Workshop & Training Programs

Workshop on 3-D Echocardiography

A workshop on 3D echocardiography was organized by Dr.Snehal Kulkarni, Consultant Pediatric Cardiologist, on 30th August 2004 and was inaugurated by Dr. Bhirmanandam, Vice Chancellor, Dr.MGR Medical University. Dr. Thanikachalam, Vice Chancellor, SRMC University was the Chief Guest.

The workshop was conducted by Dr. Girish Shirali, Director of Pediatric Echocardiography, Children's Hospital, Charleston, USA, along with Dr. Sharadha Srinivas, Pediatric Cardiologist, Children's Hospital, Madison, USA, Dr.Indrani Suresh, Mediscans, Chennai, Dr.Alagesan, Professor of Cardiology, Madras Medical College, Chennai and Mr.Sridharan, Ultrasound Division, Philips India.

A Lecture followed by workshop on Transcatheter closure of perimembranous VSD with modified Amplatzer VSD closure device was conducted by Dr. Zahid Amin from University of Nebraska, USA, on 26th August 2004. He demonstrated a device closure of VSD successfully on a 24 year lod female. Along with him, our cardiologists also took part in the procedure and had hands-on experience on the use of devices in closure of VSD.

A CME was conducted at Selva Mansion following the inauguration of the free cardiac clinic by His Excellency Lt. Governor Shri. M.M.Lakhera, Governor of Pondicherry and Shri Rangaswamy, the Honourable Chief Minister of Pondicherry.

Dr.Pradeep Nayar spoke on the medical management of congestive heart failure, Dr. B.S. Murthy talked about the surgical management of congestive heart failure, while Dr. Prem Sekhar explained the recognition and diagnosis of congenital heart diseases in children. The CME was attended by the medical practitioners from in and around Pondicherry.

Workshop On Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy

Dr. Angelo Auricchio, Clinical Professor, from University of Madgeburg, Germany conducted a workshop on Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy on 29th October, 2004. He also delivered a talk on "Current Evidence and Patient Selection for Biventricular Pacing in Congestive Heart Failure".

Dr. David Jayakar, Director, Cardiac Surgery Network, Rochester, Minnesota, USA, and Dr.Ravichandran, Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Portland, Oregon, USA, conducted a live workshop o minimally invasive cardiac surgery on 13th and 14th December 2004.Live

Dr.Snehal Kulkarni, Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, conducted a workshop on "Coarctation stenting" at Civil Hospital, Kolahpur on 2nd-3rd January 2005.

A workshop on Fetal Echocardiography and Management was conducted by Frontier Lifeline in association with Mediscan, Chennai, on 12th January 2005. Dr.Snehal Kulkarni and Dr. Ravi Agarwal were part of the expert panel.

Dr. Anders Kirstein, MD, DMSc. Associate Professor – Cardiology Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark, and Dr. Joy M. Thomas, Frontier Lifeline, together conducted a workshop on "Radiofrequency Ablation of Complex Arrhythmias" using 3D Carto Mapping. Dr. Anders Kirstein Pedersen delivered a talk on "The Role of 3D Mapping Systems in Cardiac Arrhythmias" on 4th October 2005 at Frontier Lifeline.

Symposium and Workshop:

A "Symposium on Atrial Fibrillation" was conducted on 16th January 2006 at Hotel Savera. Dr. David T Martin, MD, FRCP, FACC Director – Cardiac Arrhythmia Service and Dr. Roy M John, MD, PhD, FRCP, FACC, Director – Cardiac Electrophysiology, Lahey Clinic Medical Center, MA, USA spoke on "Atrial Fibrillation and Heart Failure" and "Non Pharmacologic management of Atrial Fibrillation" respectively. Dr.Joy M Thomas, MD, MD, DM, Consultant Cardiologist & Electrophysiologist, Frontier Lifeline introduced the audience to "The Problem of Atrial Fibrillation". The symposium was followed by a Panel Discussion in which leading cardiologists Dr. JM Ashok Kumar, Apollo Hospital, Chennai, Dr S Shanmugasundaram, Professor, Dept of Cardiology Govt. GH, Dr K Chandrasekhar, Vijaya Heart Foundation, Dr Muralidharan, Professor, Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Porur, and Dr Pramod Jaiswal, Frontier Lifeline, participated in a lively interaction with the audience.

