

History of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery: The First Decade

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Abstract

The World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WSPCHS) is the largest professional organization in the world dedicated to pediatric and congenital heart surgery. The purpose of this article is to document the first decade of the history of WSPCHS from its formation in 2006, to summarize the current status of WSPCHS, and to consider the future of WSPCHS. The WSPCHS was incorporated in Canada on April 7, 2011, with a head office in Montreal, Canada. The vision of the WSPCHS is that every child born anywhere in the world with a congenital heart defect should have access to appropriate medical and surgical care. The mission of the WSPCHS is to promote the highest quality comprehensive cardiac care to all patients with congenital heart disease, from the fetus to the adult, regardless of the patient's economic means, with an emphasis on excellence in teaching, research, and community service.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CHD	congenital heart disease
CHSS	Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society
ECHSA	European Congenital Heart Surgeons Association
STS	Society of Thoracic Surgeons
WDPCHS	World Database for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery
WJPCHS	World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery
WSPCHS	World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery

Background

The World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WSPCHS; <http://www.wspchs.org/>) is the largest professional organization in the world dedicated to pediatric and congenital heart surgery.

- The vision of the WSPCHS is that every child born anywhere in the world with a congenital heart defect should have access to appropriate medical and surgical care.
- The mission of the WSPCHS is to promote the highest quality comprehensive cardiac care to all patients with congenital heart disease (CHD), from the fetus to the adult, regardless of the patient's economic means, with an emphasis on excellence in teaching, research, and community service.

Efforts are ongoing to increase access to pediatric and congenital cardiac care.^{1,2} Multiple ongoing overlapping and collaborative initiatives strive to accomplish this objective.³⁻⁵ Certainly, the mission and vision of WSPCHS is consistent with the goal of increased global access to pediatric and congenital cardiac services and expertise through patient care, research, and education, with the focus of WSPCHS being all children with cardiac disease (both congenital and acquired) as well as adults with congenital cardiac disease. The purpose of this article is to document the history of WSPCHS from its formation until now, to summarize the current status of WSPCHS, and to consider the future of WSPCHS.

Early History

The origins of WSPCHS date back to the time of the highly successful First Joint Meeting of the Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society (CHSS) and the European Congenital Heart Surgeons Association (ECHSA) that was held in Montreal,

Canada, October 3 and 4, 2004, with Christo I. Tchervenkov as the local host.^{6,7} This First Joint Meeting of CHSS and ECHSA was attended by 127 physicians, with 57 being members of the CHSS, 25 coming from the ECHSA, 2 being honored guests, 29 being guest surgeons sponsored by the members, and 14 being local guests from Montreal Children's Hospital of McGill University. During this joint meeting, initial discussions took place among several surgeons about the possibility of creating a World Society. In fact, the idea of a World Society was formally discussed at a private meeting attended by 7 presidents of the Castañeda Society who were attending the Joint CHSS/ECHSA meeting in Montreal. This meeting took place from 7 to 8 AM on October 4, 2004, and was attended by Roberto Di Donato, president, Christo Tchervenkov, president-elect, and 5 past presidents: Giovanni Stellin, John Lamberti, Dominique Metras, Gerhard Ziemer, and Richard Jonas.

The next critical step in the creation of the new society took place during the Fourth World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2005. At the Fourth World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, a special meeting entitled "Towards a World Society" was organized by the "Society of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery—Aldo R. Castañeda," informally referred to as the "Castañeda Society." The meeting was open to all those attending the World Congress and was cochaired by Christo Tchervenkov and Roberto Di Donato, respectively, president-elect and president of the Castañeda Society. The attendees at this special meeting agreed unanimously that a WSPCHS should be established. Aldo R. Castañeda himself was supportive of establishing a World Society and had asked for years for his name to be removed from the "Castañeda Society."

Following the World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the process to establish a World Society was begun. A Constitutional Council was established under the leadership of Christo Tchervenkov, then president of the Castañeda Society. The Constitutional Council had balanced global representation from all continents. Table 1 lists the 30 members of the Constitutional Council of WSPCHS, with members from all continents. The Constitutional Council first met on April 28, 2006, in Philadelphia. A name was chosen to be officially "World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WSPCHS)." Although it was to be primarily a global organization of pediatric and congenital heart surgeons, it was decided that it should be open for membership to all colleagues from related specialties dealing with pediatric and congenital cardiac care. The first historic scientific meeting was planned for Washington, DC, on May 3 and 4, 2007.

At the first meeting of the Constitutional Council, an extensive discussion took place regarding the vision, mission, and

Table 1. Constitutional Council of WSPCHS (2006-2007).

1	Christo I. Tchervenkov (Chair)	Montreal, Canada
2	Zohair Al-Halees	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
3	Sertac M. Cicek	Istanbul, Turkey
4	Roberto Di Donato	Rome, Italy
5	Stephan Haecker	Santiago, Chile
6	Vladimir N. Ilyin	Moscow, Russia
7	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	St Petersburg, United States
8	Marcello B. Jatene	São Paulo, Brazil
9	Richard A. Jonas	Washington, DC, United States
10	Yong Jin Kim	Seoul, South Korea
11	Robin H. Kinsley	Johannesburg, South Africa
12	Christopher J. Knott-Craig	Oklahoma City, United States
13	Christian Kreuzer	Buenos Aires, Argentina
14	Hiromi Kurosawa	Tokyo, Japan
15	John J. Lamberti	San Diego, United States
16	Stojan Lazarov	Sofia, Bulgaria
17	Juan R. Leon-Wyss	Guatemala City, Guatemala
18	Jinfen Liu	Shanghai, China
19	Bohdan Maruszewski	Warsaw, Poland
20	Constantine Mavroudis	Chicago, United States
21	Dominique R. Metras	Marseilles, France
22	Graham R. Nunn	Sydney, Australia
23	Samuel Ramirez-Marroquín	Mexico City, Mexico
24	Shunji Sano	Okayama, Japan
25	Rajesh Sharma	New Delhi, India
26	Ayman Shoeb	Cairo, Egypt
27	Thomas L. Spray	Philadelphia, United States
28	Giovanni Stellin	Padova, Italy
29	Herve Yangni-Angate	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
30	Gerhard Ziemer	Tubingen, Germany

Abbreviation: WSPCHS: World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.

objectives of the World Society.⁵ An initial leadership team of 5 officers was selected to run the affairs of the World Society until the Constitution could be finalized and ratified: Christo I. Tchervenkov, president; Giovanni Stellin, first vice president; Hiromi Kurosawa, second vice president; Jeffrey P. Jacobs, secretary; and Constantine Mavroudis, treasurer. The process of writing the Constitution was initiated. The Constitutional Council then met 3 more times: in Stockholm, Sweden, on September 9, 2006; in San Diego, California, on January 28, 2007; and in Washington, DC, on May 2, 2007. A constitution was written and an official logo was created and approved by the 5 officers in July 2006 in Venice, Italy. Figure 1 shows the official logo of WSPCHS.

