

Contact: Angie Porter  
919-297-7152  
[aporter@asecho.org](mailto:aporter@asecho.org)

## ASE Foundation Partners with WVU Heart and Vascular Institute to Conduct Free Cardiovascular Exams

Durham, NC, October 8, 2018 – On October 20, the American Society of Echocardiography Foundation (ASEF) is partnering with the West Virginia University (WVU) Heart and Vascular Institute to host a [one-day cardiovascular screening](#) and diagnostic event at four sites across North Central West Virginia. Led by Partho Sengupta, MBBS, MD, DM, FASE, WVU Heart & Vascular Institute, Morgantown, WV, and Sanjeev Bhavnani, MD, Scripps Clinic, San Diego, CA, a team of ASEF volunteers will conduct free heart health exams on adult patients.

Local primary health care providers are recruiting and referring their high-risk adult patients to attend this scanning event. The goal was to have 500 patients participate and over 1,700 have already pre-registered. Due to the overwhelming response pre-registration for this event has closed. It is expected that there will be patients with hypertension, valvular heart disease, obesity and cardiometabolic syndromes, heart failure, myocardial infarction, etc. Patients will initially be given a point of care ultrasound examination. Patients who merit a full ultrasound examination will receive an echocardiogram to clarify the findings on the initial ultrasound. Those who are identified to have heart issues will be given advice for further follow-up care with their choice of provider with WVU system or outside.

Outreach in this particular area of the United States is critical as West Virginia has the highest prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the nation at 14.6%.<sup>1</sup> The state's vast rural areas, as well as limited access to care further worsen health disparities. "This is an opportunity for people to receive advanced cardiac examinations without worrying about financial constraints," Partho Sengupta, MD, FASE, chief of Cardiology at the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute said. "For one day, cardiology experts from across the United States will focus their talents and energies on West Virginia," Sengupta continued.

This is the first ASEF domestic health outreach event since being involved in a Care Harbor healthcare clinic in Los Angeles County in California in September 2014. "The need for cardiac care extends worldwide. While the United States is not a developing country, there are numerous underserved communities. The ASEF is honored to support this domestic event and help bring cardiac care to this vast rural area of West Virginia," said Jose Banchs, MD, FASE, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, and Chair of the ASEF Annual Appeal Committee. "On behalf of everyone involved with the Foundation, I want to thank all the volunteers for their support. Outreach events like this allow us to spotlight the versatility and adaptability of cardiovascular ultrasound and improve patient care."

Data collected during this screening event in West Virginia will be used to further research in the field of cardiology, cardiovascular ultrasound, and early intervention. ASE Foundation outreach events often lead to ongoing research. The most recent example of research from an ASEF global health outreach event in Vietnam in 2015 was published in the October 2018 issue of the [Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography](#). This event is supported by the ASE Foundation, its donors, and by a grant from the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation's Every Heartbeat Matters program. Ultrasound equipment, technical and additional support is provided by AliveCor, Butterfly Network, Cloud DX®, Hitachi Healthcare Americas, Kencor, Phosphorous, Vidistar®.

## **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. For more information about ASE, visit [ASEcho.org](http://ASEcho.org) or ASE's public information site, [SeeMyHeart.org](http://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](http://ASEFoundation.org).*

## **About WVU Heart and Vascular Institute**

*Led by Vinay Badhwar, MD, FACS, FACC, and some of the most respected cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, interventional radiologists, cardiac electrophysiologists, and vascular surgeons, the heart and vascular programs of West Virginia University and WVU Medicine are among the best in the United States. Considered national experts in their field, our physicians are an integrated team that works closely together to bring the most state-of-the-art therapies to patients from West Virginia and the surrounding region.*

## **About the Division of Cardiology**

*The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute's Cardiology Division is led by Partho Sengupta, M.D., Chief of the division of Cardiology in the Heart and Vascular Institute and in the WVU School of Medicine Department of Medicine, and Director of Cardiovascular Imaging and Chair of the Center for Innovation at the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute. The Cardiology faculty and fellows at the WVU Heart & Vascular Institute represent a very accessible resource in clinical medicine, teaching, scientific knowledge and basic and applied research. Our highly-skilled and dedicated faculty provide expertise in every aspect of cardiac care, ranging from standard procedures such as outpatient consultation, echocardiography, and angiography to advanced clinical research into heart failure, preventive cardiology, and radio-frequency ablation. Our cardiologists offer comprehensive evaluation and management of diseases of the heart and circulatory system and work with primary care physicians to ensure coordinated, continuous care.*

<sup>1</sup> West Virginia Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. [https://dhhr.wv.gov/hpcd/data\\_reports/pages/fast-facts.aspx](https://dhhr.wv.gov/hpcd/data_reports/pages/fast-facts.aspx)