

*On Saturday, June 7, 2014 4:03 PM, "Thomas, John" <[jthomas@mcw.edu](mailto:jthomas@mcw.edu)> wrote:*

## **Midwest Pediatric Cardiology Society [MPCS]**

Not surprising the seed of the MPCS was nourished in Iowa through 1977 by Ron Lauer, Rich Schieken and colleagues with consultation from regional Pediatric Cardiology program directors. They discussed the potential of harnessing Midwestern Scientific and Clinical Medicine, thereby affording fellows and young faculty to comfortably present their work in a welcoming environment. During the formative years, the administrative representatives from State Crippled Children Programs met formulating budgetary support for those children with CHD throughout the participating states as well as western states that were sites of clinical outreach.

There was welcoming support from program directors at our initial meeting in Iowa. In classic Midwestern style, Ron Lauer nominated Jim Moller as President of the soon to be recognized MPCS, with the next meeting to be held in Minneapolis in 1978. Aside from the above mentioned individuals, Rene Arcilla, Otto Thilenius, Don Ritter, Russ Lucas, David Goldring and Amon Rosenthal were among our early illustrious leaders. Jim Moller had obtained a copy of the bylaws of the Southeastern Pediatric Cardiology Society and proceeded to edit then present the edited bylaws at our annual meeting for ratification and with approval MPCS was born. The Crippled Children Administrators continued to meet simultaneously with our group through 1981 and as the need for funding care for children lessened because of Medicaid and commercial insurance, Jim Moller was granted Minnesota's residual funds as the early financial support of the Pediatric Cardiology registry that he was developing.

The early meetings developed a two day format with an equally important Thursday evening social and dinner with guest speakers along with Friday's Scientific program. While there were 13-15 abstracts presented orally in the early years, with the introduction of poster abstracts, we have approached fifty presentations, with generally half of these being oral. Though all Midwestern programs have been represented, there is variance from year to year. The preponderance of the abstracts have been clinical, though even in our early years, there was impressive bench research from Iowa and the University of Chicago. Through the years, the balance of presentations have continued, yet there are now many programs presenting bench research.

When I spoke with Rene Arcilla who hosted our third meeting in Chicago he remembered his profound mental gymnastics associated with who he would secure for the Thursday evening dinner. Mohammed Ali lived in Rene's neighborhood and could provide a spirited ,emotional presentation though he was also acquainted

with Charles Huggins who had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1966 for his work “Hormone Therapy in the Treatment of Prostate Cancer”. He decided on Dr. Huggins, yet 35 years later he still wonders what would have been the impact on the Society if Mohammed Ali addressed us. We’ve had spectacular Thursday social events, hosted in Galleries, Botanical Gardens, Museums, Art Galleries and Brewery with complementary speakers inclusive of leaders in Medicine as well as Curators, Gardeners, Wine and Beer sommeliers. What I believe to be true is that we have all been richly rewarded by the warm professional relationships that were established and then fostered in an open welcoming environment, as we met yearly in September.

The presentations over the years have mirrored the care of children and now adults with Congenital and Acquired Heart Disease. We witnessed the clinical applications of Echocardiography, stress and Tilt Table testing, the development of Critical Care, the management of Arrhythmias and then the invasive eradication of this clinically consuming issue, modifications in the Cardiac Cath Lab that now provides a therapeutic arm, the multiple drug trials and the innovative Surgical procedures have contributed to the significant improvement of our patients. Though we have always had Surgical involvement, their presence strengthened in the early 90’s, and with the inclusion of Carl Backer on the MPCS leadership team, there has been phenomenal support over the last 15 years.

Through 1997, twenty one Midwest Pediatric Centers hosted the annual meeting, yet over the last seventeen years, four programs have hosted it twice more, and the balance of meetings hosted by nine other centers. Though the structural bylaws have been somewhat loose, the President of the Society has always been the host of the yearly meeting. Through the mid 80’s, Otto Thilenius remained the very dedicated secretary/treasurer and then was transitioned into the capable hands of Soraya Nouri. Soraya energized both roles and then in 2000, Gary Serwer assumed the secretary position, and continues to provide succinct accurate minutes to the present time. Soraya was named CEO of the MPCS when the Society was incorporated in the mid 90’s . The articles of incorporation further mandated the presence of Board of Directors and since then Soraya has had strong collateral support from John Thomas, Don Girod, Andrew Griffin, Doug Teske, John Kugler, Jerry Serwer, Carl Backer as well as Jose Ettugi and Steve Weber prior to their academic transfers from the Midwest.

Collaborative programs establishing Pacemakers, Prosthetic Valves and Sudden Death Registries were proposed at our annual meeting in 1981. McDonald Dick proceeded to initiate the State of Art of pacemakers at our meeting in Ann Arbor in 1982, with subsequent presentation at alternate yearly meeting. Jerry Serwer assumed responsibility in 1987 and has championed a yearly review of the most critical Pacemaker and Defibrillator topics. Unfortunately no one took

ownership of either the Prosthetic Valve or Sudden Death Registries. Jim Moller's Regional Cardiology Registry that was first presented in 1983 and the Midwest Balloon Angioplasty Registry first presented by Zuhdia Lababidi in Columbia, had short legs at the MPCS meeting, though continue to be important nationally.

As we entered the Millennium, MPCS was energized by our Cardiac Nurses, who had been in attendance at our meeting, but now established a complementary Thursday afternoon agenda. The success of this important program has been determined by the zeal of the hosting Nursing program as well as support by the Hospital. In 2000, John Kugler mentored a college student who very much excited the general membership, such that thirteen years later, we regularly will have 8-10 abstracts presented by Medical Students or Residents and a similar number by Cardiology or Surgical Fellows. We therefore have accomplished the fundamental design of the Society, affording young students, nurses and physicians the opportunity to present their critical data to a non-judgemental audience that will provide constructive comments. We hope that this will enkindle an interest in Cardiovascular Medicine and in time they may well be the building blocks of MPCS.

Over the last couple of years Mark Payne, John Costello and Peter Bartz have stepped forward with enthusiasm to assume leadership positions. Through the balance of this year and 2015, the MPCS bylaws and board structure will be reviewed and revised to allow orderly transition as we prepare to be shepherded by the next generation.

John P Thomas Jr. M.D.  
MPCS Board Vice President