The last meeting of the Constitutional Council was a Joint Meeting with the newly established Governing Council of the World Society. It was at this Joint Meeting on May 2, 2007, in Washington, DC, that the running of the World Society was formally transferred from the Constitutional Council to the Governing Council, which assumed its full powers.⁵ Table 2 lists the initial members of the first Governing Council of WSPCHS. The Constitution of WSPCHS was approved on May 4, 2007, at the inaugural scientific meeting of the new WSPCHS. Eventually, WSPCHS was incorporated in Canada on April 7, 2011,



Figure 1. Official logo of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WSPCHS).

with a head office at the Montreal Children's Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada.

Early accomplishments of WSPCHS include 11 successful scientific meetings all over the world, the creation of the *World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WJPCHS)* in 2009, and the establishment of the *World Database for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WDPCHS)* in 2016.

Scientific Meetings

Table 3 summarizes the list of meetings of WSPCHS. Details of these meetings are provided below.

First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS: Washington, DC (May 2007)

The First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was held in Washington, DC, May 3 and 4, 2007. The local host was Richard A. Jonas, MD. The meeting was attended by 367 registrants from 62 countries, representing all the continents of the world. The proceedings of the First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS and abstracts from First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS were published.⁸⁻¹¹

This first day of the First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of tetralogy of Fallot and was dedicated to the late Stella Van Praagh, who had died earlier in the year. The postgraduate course covered the entire breadth of the topic with 35 presentations by speakers from all over the world. The highlight was the Stella Van Praagh Memorial Lecture, "History and anatomy of tetralogy of Fallot," delivered by her husband, Richard Van Praagh. The postgraduate course also included a feature presentation by the Kirklin Fellow of the CHSS, Edward Hickey, entitled "Making sense of Congenital Heart Disease within the

Table 2. Founding Governing Council of WSPCHS (2007-2011).⁵

Executive committee		
Christo I. Tchervenkov	President	Montreal, Canada
Giovanni Stellin	First vice president	Padova, Italy
Hiromi Kurosawa	Second vice president	Tokyo, Japan
Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Secretary	St Petersburg, United States
Constantine Mavroudis	Treasurer	Cleveland, United States
Councilors		
Zohair Al-Halees	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	
Martin J. Elliott	London, United Kingdom	
Marcelo B. Jatene	São Paulo, Brazil	
Richard A. Jonas	Washington, DC, United States	
Robin H. Kinsley	Johannesburg, South Africa	
Christian Kreuzer	Buenos Aires, Argentina	
Juan R. Leon-Wyss	Guatemala City, Guatemala	
Jinfen Liu	Shanghai, China	
Bohdan Maruszewski	Warsaw, Poland	
Graham R. Nunn	Brisbane, Australia	
Samuel Ramirez-Marroquín	Mexico City, Mexico	
Nestor Sandoval	Bogota, Colombia	
Shunji Sano	Okayama, Japan	
George E. Sarris	Athens, Greece	
Rajesh Sharma	New Delhi, India	
Ayman Shoeb	Cairo, Egypt	
Thomas L. Spray	Philadelphia, United States	
Ross M. Ungerleider	Portland, United States	
Herve Yangni-Angate	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	
Gerhard Ziemer	Tubingen, Germany	

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Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society." The format was fast paced and a huge amount of material and data were effectively and efficiently delivered. Evidence of the interest generated was the fact that, at the end of an 11-hour day, the conference room was still packed, with standing room only.¹¹

This second day of the First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was devoted to the scientific session, during which 17 papers were presented from 4 continents on a diverse number of topics. Highlights of the second day were first, a presentation from the Founding President, Christo I. Tchervenkov. This presidential address was entitled "Hearts for Life across the World" and was preceded by an introduction made by Founding Secretary Jeff Jacobs entitled "Bridging Cultures." This opening introductory talk, "Bridging Cultures," emphasized why Christo Tchervenkov, as Founding President, was uniquely positioned to bring together and unite people, having lived on 3 continents. This opening talk also reviewed the importance of collaborative efforts that span both political and subspecialty boundaries. During his subsequent presidential address, Dr Tchervenkov discussed the problems facing children born with congenital heart defects, with most of them being born in the developing world, either without adequate services or even totally devoid of services. He summarized his vision of how the problem could be addressed, with "Medicine of RESPECT," with the acronym based on the following key elements: **R**esponsibility, **E**ducation, **S**ustainability,

Partnership, **E**mpowerment, **C**are & **C**ommitment, and **T**eamwork & **T**rust. He finished his presentation by reading to the audience a letter of support for the World Society received only days before the meeting from Nelson Mandela, an honorary patron of the Walter Sisulu Pediatric Cardiac Center for Africa, located in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The second highlight of the second day of the First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was the presentation by the honored guest speaker, Aldo R. Castañeda, who was introduced by his former student and colleague, Richard A. Jonas. During this presentation, entitled "Pediatric Cardiac Surgery: A Challenge and Outcome Analysis of the Guatemala Effort," Dr Castañeda described how, after his retirement from the Children's Hospital in Boston, he moved to Guatemala, where he helped establish a sustainable program of pediatric cardiac surgery that, at the time of this meeting, performed over 400 operations per year and received referrals of complex cases from other countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Dr Castañeda made the point, during his presentation, that sustainable success is based on training the local teams to do the work themselves, based on education and building partnerships. During his presentation, Castañeda discouraged what he called "medical tourism," or "medical/surgical safaris," based on large teams from the developed world going to an underdeveloped area to operate on a dozen children and leaving without imparting substantive knowledge to the local patient care teams.

Table 3. Meetings of WSPCHS (2006-2018).

