



INTERVENTIONAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY COMMUNICATION

Interventional Echocardiography: A New Specialty Interest Group for American Society of Echocardiography



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Structural heart disease (SHD) interventions are at the cutting edge of innovation for the treatment of valvular and other structural cardiac diseases. Since the initial PARTNER Trial began in 2007, there has been a slow but steady swell of echocardiographers drawn to this new field.¹ The universal recognition of the central role of the imager on the heart team^{2,3} has resulted in the creation of a new subspecialty within cardiology and anesthesiology, the SHD Interventional Echocardiographer.⁴ Interventional echocardiographers are crucial to the technical success of many complex SHD procedures because they possess specialized knowledge sets as well as advanced image acquisition and interpretive skills. The recent 2019 American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American College of Cardiology, American Society of Echocardiography (ASE), Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, and Society of Thoracic Surgeons Expert Consensus Systems of Care Document for valvular heart disease⁵ and 2019 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association

and ASE Advanced Training Statement on Echocardiography⁶ identify the need for an echocardiographer with expertise in valve disease and transcatheter and surgical interventions to provide imaging guidance for transcatheter and intraoperative procedures.

Every *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography* blue page written on this expanding new subspecialty^{1,4,7} has emphasized the need for appropriate education and training. Defining the minimum standards for competency within the field of structural heart disease is in constant evolution as the field continues on an upward trajectory with both new devices and advanced imaging platforms.⁸ In answer to this “call to arms” for our society, a new specialty interest group (SIG), Interventional Echocardiography, has been formed to support and expand the physician and sonographer members participating in these complex procedures. As SHD interventions continue to grow, even those sonographers and echocardiographers who may not perform intraprocedural imaging will need to understand the baseline

How to identify as a member of the new ASE Specialty Interest Group for Interventional Echocardiography

- 1. Log in as ASE member**
- 2. Click on your profile on the right**
- 3. Scroll down in your profile and find Specialty Interest Groups and select IE**
- 4. Click on the black > so that the chosen Specialty Interest Groups shows up in the right-side box**
- 5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Save & Refresh**

Figure 1 How to identify as a member of the new ASE SIG for Interventional Echocardiography.

Conflicts of Interest: Dr. Hahn reports speaker fees from Edwards Life Science and Medtronic; consulting for Abbott Structural, Edwards Lifesciences, Gore & Associates, Medtronic, Navigate, and Philips Healthcare; nonfinancial support from 3mensio; and equity with Navigate and is the Chief Scientific Officer for the Echocardiography 10A Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography

Core Laboratory at the Cardiovascular Research Foundation for multiple industry-sponsored trials, for which she receives no direct industry compensation. The other authors reported no actual or potential conflicts of interest.

and follow-up imaging requirements for these exciting new interventions. Thus, the Interventional Echocardiography SIG hopes to (1) provide a community within ASE for open discussion and cross training about the imaging involved in these complex procedures, (2) promote the ASE guidelines and consensus documents related to structural heart imaging, (3) develop and disseminate educational material for these professionals, and (4) open a dialogue with other imaging societies, engineers, clinicians, and the industry to promote the growth of this new imaging subspecialty.

The Interventional Echocardiography SIG is open to all ASE members (Figure 1), and identifying yourself as interested in this SIG will help the group accomplish these goals. The Interventional Echocardiography SIG has already begun scheduling educational programs. The first was an ASE Twitter Journal Club on October 27, focusing on the assessment of aortic stenosis in the setting of irregular rhythms.⁹ In addition, a Live Webinar Case Series is planned beginning in December 2020, in which SHD cases will be copresented by imagers and interventionalists to a panel of experts with an open question-and-answer session for attendees. Many more educational programs are being planned for 2021.

It is imperative for those that are involved in this field to identify themselves with this Interventional Echocardiography SIG since this will provide us with a stronger stance when presenting the numerous challenges facing this field to the leadership of ASE. These include appropriate compensation, reducing radiation exposure, and education, to name a few. These challenges will attract attention only with a collective voice, as will be reflected in the number of members in the Interventional Echocardiography SIG.

The 2020/2021 Chairs of the Interventional Echocardiography SIG are Drs. Muhamed Saric and Nishath Quader. Questions related to joining the SIG should be sent to Danielle King, ASE SIG and Membership Coordinator at dking@asecho.org.

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