

Contact: Angie Porter
919-297-7152
aporter@asecho.org**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****What is Normal? ASE and Its International Partners Explore New Standardization Across the Globe**

Durham, NC, February 26, 2018 – The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) and its International Alliance Partners are joining efforts in the World Alliance of Societies of Echocardiography (WASE) Normal Values Study. This study is bringing together the scientific cardiovascular ultrasound community from around the world to better understand if the current recommended normal values for heart dimensions and function in subjects from different races and countries are similar or different. In addition, normal values for novel echocardiography modalities such as 3D and strain will be established.

Principal Investigators Roberto M. Lang, MD, FASE, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL and Federico M. Asch, MD, FASE, MedStar Health Research Institute in Washington, DC, announced this week that the WASE study has enrolled the landmark number of 1000 subjects. Dr. Asch said, “This represents over 50% of our target. We are hoping to complete enrollment by the end of this year. Individuals from six continents have been enrolled and initial preliminary findings will be presented at the [ASE 2018 Scientific Sessions](#) in Nashville this June.” Final results are expected to be available in 2019.

The WASE Normal Values Study entails the acquisition of complete 2D and 3D echocardiograms in 100 healthy individuals of both genders and across a wide range of ages in each of 17 countries. All echoes will be analyzed in collaboration with MedStar Health and the University of Chicago. The clinical usefulness of echocardiography is based on the detection of abnormalities, which relies on the accurate definition of “normality” across different countries or races. Currently, available echocardiographic “reference values” that define “normality” are mostly based on cross-sectional observations of Caucasians from the U.S. and Europe. Robin Wiegerink, CEO of ASE said, “This study provides unique opportunities to interact with our global partners to facilitate scientific collaborations and strengthen relationships, with the goal of improved patient care. The ASE International Alliance Partners program was developed to foster this kind of interaction and create synergies that could be replicated in future standardization projects.”

The WASE Normal Values Study is being funded by the American Society of Echocardiography Foundation and its donors, and with generous in-kind support from sponsors TOMTEC Imaging Systems, Medidata, MedStar Health, and University of Chicago.

About ASE

As the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging, the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines. Comprised of over 17,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, and scientists, ASE is a strong voice providing guidance, expertise, and education to its members with a commitment to improving the practice of ultrasound and imaging of the heart and cardiovascular system for better patient outcomes. ASE’s International Alliance Partners program includes over 27 nonprofit organizations and was developed to create a pathway for collaborations and shared resources among participating membership-based echocardiography/cardiology societies. For more information about ASE, visit [ASEcho.org](#) or ASE’s public information site, [SeeMyHeart.org](#).

About ASE Foundation

The American Society of Echocardiography Education and Research Foundation (ASE Foundation) is ASE’s charitable arm, helping to assure the viability and visibility of cardiovascular ultrasound. The ASE Foundation was created to provide support for initiatives, such as training scholarships and scientific research, not supported by membership dues. For more information on the ASE Foundation visit: [ASEFoundation.org](#).