Scientific Meetings	City	Country	Dates	Local Host	Postgraduate Course	Stella Van Praagh Lecture	Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture	Adib Domingos Jatene Lecture
First Scientific Meeting	Washington, DC	United States	May 3-4, 2007	Richard A. Jonas	Tetralogy of Fallot	Richard Van Praagh	Aldo R. Castañeda	Adib Domingos Jatene
Second Scientific Meeting	Cairns	Australia	June 22-24, 2009	David Winlaw	Common Atrioventricular Junction	Robert H. Anderson	Roger B.B. Mee	
Third Scientific Meeting	Istanbul	Turkey	June 23-26, 2011	Sertac M. Cicek	Functionally Univentricular Hearts	James L. Wilkinson	Robin H. Kinsley	
Fourth Scientific Meeting	São Paulo	Brazil	July 17-20, 2014	Marcelo B. Jatene	Left Heart Lesions	Vera D. Aiello	Constantine Mavroudis	Adib Domingos Jatene
Fifth Scientific Meeting	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates	October 27-30, 2016	Zohair Al-Halees	Adult Congenital Heart Disease	Gaetano Thiene	Sir Magdi Yacoub	Devi Prasad Shetty
Sixth Scientific Meeting	Orlando	United States	July 22-26, 2018	Jeffrey P. Jacobs and Marshall L. Jacobs	The Management of Hypoplastic Ventricles	Paul Weinberg	William Norwood	*Leonard Bailey, MD
Multisocietal and Regional Meetings								
Regional Meetings	City	Country	Dates	Local Host	Postgraduate Course			
	Antigua	Guatemala	July 15-17, 2010	Juan Leon-Wyss	Transposition of the Great Arteries and Corrected Transposition			
	Shanghai	China	October 21-22, 2010	Jinfen Liu	Heterotaxy			
	Lima	Peru	March 19-20, 2012	Miguel Arboleda	Diseases of the Pulmonary Veins			
	Cartagena	Colombia	February 26-28, 2015	Nestor Sandoval	Pulmonary Atresia with Ventricular Septal Defect and Pulmonary Atresia with Intact Ventricular Septum			
	Kyoto	Japan	November 27-28, 2015	Masaaki Yamagishi	Ventriculo-Arterial Connections			
Other Meetings								
Other Meetings	City	Country	Dates	Local Host				
Constitutional Council	Philadelphia	United States	April 28, 2006					
Constitutional Council	Stockholm	Sweden	September 9, 2006					
Constitutional Council	San Diego	United States	January 28, 2007					
Constitutional Council	Washington, DC	United States	May 2, 2007					
World Summit	Montreal	Canada	June 19-21, 2008	Christo I. Tchervenkov				

Abbreviation: WSPCHS: World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery. *The original plan for the 2018 Adib Domingos Jatene Lecture on Innovation was that Leonard Bailey, MD was going to present this lecture in recognition of the huge contributions made by Dr. Bailey in the domain of pediatric cardiac transplantation. Dr. Bailey is unable to present this Lecture, so instead, Jeffrey Jacobs, MD and Luca Vricella, MD will pay special tribute to Dr. Bailey, and then Jeffrey Jacobs, MD and Luca Vricella, MD will introduce Marshall Lewis Jacobs, MD, who will present the 2018 Adib Domingos Jatene Lecture on Innovation in recognition of the huge contributions made by Dr. Marshall Jacobs in the domain of caring for patients with functionally univentricular hearts.

Table 4. Honorary Founding Members of WSPCHS (2007).

1	Robert H. Anderson	United Kingdom
2	Eugene H. Blackstone	United States
3	Aldo R. Castañeda	Guatemala
4	Denton A. Cooley	United States
5	George R. Daicoff	United States
6	Gordon K. Danielson	United States
7	Marc R. de Leval	United Kingdom
8	Wen X. Ding	China
9	Anthony R. C. Dobell	Canada
10	Paul A. Ebert	United States
11	Francis M. Fontan	France
12	Yasuharu Imai	Japan
13	Adib D. Jatene	Brazil
14	Yasunaru Kawashima	Japan
15	Guillermo Kreutzer	Argentina
16	Yves Lecompte	France
17	Christopher R. Lincoln	United Kingdom
18	Roger B. B. Mee	Australia
19	William I. Norwood Jr	United States
20	Lucio Parenzan	Italy
21	Claude Planché	France
22	Donald N. Ross	United Kingdom
23	Jane Somerville	United Kingdom
24	Jaroslav F. Stark	United Kingdom
25	George A. Trusler	Canada
26	Andreas E. Urban	Germany
27	Richard Van Praagh	United States
28	John A. Waldhausen	United States
29	William G. Williams	Canada
30	Sir Magdi Yacoub	United Kingdom

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At the end of the second day of the First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS, a first Members Meeting was held, attended by the founding members of WSPCHS from all continents. The highlight of this gathering was the formal and unanimous adoption of the Constitution of WSPCHS.

The conclusion of the First Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was celebrated with a gala dinner, having the theme of “world beat,” which was held at the spectacular atrium of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. During the evening, special certificates were presented to those honorary founding members who were in attendance. Table 4 lists all honorary founding members of WSPCHS. It was also announced that the 2 special lectures delivered at the inaugural meeting would become permanent lectures at future scientific meetings and would be known as the “Stella Van Praagh Lecture” and the “Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture.” These permanent lectures of WSPCHS were made possible with the generous support and commitment of the Dr Ivan C. Tchervenkov Memorial Endowment Fund of the Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation. The gala dinner also featured music from different parts of the world, as well as the spectacular singing of a local children’s choir, whose finale was an emotional rendition of “We are the World.”

