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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Society of Echocardiography Supports a Focus on Heart Health for Women by Co-sponsoring Congressional Briefing with WomenHeart

Morrisville, NC, April 22, 2015 – The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is a co-sponsor of the upcoming WomenHeart Congressional Briefing on heart failure in women. This briefing will be held in Washington, DC at the Cannon House Office Building 121 on April 28, 2015 at 9 a.m.

WomenHeart will be announcing findings from the first national research on heart failure in women. Heart failure is the leading cause of hospitalizations in women over the age of 65, and women account for 50 percent of all heart failure-related hospital admissions.

“We are honored to be a co-sponsor of this briefing on the Hill with WomenHeart,” said ASE CEO, Robin Wiegerink. “This is an opportunity for our Society to partner with an organization that is devoted to patient care and advocacy and focus on the very real and unique needs of women. We are committed to helping to educate our government representatives on this population’s risk factors and focus on improving and advancing care in the future.”

The Briefing will cover the impact of heart failure on women, challenges facing women heart failure patients, and what can be done to help women with heart failure live longer, healthier lives. Speakers include: U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Mary Norine Walsh, MD, Medical Director, Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplantation, St. Vincent Heart Center of Indiana, Eileen Drekzka, *WomenHeart Champion*, Everly Macario, ScD, MS, EdM, Public Health Communications Researcher, IQ Solutions, and Mary E. McGowan, CEO, WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women in Heart Disease.

ASE is also sponsoring the 15th Annual WomenHeart Wenger Awards Dinner on Monday, April 27, 2015. Representatives from ASE will also be attending this dinner that is a high-level gathering of government, business, industry, advocacy, and media experts in cardiovascular health and women’s health. WomenHeart hosts the Wenger Awards and Dinner annually to honor individuals and organizations who are making extraordinary contributions to advancing women’s heart health and improving the lives of women living with heart disease. For more information about the WomenHeart Wenger Awards, visit <http://www.womenheart.org/event/wenger2015>

American Society of Echocardiography

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 more than 16,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, and scientists, ASE is a strong voice providing guidance, expertise, and education to its members. The Society has 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 the ASE Scientific Sessions visit www.asescientificsessions.org.

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease is the nation's only patient centered organization serving the 43 million American women living with or at risk for heart disease – the leading cause of death for women. WomenHeart is solely devoted to advancing women's heart health through advocacy, community education, and the nation's only patient support network for women living with heart disease. WomenHeart is both a coalition and a community of thousands of members nationwide, including women heart patients and their families, healthcare professionals, and health advocates, all committed to helping women live longer, healthier lives. To join or donate, visit www.womenheart.org.

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