



Pulse of CRF

The Newsletter of the Cardiovascular Research Foundation

Spring 2014

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Upcoming CRF Educational Events

 Coronary Physiology and Intravascular Imaging Symposium 2014
March 27-28, 2014
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, DC

 Optimizing PCI Outcomes: A Vision for 2014
March 28, 2014
Grand Hyatt Washington
Washington, DC

 Echocardiography Course
April 9-11, 2014
Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan
New York, NY

CRF Meetings Feature Latest Research and Techniques on Stem Cells, Chronic Total Occlusions and Left Main Interventions

CellTherapy Conference

Braving a snowstorm and bone-chilling cold, nearly 150 attendees from around the world gathered in New York City January 22-24 for the Ninth International Conference on Cell Therapy for Cardiovascular Disease, directed by Warren Sherman, MD, of Columbia University Medical Center and the Cardiovascular Research Foundation.

Participants discussed the latest on the use of stem cells to treat patients who have had a heart attack or are suffering from heart failure or peripheral arterial disease. Presentations detailed the results of studies exploring different types of cells and protocols and offered a preview of upcoming clinical trials.

CTO/LM Summit

Almost 500 physicians and healthcare professionals attended the 2014 CTO-LM Summit in New

York City from February 27-March 1. The conference brought together leaders in the fields of chronic total occlusions and percutaneous left main intervention to discuss advanced techniques and evidence-based medicine, featuring live case transmissions.

James K. Min, MD, Joins CRF as Director of Non-Invasive Imaging



James K. Min, MD
Director of Non-Invasive Imaging

James K. Min, MD, has joined CRF as Director of Non-Invasive Imaging. Dr. Min leads clinical research programs involving non-invasive imaging technologies including nuclear imaging, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR), cardiac computed tomography, and positron emission tomography (PET) for the CRF Clinical Trials Center (CTC).

An expert in cardiovascular imaging and a physician-scientist, Dr. Min has led several large-scale multicenter clinical trials and registries. He is an attending physician at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Professor of Radiology and Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Min was also recently appointed director of the Dalio Institute of Cardiovascular Imaging at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical College. Previously, Dr. Min served

(See James K. Min, MD, page 3)

CRF Appoints Andrew F. Kraus as Chief Operating Officer

CRF recently announced the appointment of Andrew F. Kraus as the foundation's Chief Operating Officer. As COO, he will serve as the organization's Treasurer and will oversee finance, information technologies, operational and corporate digital strategies, and technology infrastructure for the CRF Skirball Research Center, CRF Clinical Trials Center, and CRF Center for Education.

A successful entrepreneur and seasoned executive with over 21 years of experience in the clinical trial industry, Mr. Kraus has led business operations and driven corporate profit margins through the development and implementation of advanced technology solutions.

"We are very excited to welcome Andrew to CRF," said Jack Lewin,



Andrew F. Kraus
Chief Operating Officer

(See Andrew F. Kraus, page 3)

Five Critical Trends that will Shape the Future of Healthcare and Interventional Cardiology



Jack Lewin, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

Many people continue to mourn the death of innovation in the United States. But I disagree. While the U.S. currently finds itself at a challenging intersection of innovation and payment and regulatory reform, these circumstances also offer a unique opportunity.

Now more than ever, we must work creatively and collaboratively to create a new environment for health and medical innovation.

There are five critical trends that we must not only adapt to but also embrace in order to create a value-based healthcare system.

1. PROGRESSION OF SCIENCE

This is an amazing time for science and medicine. The National Academy of Sciences predicts that medical knowledge will double between now and 2022. Progress is happening faster than ever with breakthrough developments such as progenitor heart cells and robotic surgery, as well as future inventions like MRI machines the size of cell phones and flash drives containing your personal genetic code.

2. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND BIG DATA

Technology breakthroughs such as cloud computing and big data, smart manufacturing and engineering, and the wireless revolution are all poised to transform medicine and the U.S. economy. Additionally, big data analytics and research will encourage the use of patient

databases based on information from the government and insurers to gain new insights and information. Big data will change the ways in which we research, develop, and market drugs and devices and how we will measure their performance.