World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education, and Cardiac Care for Children and Adults With Congenital Heart Disease in Montreal: Montreal, Canada (June 2008)

In 2008, WSPCHS organized a World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education, and Cardiac Care for Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease in Montreal. The objectives of the World Summit were as follows:

1. To present to the attendees the history and development of the study, research, investigation (diagnostics), and treatment for pediatric and congenital heart disease.
 - a. The current status of the study, research, investigation (diagnostics), treatment, and optimal care for pediatric and congenital heart disease.
 - b. The optimal training, education, and maintenance of competence of health-care professionals dealing with pediatric and congenital heart disease.
 - c. The optimal processes for quality of care assessment for pediatric and congenital heart disease.
 - d. The current status of the care for pediatric and congenital heart disease across the entire world with emphasis on underserved areas in each continent.
 - e. The current status of training, education, and maintenance of competence across the world with emphasis on regional differences.
 - f. The current status of humanitarian projects and surgical missions.
2. To elaborate a global plan for the improvement of care for pediatric and congenital heart disease across the world.
3. To define the requirements for setting up a pediatric and congenital heart program/center.
4. To explore different models for international collaboration.
5. To elaborate a global plan for the training, education, and maintenance of competence of health-care professionals for health-care professionals dealing with pediatric and congenital heart disease.
6. To identify the necessary partners in the global coalition for improvement of care for pediatric and congenital heart disease.
7. To define the optimal role of humanitarian projects and surgical missions.
8. To define the role of WSPCHS and the proposed World Federation for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease in the improvement of care for children and adults with CHD across the world.

One of the important objectives of WSPCHS is to promote collaboration across subspecialties dealing with congenital cardiac care and to establish a global coalition for congenital cardiac care.⁵ In order to get broader support and representation

into the process, WSPCHS organized this World Summit on Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Services, Education, and Cardiac Care for Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease. The World Summit took place in Montreal, Canada, on June 19 to 21, 2008. The primary objective of the World Summit was to build a global coalition to improve cardiac care for children and adults with pediatric and congenital heart disease.

Several months before the World Summit, in March 2008, Christo I. Tchervenkov and Giovanni Stellin had the unique opportunity to visit the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Center for Africa located in Johannesburg, South Africa, named after the closest collaborator and mentor of Nelson Mandela.⁵ Dr Tchervenkov and Dr Stellin had the honor and privilege to meet with Mr Mandela, the honorary patron of the Center, and Mrs Albertina Sisulu, the widow of the late Walter Sisulu. This meeting provided inspiration and clarity to what can be achieved through cooperation, perseverance, and compassion.⁵ Therefore, the World Summit was dedicated to Walter and Albertina Sisulu of South Africa, whose love of children is without limit, and to all the children of the world.⁵

Full of inspiration and motivation, the World Summit was organized to encourage maximum participation, share ideas on how to globally organize, improve education and training, and improve care for children and adults with CHD across the world in a sustainable fashion. There were 84 presentations by 72 speakers; session moderators came from all continents and specialties dealing with pediatric and congenital cardiac care. The 3 days of the World Summit were divided as follows:

- Day 1 was spent on a global overview of the history of the development of knowledge for CHD, focusing on regions where the science, education, and outcomes analysis currently exist under optimal conditions.
- Day 2 consisted of an exploration of the uneven realities across all continents, with an emphasis on the areas of inadequate services and education, as well as a discussion of various humanitarian missions and models of cooperation. The status of care and education was highlighted in major countries and regions.
- Day 3 was devoted to a discussion of the impediments in the delivery of care and education in the areas of need and in identifying the components of a global coalition of stakeholders to improve the fate of millions of children and adults with CHD across the world.

The World Summit was attended by leadership representatives from over 30 international and national organizations dealing with pediatric and congenital heart disease and delegates from 54 countries whose populations total 4.8 billion people.⁵ The World Summit brought an assembly of dedicated and visionary individuals gathered in the beautiful city of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in an atmosphere of mutual respect, collaboration, friendship, and a genuine desire to work for the improvement of the plight of millions of children and adults with CHD across the world. The World Summit focused on

creating a sustainable movement for the systematic organization and global mobilization of all involved.⁵

Second Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS: Cairns, Australia (June 2009)

The Second Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was held at the Fifth World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, June 22 to 24, 2009, in Cairns, Australia. This meeting included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of "Common Atrioventricular Junction." This postgraduate course was dedicated to the memory of Sir Brian Barrat-Boyes of New Zealand. Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters. Some of these sessions were jointly chaired by members of WSPCHS as well as by the leadership of the World Congress. A Joint WSPCHS/World Congress Surgical Program Committee reviewed the abstract submissions and prepared the program.

Overall, at the Second Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS, 32 oral presentations were made of the best abstracts submitted. The "Stella Van Praagh Lecture" was entitled "Anatomy of the Common Atrioventricular Junction" and was delivered by Robert H. Anderson of London, United Kingdom.¹² The "Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture" was entitled "Global Challenges in Education and Training for Congenital Heart Surgery" and was delivered by Roger B. B. Mee of Williamstown, Australia.¹³ After an introduction of the President by First Vice President Giovanni Stellin, MD, of Padova, Italy, the presidential address was presented by Christo I. Tchervenkov and was entitled "World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery: Blueprint for the Future and a Call for Action."

Special Multi-Societal Joint Meeting Dedicated to and Celebrating the 80th Birthday of Aldo R. Castañeda, Antigua, Guatemala (July 2010)

A special multisocietal joint meeting, coordinated by WSPCHS and the "Castañeda Society," was held at Hotel Casa Santo Domingo in Antigua, Guatemala, from July 15 to 17, 2010. The meeting was hosted by Juan Léon-Wyss and the Planning and Program Committee was chaired by Christo I. Tchervenkov. The following is a list of the participating organizations:

1. WSPCHS
2. "Society of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery—Aldo R. Castañeda"
3. Sociedad Latina de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular Pediátrica
4. Asociación Mexicana de Especialistas en Cardiopatías Congénitas
5. Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia Cardiovascular
6. Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia
7. ECHSA
8. CHSS
9. Sociedad Colombiana de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular

10. Asociación Guatemalteca de Cardiología
11. Fundación Aldo Castañeda

This meeting included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of “Transposition of the Great Arteries” and “Corrected Transposition,” as well as oral paper sessions of the best abstracts submitted. Honorary meeting chairmen included Horacio Capelli, Adib Jatene, Guillermo Kreutzer, William Norwood, Jane Somerville, Richard Van Praagh, and Sir Magdi Yacoub. Proceedings from the meeting were published in the new *WJPCHS*, with Editor, Marshall L. Jacobs.

A highlight of the meeting was a special presidential address of the Society of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery “Aldo R. Castañeda,” delivered by President Christo I. Tchervenkov on behalf of the past presidents of the “Castañeda Society.” The title was “Society of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery ‘Aldo R. Castañeda’: Its History and Historic Legacy.” At the end of the presidential address, the following resolution was read and unanimously adopted:

We propose that The Society of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery “Aldo R. Castañeda,” having inspired the establishment of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery, be officially dissolved. The symbolic heart of the Castañeda Society will reside from now on within the World Society.

