Dr. Justin Yeh brings expertise to Acute Cardiac Unit

Justin Yeh, M.D., the new medical director for the Acute Cardiac Unit (ACU) at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego, has created a collaborative environment where cardiac surgery, critical care, neonatology, cardiology, and nursing come together to deliver the highest quality care. The ACU consists of a cardiovascular intensive care unit and a cardiac step-down unit.

Dr. Yeh spent five years at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, working in both the cardiac intensive care unit and the heart failure/transplant service. He is interested in the use of ventricular assist devices to support children with advanced heart failure, and he will use his knowledge in this area to enhance the care of these children at Rady Children's.

Dr. Yeh received his medical degree from Albany Medical College and completed his residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Orange County. He went on to Children's National Medical Center for additional postgraduate training, where he completed fellowships in pediatric cardiology and critical care.

Learn more about the ACU.

Dr. John Lamberti receives honors for service and success

John Lamberti, M.D., director of Rady Children's Heart Institute, received the Heart Ignite Award from the San Diego Division of the American Heart Association, which was presented at its 2015 San Diego Heart Ball.

The recipient of this award demonstrates the highest commitment to advancing the association's mission of building healthier lives as well as outstanding service and practice in the field.

Dr. Lamberti was also honored in Honolulu during Hawaii Heart Week in August, when Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children recognized and celebrated its program with Rady Children's that has treated thousands of Hawaii heart patients in Honolulu and San Diego.
This highly successful program was created by Dr. Lamberti in 1995. Since then, more than 1,000 Hawaii-based patients have come to Rady Children's for diagnosis and treatment, and more than 1,000 patients have had surgery or an interventional procedure in Hawaii. The program expanded to include interventional cardiology and electrophysiology in 2004.

Read about Rady Children's Heart Institute.

INNOVATIONS

3-D heart models aid in surgical planning, patient education

3-D printing technology can now produce realistic models of congenital heart defects. Not only can these models help plan interventional procedures and surgery, but can serve as a powerful patient education tool.

Recently, Sanjeet Hegde, M.D., Ph.D., worked with a local company to create a 3-D heart model of a 3-year-old patient with a rare combination of heart defects: dextrocardia associated with a double inlet left ventricle and pulmonary atresia. To create the model, Dr. Hegde put the patient's imaging data into a special software program; the 3-D printing company then used the data to produce the physical model.

Using this model, Heart Institute Director John Lamberti, M.D., planned the Fontan surgery, which had a successful outcome. Dr. Lamberti also used the model to explain the surgical procedure to the parents.

Says Dr. Hegde, "As patients or their parents can hold the heart model in their hands and recognize the size, the relationships of structures and the location of defects/abnormalities, they are better able to understand their heart condition when discussing with their cardiologist and cardiac surgeon." Dr. Hegde has been awarded the Rady Children's Academic Enrichment Grant for a research study by the Heart Institute to evaluate 3-D heart models for planning cardiac surgeries and interventional catheter and electrophysiology procedures, as well as for teaching junior physicians and educating patients.

More recently, John Moore, M.D., M.P.H., and Howaida El-Said, M.D., Ph.D., used a 3-D model to evaluate suitability for pulmonary valve replacement in a patient with tetralogy of Fallot. This model was used for the Live Case demonstration as part of the 2015 Pediatric and Adult Interventional Cardiac Symposium.

EVENTS

Conference on pediatric heart failure focuses on innovation

Rady Children's, in collaboration with UC San Diego School of Medicine and CHOC Children's, will host the Innovations in Pediatric Heart Failure Symposium in San Diego on Dec. 3-5.

Designed for those involved in the care of patients with pediatric heart disease, including pediatric cardiologists, surgeons, intensivists, nurses, and other allied health professionals, the conference will focus on innovation and have a unique interactive format.

Nationally recognized faculty members will cover challenging issues in heart failure related to cardiomyopathies, end-stage congenital heart disease, heart transplantation, ventricular assist devices, interventional cardiology, cardiac ICU management, nursing care, genomics, cardiac imaging, pharmacotherapeutics, ethics and end-of-life care, electrophysiology, and more.

Interactive sessions will take place that are case-based and require audience participation. Expert panels will be assembled to help answer difficult questions clinicians face in their practices. Workshops will also be available to provide hands-on training for trainees, nurses and junior faculty members.

For more information and to register, visit www.SDPedsCardiology.com.

Learn more at RCHSD.org