3. CHANGING POLITICS AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND COSTS

Healthcare costs, specifically Medicare and Medicaid, will continue to be the primary driver of federal spending. These costs are increasingly responsible for destabilizing the U.S. economy.

4. REGULATORY EXPANSION

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will continue to play an important role in medical innovation. The FDA is aiming to jumpstart innovation by implementing faster drug and device approval processes and expanding beyond randomized clinical trials to include innovative trial designs and the use of big data population analyses.

5. HEALTH REFORM AND PAYMENT COMPONENTS

In health reform, the clinical effectiveness of treatments and procedures will have to be carefully weighed against their cost-effectiveness. For instance, a percentage of costs accrued in the post-acute space of a procedure like PCI could be spared if cardiologists took responsibility for patients who re-enter the hospital in the 90 days following the procedure. Doing so not only benefits patient outcomes and regulatory agencies, but also improves the reimbursement process.

All five trends will force us to think differently about how we bring products to market, treat patients, and manage people over time. All are very different and challenging, but we must be willing to change with the times and become a part of the process in order to succeed in improving patient care.

ELM Program Fellows Visit CRF



Pictured from left to right: (top row) John Breinholt, MD; Sahil Parikh, MD; Farouc Jaffer, MD, PhD; Dmitriy Feldman, MD; John Petersen, MD, MHS; Anita Asgar, MD; Marc Jolicœur, MD, MSc, MHS; and Thomas M. Tu, MD (bottom row) Jeffrey Schussler, MD; Kevin Croce, MD, PhD; Herbert Aronow, MD, MPH; and Srihari S. Naidu, MD

Fellows of the Emerging Leader Mentorship Program visited CRF on March 12, 2014. The group participated in a TCT planning meeting, toured the TCTMD studio, and met with the Center for Education and Clinical Trials Center leadership. The ELM program was developed by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) in partnership with the American

College of Cardiology (ACC) and CRF. These physicians are selected to participate in an intense, hands-on, two-year mentorship program to improve and refine their skills as leaders in medicine, ambassadors for their specialty and advocates for their patients. Dr. Srihari Naidu, ELM program chair, and Dr. Ajay Kirtane, the CRF representative to the ELM program, organized the visit.

Echo
Echocardiography Course

April 9-11, 2014
Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan
New York, NY

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CRF Names Two New Members to its Board of Directors

CRF recently selected two new members to its Board of Directors: Karen G. Krasney, JD, and Frank Litvack, MD. The appointments increase the number of directors to 12. Ms. Krasney is Executive Vice President and General Counsel for Capricor Therapeutics, Inc. Dr. Litvack is Director of Strategy and Alternative Investments at Pura Vida Investments and serves as Executive Chairman of Capricor Therapeutics, Inc.

"We are pleased to add the talent and healthcare insight of these two respected individuals to the CRF Board," said Jack Lewin, MD, CRF's President and Chief Executive Officer. "We look forward to the unique perspectives both individuals will provide to CRF's strategy and operations as we continue to focus on our mission to improve the life of people with cardiovascular disease through research and education."

Ms. Krasney's career spans over 35 years, serving as General Counsel for numerous public and private

companies engaged in a wide variety of industries. Her extensive background and experience has focused on domestic and international corporate and business law, as well as litigation. She has been involved in medical technology for over twenty years, representing several medical technology companies involved in the development of products for the treatment of cardiovascular disease.

An entrepreneur and accomplished veteran of the healthcare industry, Dr. Litvack has over 25 years of academic and industry experience and also serves on the Health Care Advisory Board of RAND Corporation. He is an Attending Cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Professor at David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles. His seminal work with AIS in developing the first FDA-approved excimer laser angioplasty system earned him special recognition from NASA and induction into the Space Technology Hall of Fame.

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James K. Min, MD

as Director of Cardiac Imaging Research and Co-Director of Cardiac Imaging at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California.