Earlier in the day a workshop was conducted at the Frontier Lifeline Hospital in which one patient received a free Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator device provided by the Lahey Group and two patients underwent radiofrequency ablation for arrhythmias.

Fig 3. Workshop in Progress

Frontier Lifeline conducted a one-day International Perfusion Conclave on 20th May 2006, at Ticel Bio-Park, to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the first successful clinical use of the heart-lung machine.

The international conference was attended by 60 perfusionists from across the globe, to discuss the current status and recent advances in the field of perfusion technology. Eminent perfusionists from renowned hospitals world wide participated in this meeting and provided an update on cutting–edge technology and contemporary thinking in perfusion technology. A live workshop on Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenator (ECMO) was also conducted.

The "Father of Heart Surgery" in India, Dr.N Gopinath, India's first perfusionist, Dr. Samson James, and Mr. Colin Green, Product Manager, Maquet were honoured with "Lifetime Achievement Awards" during the conclave.

Fig 4. Dr.N.Gopinath being honoured with the Lifeline Achievement Award along wiht Mr.Colin Green

Fig 5. Dignitaries and participats of the Perfusion Conclave at Ticel Bio-park

Frontier Lifeline conducted an Electrophysiology workshop on Radio-Frequency

Ablation using the 3–D mapping system "ENSITE NAV – EX" on 21st May 2006. This was followed by a talk on "Current Concepts in Atrial Fibrillation" by Dr. Benzy Pandanilam MD., AB, FacultyElectrophysiology Division, St.Vincent's Hospital, Indianapolis, USA.

Dr. Joy Thomas Consultant Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist organised the workshop. Eminent cardiologists from several centres participated and benefited from this workshop.

- **CARDIAC ANAESTHESIA WORKSHOP**

A live workshop on '**Awake Open Heart Surgery'** was conducted at Frontier Lifeline (Dr K.M. Cherian Heart Foundation), Chennai, on Saturday, 30th September 2006.
By this revolutionary procedure, the patient is fully awake and conscious during the heart surgery, but still does not feel any pain or inconvenience.

It involves a very high, precision-based methodology whereby, micro doses of local anesthesia are injected into the epidural space, which numbs only the chest region, while the rest of the body systems are fully functional.

The prime advantages of this procedure are that it enables a completely painless and safe heart surgery to be performed on patients who are at a high risk for general anesthesia. The post-operative ICU recovery period is minimized and the patient is mobile within a day after surgery. The risk of chest infections is also significantly reduced.

Dr Murali Chakravarthy, Chief Cardiac Anesthesiologist and Dr Vivek Jawali, Chief Cardiac Surgeon from Wockhardt Heart Institute, Bangalore, successfully demonstrated this novel technique at our premises.

Dr Kirthivasan and Dr Kinnari Bhatt, Consultant Anesthesiologists, and Dr Krishnagopal, Consultant Cardiac Surgeon of Frontier Lifeline, organized the program.

Dr Vivek Jawali, Chief Cardiac Surgeon
& DrMurali Chakravarthy, Chief Cardiac Anesthesiologist

Conferences & Workshops

Workshop On Molecular Biology, Tissue Engineering And Stem cell Technology at Ticel Biopark

A 10-day workshop on Molecular Biology, Tissue Engineering and Stem cell Technology was conducted by **Frontier Tissueline** at TICEL BIOPARK in which doctors and project students participated. This workshop offered hands-on experience in basic sciences research and was supported with specialist lectures by Dr. Sherif, Dr. Naveenkumar and Dr. Farzana of NCRM, along with Dr. Mary Babu, Dir. of Tissue Lab, CLRI and Dr. Venkatesh Balasubramanian, Prof., Dept. of Biotechnology, IIT.

Workshop on Thoracoscopic Ablation & Mitral Valve Repair

Frontier Lifeline (Dr. K. M. Cherian Heart Foundation), Chennai introduced the latest modality in the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation, a novel technique for the very first time in India, through a 'Workshop on Advanced Techniques in Thoracoscopic Ablation and Mitral Valve Repair' jointly organized with G. M. Medical Pacific Ltd., Malaysia, on the 10th of November, 2006. There were discussions followed by live surgical demonstrations of these innovative and time-saving techniques by eminent members of an International Faculty from the USA, the Netherlands, Croatia and Malaysia.