Aldo R. Castañeda has played a vital role in the development of neonatal and infant heart surgery and has also trained, mentored, and influenced countless surgeons and their colleagues all over the world. He has taught us the value of team work in a spirit of collaboration, understanding, and mutual respect in the service of our patients, the children born with CHD. Following his retirement from Boston Children’s Hospital, Dr Castañeda returned to Guatemala and worked toward the establishment of a first-class pediatric cardiac unit in Guatemala City, a remarkable and enduring model of how to organize and provide sorely needed care to the children born in the needy areas of the world. His legacy will endure in the expertise, spirit, and hearts of countless individuals and in WSPCHS, the creation of which he inspired. This special multisocietal meeting, coordinated by WSPCHS, paid tribute to Dr Castañeda, and the proceeds from this special meeting were donated to the Fundación Aldo Castañeda, to say thank you and also to help toward the care of the children of Guatemala.

The Regional Meeting of WSPCHS, Shanghai, China (October 2010)

A regional meeting of WSPCHS was held in Shanghai, China, on October 21 to 22, 2010. The local host was Jinfen Liu from Shanghai Children’s Medical Center. The meeting was supported by the following organizations:

1. Chinese Medical Association
2. Chinese Society for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

3. Chinese Society of Pediatric Surgery
4. Chinese Medical Doctor Association
5. Shanghai Children’s Medical Center
6. Shanghai Jiaotong University
7. Project Hope

This meeting included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of “Heterotaxy”. The Program Committee was cochaired by Jinfen Liu, Richard Jonas, and Christo Tchervenkov. Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters. The meeting was attended by large number of attendees from China, Far East Asia, and the rest of the world. Proceedings of the meeting were published in *WJPCHS*.

Third Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS: Istanbul, Turkey (June 2011)

The Third Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was held in Istanbul, Turkey, June 23 to 26, 2011. The local host was Sertac M. Cicek, MD. This meeting included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of “Functionally Univentricular Hearts.” This postgraduate course was dedicated to the great pioneers of congenital heart surgery, Francis M. Fontan of France and Guillermo O. Kreutzer of Argentina. Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters.

The “Stella Van Praagh Lecture” was entitled “Anatomy of Functionally Univentricular Heart” and was delivered by James L. Wilkinson from Melbourne, Australia.¹⁴ The “Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture” was entitled “The Neglect of Neonatal/Infant Cardiac Disease in Africa: Continental ‘genocide?’” and was delivered by Robin H. Kinsley from Johannesburg, South Africa.¹⁵ After an introduction of the new president by Founding President Christo I. Tchervenkov, the presidential address was presented by Giovanni Stellin, MD, of Padova, Italy, and was entitled “Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons: Who Are We and What We Are Seeking for?.” In addition to the scientific exchanges, highlights were the reception at the historic Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul and the Presidential Reception cruising the Bosphorus. The meeting was a great success and was attended by over 600 attendees from all regions of the world.

The Joint Meeting of the Sociedad Latina de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular Pediátrica and WSPCHS, Lima, Peru (March 2012)

The Joint Meeting of WSPCHS and Sociedad Latina de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular Pediátrica was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Lima, Peru, March 19 and 20, 2012. This meeting was hosted by Miguel Arboleda and included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of “Diseases of the Pulmonary Veins.” Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters. A highlight of the program was a special session entitled “Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery in Latin America: Current Status and Future Directions.”

Fourth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS: São Paulo, Brazil (July 2014)

The Fourth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was held in São Paulo, Brazil, July 17 to 20, 2014. The local host was Marcelo B. Jatene, MD. This meeting included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of “Left Heart Lesions”; this postgraduate course was dedicated to Adib Domingos Jatene. After an introduction of the president by former President Giovanni Stellin, MD, the presidential address was presented by Hiromi Kurosawa, MD, of Tokyo, Japan, and was entitled “Perspective of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.” Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters.

The Fourth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was attended by 469 colleagues from 44 countries from all continents. The “Stella Van Praagh Lecture” was delivered by Vera D. Aiello of Brazil and was titled “Understanding the Morphology of the Specialized Conduction Tissues in Congenitally Malformed Hearts.” The “Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture” was given by Constantine Mavroudis of the United States and was titled “Personal Glimpses into The Evolution of Truncus Arteriosus Repair.” Additionally, at this Fourth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS, a new lecture on surgical innovation was established, with the inaugural lecture on surgical innovation presented by Adib Domingos Jatene of Brazil. This lecture by Adib Domingos Jatene was the last scientific presentation of Adib Jatene, who died 3 months later. This lecture on surgical innovation will carry the name of Adib Domingos Jatene at future meetings. The Fourth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS also featured a joint scientific session with Sociedad Latina de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular Pediátrica. A highlight of the São Paulo meeting was a town hall meeting on “A World Database for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.” The town hall meeting was cochaired by James K. Kirklin and Christo I. Tchervenkov and involved panelists from all continents. Overwhelming support was received for the establishment of a world database.

Regional Meeting of WSPCHS: Cartagena, Colombia (February 2015)

A regional meeting of WSPCHS was held in Cartagena, Colombia, February 26 to 28, 2015. The local host was Nestor Sandoval from Fundación Cardioinfantil, Bogota, Colombia. This regional meeting of WSPCHS was a joint meeting of the following 3 societies:

1. WSPCHS
2. Sociedad Latina de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular Pediátrica
3. Sociedad Colombiana de Cardiología Symposium

This meeting included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of “Pulmonary Atresia with Ventricular Septal Defect and Pulmonary Atresia with Intact Ventricular Septum.” Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters. At the meeting of the Database

Committee in Cartagena, concrete plans were discussed on the process of establishing the WDPCHS.

Regional Meeting of WSPCHS: Kyoto, Japan (November 2015)

A regional meeting of WSPCHS Joint Meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan, November 27 to 28, 2015. The local hosts were Masaaki Yamagishi, MD, and Hiromi Kurosawa, MD. This regional meeting of WSPCHS was endorsed by the following 3 societies:

1. Japanese Society for Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery
2. Japanese Society for Cardiovascular Surgery
3. Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery.

This meeting included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of “Ventriculo-Arterial Connections.” Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters.

