Cardiac Chamber Quantification by Echocardiography in Adults: An Update from the American Society of Echocardiography and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging***, which will appear in the January issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography (JASE)*.

The writing group for this updated guideline was co-chaired by Roberto M. Lang, MD, FASE, FESC, the Director of Noninvasive Cardiac Imaging Laboratories at University of Chicago Medicine, in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Lang noted, “The 2005 chamber quantification guideline document is one of the most relevant echo papers ever written, which has been cited more than 5,000 times. There was a need to update these guidelines to take into account new developments such as real-time 3D echo and myocardial deformation imaging, as well as to update normal values and recommendations for measurements.”

A key feature of this document is that, compared to previous guidelines, its recommendations are based on considerably larger numbers of normal subjects, compiled from multiple databases in order to improve the reliability of the reference values. “There is a clear understanding in our field that echocardiography needs to be quantified in a uniform manner around the world,” Dr. Lang commented. “Before this update, there were some minor discrepancies among previously published guidelines. But now that we have new normal 2D and 3D values for size and function for all four chambers of the heart, jointly derived by the European and American echocardiographic societies, this will allow echoes to be interpreted uniformly across the globe, from my homeland in Argentina to my peers at the University of Chicago, and our colleagues in Europe, Asia, Africa, and beyond.”

In conjunction with the publication of the guideline document, lead author Dr. Lang will conduct a live webinar, including a question and answer section, on February 11, 2015 at 1:00 pm EST, which will be available for free to all ASE members and open to all other clinicians for the low fee of \$25. This webinar, and all ASE-hosted web sessions, are archived on www.ASEUniversity.org to facilitate education for those who cannot attend the live webcast.



The full guideline document is available on the *Journal of American Society of Echocardiography* (JASE) website (www.onlinejase.com). This document and all ASE Guideline documents are also available to the medical community at www.asecho.org/guidelines.

As the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging, the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines. Comprised of over 16,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, and scientists, ASE is a strong voice providing guidance, expertise, and education to its members with a commitment to improving the practice of ultrasound and imaging of the heart and cardiovascular system for better patient outcomes. For more information about ASE, visit www.asecho.org or ASE's public information site, www.SeeMyHeart.org.

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