AFx, Inc. has introduced a series of microwave ablation probes that are FDA (USA) approved for ablation of cardiac tissue. Microwave energy causes tissue heating hence has the advantages of deeper and equally distributed penetration with less surface heating.

The AFx microwave probes are ideally suited for a full spectrum of surgical ablation procedures. These probes are malleable, allowing the surgeon to shape the device to the contour of the tissue. An entire ablation procedure usually takes 10 to 15 minutes to be completed.

Microwave technology is used to heat the heart muscle to 50°C - 70°C, thereby preventing excessive electrical stimulation yet preserving its structural integrity. The newer device, Flex 10, permits complete ablation through a small 10mm incision on the chest wall through which thoracoscopic (key-hole) procedures can then be undertaken.

Workshop on Ross I & II Procedures

The incidence of heart valve disease is high in India due to the prevalence of rheumatic infections, and the damaged heart valves are usually replaced using artificial valves. However, these have the drawbacks of the need for life-long blood-thinning medications.

The 'ROSS procedure' is a unique operation in which the patient's own heart valve is used to replace the diseased valve, which enables it to adapt and grow without the need for blood-thinning medications. This surgery is thus ideal for growing children and for pregnant women, who cannot take medications.

Pioneered by Mr. Donald Ross in the United Kingdom, this procedure is now a widely practiced and accepted technique. In order to further the reach of this successful surgery, a "**Workshop on ROSS I & II Procedures"** was conducted by Frontier Lifeline on the 8th & 9th of December 2006, at Frontier Tissueline, TICEL Biopark, Chennai.

The distinguished international faculty was spearheaded by the esteemed Prof. Sami Kabbani from the University of Damascus, Syria, who had initiated a successful modification of 'ROSS Procedure II'. This modified procedure is now known as the 'Kabbani Modification'**.** Another notable cardiac surgeon who participated was Prof. Zohair Al Halees, who specializes in congenital cardiac surgery, specifically in the ROSS I Procedure, which was skillfully and successfully demonstrated by him during the workshop.

Secretary to the Tamilnadu State Govt., Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Mr. V. K. Subburaj, IAS, inaugurated the event and appreciated Frontier Lifeline's efforts in undertaking treatment of congenital heart diseases in children; he asserted that the state government will avail the state-of-the-art facilities offered at Frontier Lifeline to reduce the long waiting list of children requiring surgery in the government hospitals.

Training Programmes

2004

- 19-12-2004 - **Advanced Course On Clinical Electrocardiography**
  in collaboration with The Cardiac Arrhythmia Club.

200523-5-2005 – 28-5-2005 – **Basics In Echocardiography**

1st batch of trainees

2006

- 27-3-2006 – 2-4-2006 – **Basics In Echocardiography**

2nd batch of trainees

2007

- 28-5-2007 – 2-6-2007 – **Basics In Echocardiography**

Trainees from Abroad

The following are medical professionals from various parts of the world, who have had rotational clinical exposure at Frontier Lifeline.

2005

- **Dr. Christina Koch**, Paediatric Cardiac Surgeon, Charite University Hospital, Berlin.
- **Dr Lubega Sulaiman (Uganda)**

2006

- **Dr. Hiroyuki Suzuki**, Cardiovascular Surgeon, Heart Centre, Aizawa Hospital, Honjou Matsumoto City, Nagono, Japan.

- A team of doctors from Iraq headed by Dr. Laith S. Abood, from the 'Iraqi Centre for Heart Diseases' in Baghdad have undergone a 3-month (Oct – Dec 2006) intensive training in advanced cardiac care techniques at Frontier Lifeline. The team comprised of cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, perfusionists and other para-medical staff. They also had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the Governor of Tamilnadu, His Excellency Shri Surjit Singh Barnala.

2007

- **Dr Elias Sebatta (Nigeria)**
- **Dr Gaser Ali (Egypt)**
- **Dr Shkar Raof Saeed (Egypt)**
- **Dr Mohammed Yasin (Iraq)**