



David Barron is the Division Head of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, and came to Canada in June 2019 having been consultant at Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK since 1999. He is Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto and also the Director of the Adult Congenital Heart Surgery Program at Toronto General Hospital. He graduated from St. Thomas' Hospital in London, and did his cardiothoracic training at Papworth Hospital, Southampton, the Royal Brompton Hospital and Great Ormond Street, London.

He has a doctorate (MD) from Imperial College, London in biomechanical cardiac assist and is dual qualified in both medicine (FRCP) and in cardiothoracic surgery (FRCS CT). He is on the editorial board of three cardiothoracic journals and has sat on the council of British and European professional societies.. His research interests include Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, Congenitally Corrected Transposition and Complex Pulmonary Atresia. There is a strong interest in 3D imaging as well as 3D printing in Toronto including the use of 3D printed models for surgical training and education. Dr Barron leads the 'Hands on Surgical Training (HOST)' courses that are run for international delegates every year.



Dr Béatrice Bonello graduated from Aix-Marseille University Medical School in 2001.

She trained as an Adult Cardiologist and then as a Pediatric Cardiologist at La Timone University Hospital, Marseille.

She sub-specialised in imaging and received a Masters Degree in Medical Physics from the Bicêtre Hospital, Paris in 2006, and from 2011-2012 was a research fellow in CMR at the Royal Brompton Hospital, London, funded by the French Federation of Cardiology.

She worked as a staff Paediatric Cardiologist at Marseille University Hospital from 2007, was appointed Consultant in Congenital heart disease in 2011, and in 2015 she moved to Great Ormond Street Hospital where she worked as an echo research fellow. She was appointed Consultant with special interest in Echocardiography in 2019.

Dr Bonello currently leads the echocardiography teaching program at GOSH and is an active member of the AEPC imaging working group and the EACVI.



Meryl S. Cohen, MD, MS Ed is currently Professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and Associate Chief of the Division of Cardiology. Dr. Cohen was the Medical Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for 14 years. She is currently the Program Director for the Cardiology Fellowship and Education Office for the Cardiac Center. She is the recipient of the 2018 American Society of Echocardiography Excellence in Teaching in Pediatrics Award, the 2018 Joanne Decker Mentor Award at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the 2019 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. On a national level, Dr. Cohen has served in leadership roles for several organizations including the American Society of Echocardiography, the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association and the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography. She has over 150 peer-reviewed publications and is the editor of a textbook on Pediatric Echocardiography that is about to be published in its third edition.



Professor Andrew Cook

Prof Andrew Cook leads the Centre for Cardiac Morphology at UCL's Institute of Cardiovascular Science / Great Ormond Street Hospital, now based at the GOSH/UCL Zayed Centre for Research into Rare Disease in Children in central London, UK

He has an international reputation for providing education, training and expertise in the structural architecture of the heart, particularly in congenital heart disease (CHD), and during fetal development and is the founder of www.cardiacmorphology.com.

Current areas of research are: Deep-phenotyping of developing human CHD using Propagation-based X-ray Phase Contrast Synchrotron Imaging (X-PCI) and Micro-focus CT; Anatomy for device design; and Deep-phenotyping/analysis of mouse models of fetal CHD via high throughput, high-resolution HREM imaging



Mr Martin Kostolny, MD

Mr Kostolny has been leading the cardiothoracic surgical department at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London since 2015. The unit is the largest in the UK, performing more than 500 open heart cases annually. It is one of the two centres in UK performing heart and lung transplantation and mechanical support in children and the only national centre for tracheal surgery.

He carries out surgery on the whole spectrum of congenital heart disease from complex neonatal surgery to adults with congenital heart defects.

His main areas of clinical interest include aortic valve repair, treatment of pulmonary atresia with multifocal blood supply and complex biventricular repairs.

Mr Kostolny performs around 250 operations a year in UK and abroad and is co-author in more than 100 publications and book chapters. He is member of several professional bodies and lectures regularly at international meetings.



Leo Lopez is the Medical Director of Echocardiography at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine

Jan Marek



Jan Marek graduated from Charles University in Prague in 1984 and is trained as paediatric cardiologist in Prague, Houston, and Toronto. Since 1991 he has specialised in Paediatric and Prenatal Echocardiography (ECHO) and had contributed to establishing ECHO departments in Prague (Kardiocentrum, University Hospital Motol), Munich (Deutsches Herzzentrum) and London (Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children) and he also participated in developing nation-wide foetal cardiac screening program in the Czech Republic. Between 1993 and 2005 he worked as a director of ECHO department and Centre of Prenatal Cardiology in Prague. In 2005 he was appointed as a director of ECHO department at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Senior Honorary lecturer of Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, University College London.

Currently Jan Marek is a Lead Consultant in Echocardiography and Prenatal Cardiology at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, he completed Professorship at Charles University, Prague where he is appointed as external teacher and research advisor. Subsequently he received his professorial recognition by University College London. He completed five grants as principle investigator, he published one textbook as monograph and contributed to more than 170 per-review articles and 13 book chapters. Among others, he served as a chair of Paediatric Cardiology Working Group of the Czech Society of Cardiology in 1997-1999, in 1999-2002 he was a member of Council of Foetal Working Group of Association of European Paediatric Cardiology (AEPC) and was a chair of Imaging Working Group of the AEPC. He is one of co-organisers of European educational programs in cardiovascular imaging incl. European accreditation in Echocardiography in Congenital Heart Disease under European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI) and contributes developing educational programs in Echocardiography worldwide.

Folkert Meijboom



Folkert Meijboom is trained as pediatric cardiologist, but working mainly in GUCH during the past 10 years. Both on the pediatric side of congenital heart disease and on the adult GUCH-ward, he supervised the echo lab for congenital heart disease.

For a long time he worked in Rotterdam and later in Nijmegen. Since May 2009 he is working in the University Medical Centre Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands, both in the department of pediatric cardiology and the department of cardiology. Introduction of 3D echo in the clinical routine, as well as establishing a research program in the field of non-invasive cardiac imaging for congenital heart disease, are his current challenges.

Since 2008 he is fellow of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). From 2008 until 2010 he was chairman of the ESC working group on adult congenital heart disease.

Luc Mertens



Luc Mertens graduated from Medical School the University of Leuven, Belgium in 1992. He was a research fellow for the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research at the Laboratory of Physiology at the University of Leuven from 1992 until 1995 and obtained a PhD in Medical Sciences and Molecular Biology in 1995. He was trained as a Pediatrician and Pediatric Cardiologists at Leuven University Hospitals.

During his training he did a research fellowship from 1997-1998 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, USA. From 1999-2007 he worked as a staff Pediatric Cardiologist at the University Hospitals Leuven and was appointed as Associate Professor at the University of Leuven. In 2008 Dr. Luc Mertens became the Section Head Echocardiography at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Luc Mertens has taken a leading role in organizing education and accreditation in pediatric and congenital echocardiography in Europe both within the Association for European Pediatric Cardiology as well as within the European Association of Echocardiography. Since his move to Canada, he also has taken on leading roles in the Pediatric Council within the American Society for Echocardiography.

Dr. Mertens' research interests are focused on developing and validating new echocardiographic techniques for assessing cardiac function in children. He has contributed to more than 150 peer reviewed papers. He is a member of the editorial board of different journals and has edited one of the major textbooks in the field of pediatric and congenital echocardiography.