Fifth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (October 2016)

The Fifth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, October 27 to 30, 2016. The local host was Zohair Al-Halees, MD. This Fifth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS was a joint meeting of the following 7 societies

1. WSPCHS
2. Emirates Cardiac Society
3. Saudi Heart Association
4. Pan-Arab Congenital Heart Disease Association
5. Egyptian Society of Cardio-thoracic Surgery
6. Gulf Heart Association
7. Egyptian Society of Cardiology
8. Arab Association of Cardiothoracic Surgery

On the first day of the meeting, there were 4 simultaneous workshops:

1. Right Ventricle, Right Ventricular Outflow Tract and Pulmonary Valve
2. Perinatal Cardiology: An Update
3. Research Tips for the Young Clinicians
4. Cardiovascular Nursing: Achieving Excellence in Patient Care

The plenary sessions in Abu Dhabi included a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic of on “Adult Congenital Heart Disease.” The 5th Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture was presented by Sir Magdi Yacoub from London, United Kingdom, and was entitled “Transposition of the Great Arteries: from Developmental Biology to Surgical Treatment.” The 5th Stella Van Praagh Lecture was presented by Gaetano Thiene from Padova, Italy, and was entitled “Eisenmenger Syndrome Revisited,” and the 2nd “Adib D. Jatene” Lecture on surgical innovation was presented by

Devi Prasad Shetty from Bangalore, India, and was entitled “Process Innovation in the Delivery of Cardiac Care in the Developing World versus the Developed World.” After an introduction of the new president by former President Hiroshi Kurosawa, MD, the presidential address was presented by Richard A. Jonas, MD, of Washington, DC, and was entitled “Strengthening International Collaboration in Congenital Heart Surgery.”

Several scientific sessions were held with oral presentations as well as posters. A highlight of the Abu Dhabi meeting was the official unveiling and demonstration of the WDPCHS. Another highlight was a town hall meeting on the topic “Global Standards of Competence for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.”

Sixth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS: Orlando, Florida (July 2018)

The Sixth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS (<http://www.WSPCHS2018.com>) will be held in Orlando, FL, July 22 to 26, 2018. The local hosts will be Jeffrey P. Jacobs, MD, and Marshall L. Jacobs, MD. This meeting will include a comprehensive postgraduate course on the topic “The Management of Hypoplastic Ventricles.” The 6th Aldo R. Castañeda Lecture will be presented by William Norwood from Albuquerque, New Mexico. The 6th Stella Van Praagh Lecture will be presented by Paul Weinberg from Philadelphia, and the 3rd Adib D. Jatene Lecture on surgical innovation will be presented by Leonard Bailey from Loma Linda, California. Please note that the original plan for the *2018 Adib Domingos Jatene Lecture on Innovation* was that Leonard Bailey, MD was going to present this lecture in recognition of the huge contributions made by Dr. Bailey in the domain of pediatric cardiac transplantation. Dr. Bailey is unable to present this Lecture, so instead, Jeffrey Jacobs, MD and Luca Vricella, MD will pay special tribute to Dr. Bailey, and then Jeffrey Jacobs, MD and Luca Vricella, MD will introduce Marshall Lewis Jacobs, MD, who will present the *2018 Adib Domingos Jatene Lecture on Innovation* in recognition of the huge contributions made by Dr. Marshall Jacobs in the domain of caring for patients with functionally univentricular hearts. The presidential address will be delivered by Marcelo B. Jatene, who will follow current President Richard Jonas and will assume the office of president at the meeting. Several scientific sessions will be held with oral presentations as well as posters. A wet lab simulation course will be held on the Thursday, July 26. In addition, there will be several additional WSPCHS activities during the World Congress:

- Governing Council meeting
- WDPCHS symposium
- *WJPCHS* editorial board meeting
- Annual members meeting

Future Meetings (2018 and Beyond)

Including the Sixth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS in Orlando in July 2018, we are planning several future scientific meetings, which will be great opportunities to share the latest scientific information, exchange ideas, and establish professional connections that will benefit the children with pediatric and congenital cardiac disease as well as adults born with congenital cardiac disease across the world:

- Sixth Scientific Meeting, Orlando, FL, July 22 to 26, 2018
 - Cohosts: Jeffrey P. Jacobs and Marshall L. Jacobs
 - Topic: “Management of Hypoplastic Ventricles”
 - 2018 Annual Members Meeting
 - <http://www.WSPCHS2018.org>
- Joint ECHSA/WSPCHS Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria, June 20 to 22, 2019
 - Cohosts: Stojan Lazarov and Christo I. Tchervenkov
 - Topic: “Management of the Critically Ill Neonate and Infant”
 - 2019 Annual Members Meeting
- Regional Meeting of WSPCHS, Bali, Indonesia, November 28 to 30, 2019
 - Host: Hafil Abdulgani
 - Topic: “The Arterial Switch Operation: From A to Z”
- Seventh Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS, New Delhi, India, March 15 to 18, 2020
 - Host: Sachin Talwar and Krishna S. Iyer
 - Topic: “Late Presentation and Remaining Challenges in the Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease in the Developing World”
 - 2020 Annual Members Meeting
- Eighth World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, Washington, DC, 2021
 - Chairs: Jeffrey P. Jacobs, MD, and Gil Wernovsky, MD
 - <http://www.WCPCCS2021.org>

World Society and the World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

The relationship between WSPCHS and the World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery¹⁶⁻¹⁸ has been highlighted by close collaboration and by mutual benefit. The Founder of the World Congress, Jane Somerville, and the Co-Chair of the Fourth World Congress held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2005, Guillermo Kreutzer are honorary founding members of the World Society. Furthermore, it was at the Fourth World Congress, during a session entitled “Towards a World Society,” that the mandate to establish a World Society was obtained, linking the two in history.

At the Fifth World Congress held in 2009 in Cairns, Australia, WSPCHS held its Second Scientific Meeting and thus contributed to a huge portion of the surgical sessions. The World Society is extremely grateful to the organizers of the

Table 5. Leadership of the Editorial Board of *WJPCHS*.

