

MEETING REPORT

Foreword

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The 2018 annual conference was held on the 5 and 6 October 2018 at the ACC Liverpool. This was a hugely successful event with 825 delegates attending over the weekend. The conference coincided with the giant Royal De Luxe street puppets, known locally as ‘the Giants’, returning to the city. This offered a unique opportunity for delegates to experience this spectacular street festival, even if ‘the Giants’ brought with them some logistical difficulties!

There was a huge amount of educational content spread over the 2 days with three parallel sessions, including our dedicated Scientific Training Programme day. For the keynote BSE invited lecture, we were delighted to welcome Professor Jens-Uwe Voigt who gave an excellent talk on the ‘Current use of deformation imaging in clinical practice’. We were also honoured to welcome the Past-President of the European Society of Cardiovascular Imaging, Professor Gilbert Habib who delivered the BSE international lecture on ‘Endocarditis – from prevention to treatment’.

There was no overall theme for the conference this year but in response to previous years’ member feedback, we organised a variety of sessions covering the most popular topics. One of the most frequent requests we received was for sessions to have a more practical focus. We, therefore, arranged sessions specifically on ‘how to’ assess valve disease and ‘how to’ undertake stress echo. In these sessions, a variety of experts outlined a systematic approach of how to get the most out of an echocardiographic study as well as sharing their practical tips. There was also a dedicated session on the right heart including excellent talks by Dr Daniel Knight and Dr Abbas Zaidi who are the lead authors on the recently completed BSE guidelines on right heart assessment (1). Dr Dan Augustine also launched the new BSE guidelines on the assessment of pulmonary hypertension which have been published in *Echo Research and Practice* (2).

In addition to the keynote lecture from Professor Voigt, there was a dedicated session on the use of deformation imaging including excellent talks from Dr David Oxborough, Dr Grant Heatlie and the Education Committee Vice Chair, Dr Martin Stout. We were also delighted with the high-quality research that is being undertaken in the United Kingdom with a number of excellent presentations and posters showcased during the conference. We have included a summary of the abstracts in this supplement.

We launched the BSE Fellowship programme at the 2018 Annual Conference. Fellowship of the British Society of Echocardiography (FBSE) provides recognition of the members high standing in the field of echocardiography. As part of this process, previous Past Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the British Society of Echocardiography were awarded Honorary Fellowships during the conference. It was certainly a pleasure to see so many of those that have done so much both for the BSE and echocardiography receive their Fellowships at the social event.

The conference closed with an interactive panel debate consisting of BSE Presidents, Prof John Chambers, Dr Guy Lloyd, Dr Rick Steeds, Mr Keith Pearce and Education Committee Vice-Chair Dr Martin Stout and myself. This proved a popular session and a number of challenging cases were discussed with some important learning points highlighted by the presenters and panel members.

Finally, I must convey our gratitude to our exhibitors and sponsors; without whom it would not be possible to deliver the annual conference. In particular, we are grateful to our platinum sponsors, Siemens, Philips and GE for their continued support of the BSE.

Declaration of interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest that could be perceived as prejudicing the impartiality of this meeting.

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References

- 1 Zaidi A, Knight DS, Augustine DX, Harkness A, Oxborough D, Pearce K, Ring L, Robinson S, Stout M, Willis J, *et al.*

Echocardiographic assessment of the right heart in adults: a practical guideline from the British Society of Echocardiography. *Echo Research and Practice* 2020 **7** G19–G41. (<https://doi.org/10.1530/ERP-19-0051>)

- 2 Augustine DX, Coates-Bradshaw LD, Willis J, Harkness A, Ring L, Grapsa J, Coghlan G, Kaye N, Oxborough D, Robinson S, *et al.* Echocardiographic assessment of pulmonary hypertension: a guideline protocol from the British Society of Echocardiography. *Echo Research and Practice* 2018 **6** G11–G24. (<https://doi.org/10.1530/ERP-17-0071>)

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