**EMBARGOED UNTIL**

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**Pediatric and Congenital Interventional Cardiologists
Should Complete One Year of Additional Training**

*Consensus Recommendations Outline Elements of Specialty Training Programs
for Pediatric and Congenital Catheterization*

**Las Vegas, Nev. (May 29, 2014) –** Given the increasing scope, complexity and potential risks associated with the practice of pediatric and congenital cardiac catheterization, pediatric cardiologists who wish to perform these procedures should be required to receive at least one additional year of advanced training after they complete their core three-year fellowship, according to newly published recommendations published online today by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) and endorsed by the American Heart Association (AHA).

While using catheter-based techniques to treat congenital or acquired heart defects in children and adults has grown broader and more complex, the training time available for this subspecialty for pediatric cardiology fellows has not increased.

“While there have been advanced training available in recent years, the experience, educational structure and scope of practice varies widely among these programs,” said Robert Vincent, M.D., FSCAI, senior author of the paper and a pediatric interventional cardiologist at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga.

Over the last decade, and since last published training guidelines for pediatric cardiac catheterization and interventional cardiology were [published in 2005](http://www.scai.org/asset.axd?id=9bc8ada9-465f-4bd8-8c2d-13adbdb7a83a&t=633961707650870000), the field has evolved from a primarily diagnostic discipline into a predominantly interventional discipline. In most cases, it is no longer appropriate for a pediatric cardiologist to perform a diagnostic cardiac catheterization without being able to perform an intervention if one is indicated during the same procedure.

Advanced training programs should be available only to those who have successfully completed a core training program, according to the consensus recommendations. Such programs should provide experience with a large number and wide variety of techniques and procedures, and they should be able to measure the outcome of the training efforts.

 “In addition to an extra year of training, fellows should perform procedures of gradually increasing complexity under the supervision of an attending interventional cardiologist until they become competent enough to perform them on their own,” said Dr. Vincent.

To encourage and promote consistent evaluations during the advanced training, the document provides a Competence Assessment Tool for trainers to consider. This tool is recommended because there is no formal accreditation for these advanced training programs.

The consensus guidelines also outlines 11 requirements for advanced training programs, including an experienced interventional catheterization program director, sufficient annual case volume, a robust teaching environment and pediatric inpatient and outpatient facilities.

The paper, titled “SCAI Expert Consensus Statement for Advanced Training Programs in Pediatric and Congenital Interventional Cardiac Catheterization,” is published in *Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions (CCI)* and is available at [www.SCAI.org](http://www.SCAI.org).

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**About SCAI**

The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions is a 4,000-member professional organization representing invasive and interventional cardiologists in approximately 70 nations. SCAI's mission is to promote excellence in invasive/interventional cardiovascular medicine through physician education and representation, and advancement of quality standards to enhance patient care. SCAI's public education program, SecondsCount, offers comprehensive information about cardiovascular disease. For more information about SCAI and SecondsCount, visit [www.SCAI.org](http://www.SCAI.org) or [www.SecondsCount.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CKathy%5CDesktop%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CQPKMFQD1%5Cwww.SecondsCount.org). Follow [@SCAI](http://www.Twitter.com/SCAI) and [@SCAINews](http://www.Twitter.com/SCAINews) on Twitter for the latest heart health news.