Editor	
Marshall Jacobs, MD	John Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, United States
Consulting editors	
Aldo R. Castañeda	Harvard Medical School, Emeritus, Guatemala City, Guatemala
Marc de Leval	University College London, London, United Kingdom
Francis Fontan	University of Bordeaux, Emeritus, Bordeaux, France
Robin H. Kinsley	Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
Guillermo Kreutzer	Ricardo Gutierrez Children's Hospital, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Hiromi Kurosawa	Tokyo Women's Medical University, Tokyo, Japan
William I. Norwood	Wilmington, United States
Magdi Yacoub	Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom
Associate editors	
Carl Backer	Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, United States
David Barron	Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, England, United Kingdom
Sertac M. Cicek	Mayo Medical School, Rochester, United States
Viktor Hraska	Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, United States
Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Johns Hopkins All Children's Heart Institute, St Petersburg, United States
Jinfen Liu	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China
Shunji Sano	Okayama University Hospital, Okayama, Japan
Andres Schlichter	Hospital de Niños, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Abbreviation: *WJPCHS*: World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.

Fifth World Congress, particularly James Wilkinson and David Winlaw, for their hospitality.

At the Sixth World Congress held in 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa, *WSPCHS* organized surgical sessions on “*Surgery for Rheumatic Heart Disease*” and also held its 2013 Annual Members Meeting. The World Society is extremely grateful to the organizers of the Sixth World Congress, particularly Christopher Hugo-Hamman, Susan Vosloo, and John Hewitson, for their hospitality.

At the Seventh World Congress held in July 2017 in Barcelona, Spain,¹⁷ *WSPCHS* played an important role in the planning of a large number of the surgical sessions. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Chair of the Seventh World Congress, Sertac Cicek (*WSPCHS* Treasurer), and the organizers, for their hospitality. Richard Jonas (*WSPCHS* President) delivered an

Table 6. World Database for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (*WDPCHS*): World Database Working Group.

Chair	
James K. Kirklin, MD	Birmingham, United States
Secretary	
James D. St. Louis, MD	Kansas City, United States
UAB technical representative	
Stephen Collum, MPH	Birmingham, United States
Members at large	
Jorge Cervantes, MD	Mexico City, Mexico
Sertac M. Cicek, MD	Istanbul, Turkey
Frank Edwin, MD	Accra, Ghana
Kirsten Finucane, MD	Auckland, New Zealand
Jose Fragata, MD	Lisbon, Portugal
Rodney Franklin, MD	London, United Kingdom
Krishna Iyer, MD	New Delhi, India
Jeffrey P. Jacobs, MD	St Petersburg, United States
Marshall L. Jacobs, MD	Baltimore, United States
Hani Najm, MD	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Kisaburo Sakamoto, MD	Shizuoka, Japan
Nestor Sandoval, MD	Bogota, Colombia
Christo I. Tchernikov, MD	Montreal, Canada
Hal Walters, MD	Detroit, United States

Opening Plenary Lecture entitled “Bridging Together: Teamwork in Caring for the Family Touched by Congenital Heart Disease.”¹⁸ In addition, there were several additional *WSPCHS* activities during the World Congress:

- Governing Council Meeting
- *WDPCHS* Lunch Symposium
- *WJPCHS* Editorial Board Meeting
- Annual Members Meeting

The Eighth World Congress (<http://www.WCPCCS2021.org>) will be held in 2021 in Washington, DC, and will be organized by Co-Chairs Jeffrey P. Jacobs (*WSPCHS* Founding Secretary) and Gil Wernovsky. The World Society has been invited to play a significant role in the planning of the surgical sessions for the Eighth World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery.

World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery

The *World Journal for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery* (*WJPCHS*; <http://pch.sagepub.com/>) is a bimonthly, peer-reviewed scientific publication dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge pertaining to congenital cardiac anomalies, and pediatric cardiac diseases in general. Marshall L. Jacobs is the editor in chief of *WJPCHS* and Virginia F. Hawkins is the managing editor. As the official journal of *WSPCHS*, *WJPCHS* focuses on the surgical aspect of the cardiac care of neonates, infants, children, and adults with congenital or acquired pediatric cardiac disease. The International Editorial Advisory Board includes

Table 7. Officers of WSPCHS.

	President	First Vice President	Second Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	Editor	Executive Director
2006/2007	Christo I. Tchervenkov	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis		
2007/2008	Christo I. Tchervenkov	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis		
2008/2009	Christo I. Tchervenkov	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis		
2009/2010	Christo I. Tchervenkov	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis	Marshall L. Jacobs	
2010/2011	Christo I. Tchervenkov	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis	Marshall L. Jacobs	
2011/2012	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Richard A. Jonas	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis	Marshall L. Jacobs	Christo I. Tchervenkov
2012/2013	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Richard A. Jonas	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis	Marshall L. Jacobs	Christo I. Tchervenkov
2013/2014	Giovanni Stellin	Hiroki Kurosawa	Richard A. Jonas	Jeffrey P. Jacobs	Constantine Mavroudis	Marshall L. Jacobs	Christo I. Tchervenkov
2014/2015	Hiroki Kurosawa	Richard A. Jonas	Marcelo B. Jatene	Nestor Sandoval	Sertac M. Cicek	Marshall L. Jacobs	Christo I. Tchervenkov
2015/2016	Hiroki Kurosawa	Richard A. Jonas	Marcelo B. Jatene	Nestor Sandoval	Sertac M. Cicek	Marshall L. Jacobs	Christo I. Tchervenkov
2016/2017	Richard A. Jonas	Marcelo B. Jatene	Zohair Al-Halees	Nestor Sandoval	Sertac M. Cicek	Marshall L. Jacobs	Christo I. Tchervenkov
2017/2018	Richard A. Jonas	Marcelo B. Jatene	Zohair Al-Halees	Nestor Sandoval	Sertac M. Cicek	Marshall L. Jacobs	Christo I. Tchervenkov

Abbreviation: WSPCHS: World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.

specialists in congenital heart surgery, cardiology, anesthesia, critical care, and nursing.

The journal contains, and manuscript submissions are welcome, in the following categories:

- Original reports of clinical and/or basic scientific investigations and observations relevant to the care and management of patients with CHD.
- Review articles, expert techniques, historical perspectives, and descriptions of new technologies (with focus on surgical topics, as well as interventional cardiology, anesthesia, and critical care).
- Instructive case reports and unique images of pediatric and congenital cardiac care.
- Reports of proceedings of the meetings of WSPCHS, as well as those of other national and regional cardiac surgical societies and pediatric cardiology organizations that do not have widely distributed official publications of their own.
- Papers on diverse subjects relevant to the mission of WSPCHS, including worldwide and regional demographics of CHD, health-care policy and economics pertinent to CHD, programs of international collaboration in the development and support of centers for CHD, challenges and progress in clinical care in underserved areas, and issues related to congenital heart surgery education and training around the world.

