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**New SCAI Toolkit Guides Pediatric Cath Lab Quality Improvement**

*Pediatric SCAI-QIT Provides Tools for Treating Youngest Heart Disease Patients*

**Las Vegas, Nev. (May 28, 2014) –** As treatments for children with congenital heart disease continue to advance, a new resource unveiled today by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) at its 2014 Scientific Sessions in Las Vegas aims to help pediatric cardiac catheterization laboratories continuously improve care. Called the Pediatric SCAI Quality Improvement Toolkit (Pediatric SCAI-QIT), the new toolkit is an extension of SCAI’s successful SCAI-QIT for cath labs.

An estimated 1 in 110 babies is born with a congenital heart disease. New interventional treatments are extending lives and enhancing the quality of life for children living with the disease. These rapidly evolving advancements also are driving a need for quality tools specific to pediatric interventional cardiology.

“Children are not simply small adults,” said Henri Justino, M.D., FSCAI, chair of Pediatric SCAI-QIT, director of the CE Mullins Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories at Texas Children’s Hospital and associate professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. “Just as pediatric care requires a dedicated approach, pediatric quality improvement requires specific tools and resources tailored to the unique medical needs of children.”

The Pediatric SCAI-QIT includes four modules: *Procedural Quality, Catheterization Conferences, Procedural Checklist*s and *Radiation Safety*. Each module provides a specific and detailed bibliography of resources on pediatric care, numerous web links for easy access to online resources, information on and access to registries, and benchmarking information.

The toolkit will be continuously updated by a team of physician authors to ensure the latest quality standards are included, with additional modules expected to capture the growth of the field. The goal of each module is to stimulate thought and generate action from all team members within each cath lab in order to positively affect patient outcomes.

“Consistently evaluating quality of care and striving to do better is at the core of interventional cardiology,” said Kalyani Trivedi, M.D., FSCAI, co-chair of Pediatric SCAI-QIT and assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Chicago. “The Pediatric SCAI-QIT is the latest effort to ensure physicians and cath lab staff have the tools and resources they need to provide the highest quality of care to patients.”

The SCAI-QIT was first introduced by SCAI in 2011 and features regularly updated sections on continuous quality improvement, accreditation, third-party peer review, measurement, public reporting and patient and physician education. Pediatric SCAI-QIT can be accessed at [www.SCAI.org/PEDQIT](http://www.SCAI.org/PEDQIT). SCAI-QIT and other tools in SCAI’s quality improvement program are available online 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, Seconds Count, offers comprehensive information about cardiovascular disease. For more information about SCAI and Seconds Count, visit [www.SCAI.org](http://www.SCAI.org) or [www.SecondsCount.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CKathy%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, and use #SCAI2014 to join the annual meeting conversation.