"We are very excited to welcome Dr. Min who will greatly enhance the imaging capabilities and expertise of the CRF Clinical Trials Center," said Ori Ben-Yehuda, MD, Executive Director of the CTC. "Dr. Min's unique background and experience, combined with his expert knowledge of clinical trial design and research, will expand our capabilities in the innovative use of novel next-generation imaging technologies to diagnose and treat heart disease."

"Dr. Min is a world recognized authority on numerous non-invasive imaging modalities and has unique and practical knowledge of the interrelationships between non-invasive imaging, coronary angiography, and revascularization," said Gregg W. Stone, MD, Professor of Medicine at Columbia University

Medical Center and Co-Director of Medical Research and Education at CRF. "The addition of Dr. Min's expertise, abilities, and work ethic brilliantly complements the cutting-edge clinical trial and core laboratory work for which CRF is known and will vastly expand our core competencies, allowing us to enter new realms and lead novel investigations."

"I am delighted to join the CRF Clinical Trials Center, an organization with a distinguished reputation for innovation and countless contributions to cardiovascular medicine and patient care," said Dr. Min. "Working closely with CRF's renowned physician leadership, I hope to expand and enhance the CTC's expertise in non-invasive imaging clinical trial design and development."

Continued from Page 1
Andrew F. Kraus

MD, CRF's Chief Executive Officer and President. "Andrew's broad expertise and leadership in business operational efficiencies will be an invaluable asset as CRF positions itself for growth and success in the next decade in the research and development of novel technologies and therapies that will benefit people with heart disease worldwide."

"I look forward to working with CRF's visionary physicians who are dedicated and passionate about advancing the field of interventional cardiovascular medicine," said Mr. Kraus. "CRF is a unique organization with a distinguished reputation for innovation and countless contributions to cardiovascular medicine and patient care."

Mr. Kraus joins CRF from ICON,

plc., one of the top five global clinical research organizations, where as Executive Vice President, Global Data Technologies, he led a team of over 250 professionals across three service groups (medical imaging, IVR/IWR/ drug management, and site and investigator portal) located throughout North America, Europe, and India.

Prior to ICON, Mr. Kraus founded his first company in 1998, and in 2001 was Co-Founder and served on the Board of Directors of Beacon Bioscience, a medical imaging core laboratory. During his tenure as Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, ICON acquired a stake in Beacon and later completed their acquisition in 2009. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania with a focus on neural networks in medical image analysis.

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Coronary Physiology and Intravascular Imaging Symposium 2014

March 27-28, 2014 • Ronald Reagan Building • Washington, DC



Optimizing PCI Outcomes: A Vision for 2014

March 28, 2014 • Grand Hyatt Washington • Washington, DC

CRF's Annual "Pulse of the City" Gala Celebrates Global Collaboration

The annual 2013 Pulse of the City Gala was held December 13, 2013, at The Plaza in New York City. This special evening recognized the importance of global collaboration and eminent physicians who have played pivotal roles in advancing the field of interventional cardiovascular medicine - Antonio Colombo, MD; Runlin Gao, MD; Patrick W. Serruys, MD, PhD; and J. Eduardo Sousa, MD, PhD.

More than 400 guests, including many close friends and colleagues of the honorees, gathered to celebrate these renowned

individuals. CRF's physician leaders, Drs. Jack Lewin, Martin Leon, and Gregg Stone paid tribute to the honorees' significant contributions made to cardiovascular disease treatment, scientific research, and physician education, improving outcomes for patients all over the world.

Proceeds from the Gala will benefit CRF's medical research and educational programs.

This year's gala will be held on Friday, December 12, 2014 at The Plaza.



CRF Physician Leadership with Pulse Gala Honorees: Pictured from left to right: Antonio Colombo, MD; Xu Bo, MBBS (on behalf of Runlin Gao, MD); Gregg W. Stone, MD; Patrick W. Serruys, MD, PhD; Martin B. Leon, MD; and J. Eduardo Sousa, MD, PhD.



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