- Manuscripts submitted by organizations or entities interested in advancing pediatric and congenital cardiac care worldwide.

The initial issue of *WJPCHS* was published in April 2010. In January 2018, *WJPCHS* completed 8 full years of production. Articles in *WJPCHS* are listed and indexed in PubMed. The *WJPCHS* is the only scientific journal specifically dedicated to pediatric and congenital heart surgery and is currently distributed in 77 countries.

A most exciting development has been the unanimous decisions by the boards of CHSS and the ECHSA to adopt the *World Journal* as their official journal. The World Society is truly delighted with this historic achievement that will bring together these 3 organizations in our efforts to improve care for all children with heart disease and all adults born with CHD across the world.

Table 5 documents the leadership of the current editorial board of the *WJPCHS*. A complete listing of the members of the editorial board is available in Supplemental Table 1. For more information about *WJPCHS*, and to submit a manuscript, please visit <http://pch.sagepub.com/>.

World Database for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WDPCHS)

Many excellent national and continental databases exist to track the outcomes of patients undergoing pediatric and congenital heart surgery, including:

Table 8. Governing Council of WSPCHS as of July 1, 2017.

Officers		
Richard A. Jonas	President	Washington, DC, United States
Marcelo B. Jatene	First vice-president	São Paulo, Brazil
Zohair Al-Halees	Second vice-president	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Nestor Sandoval	Secretary	Bogota, Colombia
Sertac Cicek	Treasurer	Istanbul, Turkey
Marshall L. Jacobs	Editor (<i>WJPCHS</i>)	Baltimore, United States
Christo I. Tchervenkov	Executive director	Montreal, Canada
Councilors		
Hafil Abdulgani	Jakarta, Indonesia	
Osman Al-Radi	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	
Jorge Cervantes	Mexico City, Mexico	
Geraldo Davalos	Quito, Ecuador	
Tjark Ebels	Groningen, Netherlands	
Frank Edwin	Accra, Ghana	
Adel Elgamal	Mansoura, Egypt	
Kirsten Finucane	Auckland, New Zealand	
Jose Fragata	Lisbon, Portugal	
Jeffrey P. Jacobs	St Petersburg, United States	
James K. Kirklin	Birmingham, United States	
Martin Kostolny	London, United Kingdom	
Stojan Lazarov	Sofia, Bulgaria	
Mohamed I. Murtada	Khartoum, Sudan	
Hani K. Najm	Cleveland, United States	
Ericka Perez Albrecht	La Paz, Bolivia	
Dante Picarelli	Montevideo, Uruguay	
Kisaburo Sakamoto	Shizuoka, Japan	
Eduardo J. Sancho	Campinas, Brazil	
James D. St Louis	Kansas City, United States	
Susan Vosloo	Cape Town, South Africa	
Qing-Yu Wu	Beijing, China	

Abbreviation: WSPCHS: World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery.

- The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) Congenital Heart Surgery Database
- The ECHSA Congenital Heart Surgery Database
- The Japan Congenital Cardiovascular Surgery Database
- The United Kingdom Central Cardiac Audit Database

The need exists to create a global database to track the outcomes of patients undergoing pediatric and congenital heart surgery.¹⁹⁻²² Cardiac programs in developing nations desire the opportunity to benchmark their outcomes in comparison to international aggregate data. The STS has explored increasing international participation in the STS database and has developed a mechanism for international participation²¹; however, the cost of international participation in the STS database is such that cardiac programs in developing nations will in all likelihood not be able to participate.

At the Fourth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS in São Paulo, Brazil, July 17 to 20, 2014, a Town Hall meeting was held on the topic of a WDPCHS. Attendees expressed support for the establishment of a WDPCHS. The World Database Working Group of WSPCHS (Table 6), under the leadership of its Chair James K. Kirklin of Birmingham, Alabama, and its Secretary James D.

St. Louis, of Kansas City, Kansas, subsequently began to explore the possibilities of the creation of such a database.

At the Fifth Scientific Meeting of WSPCHS in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, October 27 to 30, 2016, the World Database was officially unveiled by James K. Kirklin, MD, James D. St. Louis, MD, and the University of Alabama World Database Team. As part of the mission of WSPCHS, WDPCHS has been developed and is maintained for the following purposes²²⁻²⁴:

- Furthering knowledge concerning the global practice and outcomes of pediatric and congenital heart surgery;
- Fostering an environment of quality improvement in participating hospitals, without geographic constraints regarding eligibility for participation; and
- Promoting scientific investigation and publication based on analyses of WDPCHS, with collaboration among a wide array of international colleagues.

The WDPCHS went live on January 1, 2017. The data warehouse and analytic center are at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Table 6 lists the members of the World Database Working Group. For more information about WDPCHS, and to

sign up to participate, please visit <http://www.uab.edu/medicine/wdpchs/>

The Future

Table 7 summarizes the list of officers of WSPCHS during the past 10 years. Table 8 shows the current Governing Council of WSPCHS. These tables demonstrate the broad geographical representation of the leadership of WSPCHS.

As we proceed with planning the future, we invite members to consider actively participating in the life and activities of WSPCHS. Several important committees are currently being populated and renewed, including the Database Committee, the Membership Committee, the Program Committee, the Research Committee, and the By-Laws Committee. If you would like to be considered for service on one of these or other committees, please express your intent to the Executive Director of WSPCHS, Christo I. Tchervenkov, at execdirec@wspchs.org. All the committees will be seeking input and participation from all of you during the future years. We also invite you to our future meetings listed above in the section titled “Future Meetings (2018 and Beyond).”

The future of WSPCHS appears bright but will only be ensured by the active participation of its members, by

- attending meetings of WSPCHS,
- submitting manuscripts to *WJPCHS*,
- participating in WDPCHS,
- working on various committees of WSPCHS,
- paying the membership dues, and
- above all else, contributing to the global efforts in education and the provision of services to all patients throughout the world in need of pediatric and/or congenital cardiac care!

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Supplemental Material

Supplementary material for this article is available online.

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