



Dear Colleagues from around the world,

3/31/2020

The rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic is stressing health care resources to the maximum and has been greatly affecting all aspects of social and economic life around the world at a bewildering pace. Although it appears that infection in children, including those with congenital heart disease, has not been a prominent feature of this pandemic to-date, many colleagues are reporting that their congenital heart disease programs are suffering both from the restrictions imposed during efforts to control the virus, and by the requisition of human and material resources to the care of COVID-19 infected patients.

In order to understand the impact of the pandemic on our patients with congenital heart disease, our sister scientific organizations, in a collegial spirit of broad international cooperation, are jointly undertaking the following:

First, a survey has been created aiming to collect information of the current status of the impact of the infection on individual centers, countries, and regions around the world. We believe that obtaining this information from centers, which are on different points along the curve of the advancing infection, may provide valuable insights on what to expect as the spread of the infection evolves. To this end, it is our intention to periodically repeat this survey in the future. **The survey**, drafted by Lefteris Protopapas and finalized after extensive teleconference discussions with input of the leadership and many volunteer members of our associations, under the leadership of James St Louis, **can be accessed and completed online at:**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScL9CyefF9EdOluxUFCKvkOum1Qf1XoFrSRt3Xuta6RHXF15Q/viewform>

**Your prompt response is highly valued and will be very much appreciated.**

Furthermore, please feel free to invite colleagues who may not be members of our three societies to participate in the survey by sharing with them the above link, as we value the input from all colleagues.

The second initiative already under way is to establish a **COVID-19/CHD Registry**, which will be available soon on both the ECHSA Database and the World Database for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery (WDPCHS) aiming to collect information on the impact of COVID-19 infection on patients with congenital heart disease, for subsequent scientific analysis. We will notify all of you as soon as the registry is prepared.

During these difficult times, let us all stay together supporting each other to overcome this crisis!

Warmest regards,

George Sarris  
ECHSA President

Marcelo Jatene  
WSPCHS President

Joseph Dearani  
CHSS President

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