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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Vera Rigolin Elected President of the American Society of Echocardiography

Morrisville, NC, June 7, 2017 – Vera Rigolin, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASE, has taken the helm as president of the 17,000 member American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) for a one-year term following the Society's 28th Annual Scientific Sessions, which were held this week in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Rigolin addressed the members of the Society at their annual business meeting and shared her excitement for leading the Society into its final year of a three-year strategic plan that will help the field of cardiovascular ultrasound to grow and thrive. She said "I look forward to serving as your 28th president and am honored to be the fifth woman serving as president of ASE. My mission for the coming year is to assure that the Society reaches out to the younger generation through mentoring and active involvement in our activities to engage and nurture the next cycle of leaders in our medical community."



Dr. Rigolin is a cardiologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and a Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. She specializes in echocardiography, valvular heart disease and women's heart health. She is also the current medical director of the echocardiography laboratory at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Rigolin is an accomplished educator who was named the Northwestern University Division of Cardiology Teacher of the Year in 1999. She was also awarded the American College of Cardiology W. Proctor Harvey, M.D., Young Teacher Award and the Clinical Collaborator award from the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation.

She was previously awarded a grant from the Northwestern Memorial Women's Board to study 2- and 3-dimensional echocardiography for the assessment of left ventricular geometry on patients with regurgitant valvular heart disease undergoing surgical correction. Her other research initiatives studied gender differences in outcomes following valve surgery, stress echo for the assessment of right heart function following mitral valve surgery and the use of echo to assess patients with systemic diseases such as cancer and heart transplant.

Dr. Rigolin has held leadership roles on a number of ASE committees including service as chair of the Public Relations, FASE Committee and SeeMyHeart Task Force, and co-chair of the Finance Committee. She has also had the leadership responsibilities associated with the ladder that culminates in the Scientific Sessions chair position (abstract co-chair, abstract chair, Scientific Sessions co-chair) and chaired the 2010 Scientific Sessions in San Diego. In addition, she has been a member of the Industry Round Table Committee, Appropriateness



and Products Task Forces, Foundation Taskforce, Education Planning and Oversight Committee, Women's Health Advisory Committee and a Heart for Sports subcommittee. She was also a member of the Board of Directors from 2009-2012. Dr. Rigolin is also active in a number of other professional societies, including the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Rigolin is currently serving as an ASE representative on the ACC's Imaging Section Council. She also reviews journal articles and abstracts for five major medical journals and scientific societies.

She attended medical school at Northwestern University, where she also completed her internship and residency. She completed a cardiology fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. She is board certified in cardiovascular disease and echocardiography and speaks fluent Portuguese.

Dr. Rigolin previously served as ASE's Vice President and President-Elect, prior to ascending to President. Joining her as new members of the 2017-2018 Executive Committee are Vice President, Madhav Swaminathan, MD, FASE, from Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC and Secretary Elizabeth McIlwain, MHS, RCS, FASE, of West Jefferson Medical Center/LCMC Health, New Orleans, LA.

Continuing ASE officers include: President-Elect Jonathan Lindner, MD, FASE, from Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR; Treasurer, Benjamin Eidem, MD, FASE, of Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN; Council Representative, Sue Phillip, RCS, FASE, from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; and Immediate Past President Allan L. Klein, MD, FASE, of Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH.

In addition to the new officers, the ASE membership has elected the following new board of directors members to two-year terms: Bonita Anderson, MAppIsc, DMU, AMS, FASE, ACS, Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane, Australia; Gregory Ensing, MD, FASE, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Pediatric Council Steering Committee Chair; Alan Finley, MD, FASE, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, Perioperative Council Steering Committee Chair; Amer Johri, MD, FASE, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada, Vascular Council Steering Committee Chair; Geoffrey Rose, MD, FASE, Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, Charlotte, NC; and Past President James Thomas, MD, FASE, Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

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 17,000 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 ASEcho.org; or for more information about the ASE Scientific Sessions visit ASEScientificSessions.org.

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