

ASH/IPHA symposium to address childhood hypertension

Speakers will present research on measurement, monitoring and organ damage

The International Pediatric Hypertension Association (IPHA) is, like ASH, an organization that brings together individuals from various disciplines, all sharing a common interest in hypertension. Speakers at the "ASH/IPHA Symposium on Hypertension in Children and Adolescents" at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in Yerba Buena Ballroom, Salon 7, are all members of both ASH and IPHA.

"The speakers will bring participants up-to-date on the advances that are being made in the field of pediatric hypertension," said Joseph T. Flynn, M.D., Bronx, NY, who co-chairs the symposium with Domenic A. Sica, M.D., Richmond, VA.

"Hypertension is a problem that probably has its origins in childhood. And so the various manifestations of that, including target organ damage and how to manage and evaluate children with hypertension, are being addressed in this symposium," Dr. Flynn said.

In his presentation on "Measurement and Evaluation of Left Ventricular Mass by Echo in Children and Adolescents with Hypertension," Steven Daniels, M.D., Ph.D., Cincinnati, OH, will provide a state-of-the-art review of

echocardiography in hypertensive children.

"The heart is an important target organ of hypertension and there's been new work on how to track the impact of hypertension on the heart in children, and why sequential assessment of left ventricular mass is so important in both the initial evaluation and the ongoing management of children with hypertension," Dr. Flynn said.

During his presentation on "Hypertensive Target Organ Damage in Children with Chronic Kidney Disease," Mark Mitsnefes, M.D., Cincinnati, OH, will present data from ongoing research at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

"Dr. Mitsnefes will discuss the prevalence of hypertension target organ damage in children with mild chronic kidney disease as compared with those with end-stage renal disease, as well as what happens with hypertensive organ damage in patients who undergo renal transplantation," Dr. Flynn said.

"Applications of Childhood Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring in Research and Clinical Decision Making" will be presented

by Elke Wuehl, M.D., Heidelberg, Germany. The University of Heidelberg has amassed a database of ambulatory monitoring studies in both healthy children and children with kidney disease.

"Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring has been shown to be a powerful tool in assessing adulthood hypertension, but has received less attention in children," Dr. Flynn said. "Dr. Wuehl will give an update on how to apply ambulatory blood pressure monitoring to evaluation and management of hypertensive children, and how to apply ambulatory blood pressure monitoring to pediatric hypertension research."

The symposium will also feature original communications on two research studies. "One presentation will report the results of the Pediatric Metoprolol study, which is the first study of a long-acting beta-blocker in children with hypertension," Dr. Flynn said. "The other study compares oscillometric measurement of blood pressure and auscultatory measurement of blood pressure." ■