

  
**heart to heart**  
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEDICAL ALLIANCE  
**INTO the**  
**HEARTLAND**  
**CAMPAIGN**

SITE: TOMSK  
REGION: SIBERIA

APRIL 15TH - 26TH, 2008  
SURGICAL-EDUCATIONAL  
MISSION III

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### PROGRESS IN SIBERIA

On Heart to Heart's third surgical-educational mission to the Tomsk Cardiology Institute, the pediatric ward was noticeably quieter than on previous trips. On our two earlier missions, children walked, toddled, and ran up and down the corridors finding creative ways to amuse themselves, creating a symphony of children's sounds day after day. This year the six children selected to undergo surgery by the joint Heart to Heart-Tomsk team were all "babes in arms." The oldest was 18 months old, and the youngest, just one month old. This year's focus – repairing tiny hearts – demonstrates how far this program has come since we began in early 2006. Guided by the Heart to Heart team, our Tomsk colleagues have learned to diagnose, perform surgery and provide post-operative care for older children (ages 3 and up). Very quickly they have progressed to repairing defects in newborns and infants – the gold standard in pediatric cardiology!

*"For everyone to do their job at the highest level, everyone has to know what everyone else is doing."*

DR. JANET SIMSIC, INTENSIVIST



*Failure to thrive: Despite Sofia's wonderful outward appearance, her tiny heart and lungs are frantically working overtime. Sofia requires immediate open-heart surgery.*

### COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

The key lies in developing an organized collaborative approach with full and open communication among all cardiology, surgical, and ICU personnel. Heart to Heart's consistent message has been, "Know everyone's role and communicate, communicate, communicate." Dr. Janet Simsic often points out in the ICU, "For everyone to do their job at the highest level, everyone has to know what everyone else is doing."

As always, the Heart to Heart-Tomsk joint team held conferences daily. The high level of discussion shows how well the Tomsk team is developing a real team approach: their confident manner of presentation demonstrates to Heart to Heart that they are now quite skilled at presenting cases at weekly conferences.

### LESSONS LEARNED

Dr. Stuart Berger (Children's Hospital of Wisconsin) and Dr. Frank Cetta (Mayo Clinic) helped raise the "communication bar" higher by introducing the concept of a Morbidity and Mortality conference (M & M). First, Dr. Berger expertly presented "What is an M & M Conference?" Then, he and Dr. Cetta presented actual cases from their home institutions to demonstrate how a systematic and thorough review of patient care that developed complications can enormously help every team member to gain insights. M & M reviews examine decisions made at each stage of a patient's care to determine what could have been done differently to produce a more favorable outcome for the patient. For example, "Would more frequent testing of the child's blood gases at a particular stage of his care have provided better data that may have prevented a subsequent unfavorable event?" Additionally, since M & M Conferences involve team members from each sub-group, lessons learned there also shape best practices and guide systemic changes. As Maryanne Kessel, Director of the Herma Heart Center at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, observes, "What we are really talking about is the art of performing the right management or intervention on the right patient at the right time." While sitting in the M & M Conference we could see "light bulbs" going off everywhere. It was not hard for Heart to Heart to convince the Tomsk team to incorporate a monthly M & M Conference into their practice.

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## RUSSIA'S PIONEERS IN PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY

Once again this year, pediatric surgeons and cardiologists from three of Russia's seven super-regions arrived in Tomsk to observe. Heart to Heart's work serves to unify Russia's pioneering pediatric cardiac specialists: they visit one another's hospitals when Heart to Heart comes; they observe together and listen and discuss lecture topics; they email and phone one another for discussion and consultation.

They consult with our colleagues at Heart to Heart's flagship program in St. Petersburg: Chief Surgeon Vadim Lubomudrov is not only delighted to advise and consult, but has also traveled to one of our newer sites to perform particularly complicated surgeries while teaching. We are creating a community of pediatric cardiac specialists, all dedicated to giving children access to modern heart care.

*"What we are really talking about is the art of performing the right management or intervention on the right patient at the right time."*

MARYANNE KESSEL, DIRECTOR, HERMA HEART CENTER



The Heart to Heart-Tomsk team says "Pirogi!" after a mission that included several successful "firsts" for our Russian colleagues.

## HEART TO HEART TOMSK TEAM

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin: Dr. Stuart Berger, Chief of Cardiology; Maryanne Kessel, Director, Herma Heart Center.

Emory University Hospital / Children's Hospital of Atlanta: Kimberly Crews, OR Tech; Brenda Jarvis, Senior ICU Nurse; Dr. Paul Kirshbom, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon; Ann Marie McGoldrick, Perfusionist; Lisa Poppell, ICU Nurse; Dr. Janet Simsic, Pediatric Intensivist; Dr. Beth Wilson, Anesthesiologist.

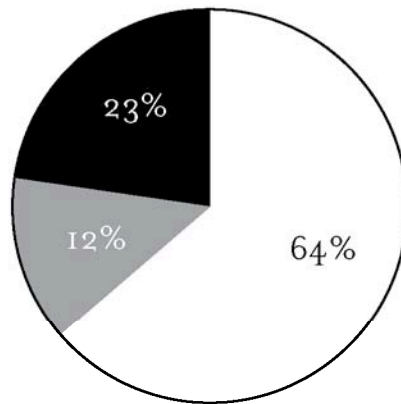
Loyola University Medical Center: Lynn Graham, Clinical Nurse.

Mayo Clinic: Dr. Frank Cetta, Chair of Pediatric Cardiology.

Heart to Heart: Rose Glickman, Writer/Interpreter; Josie Everett, Executive Director



Breathing easier: Before coming to Tomsk, Oleg's parents had been told his condition was inoperable. His successful surgery was performed by the joint team on April 22.



### TOMSK III April 2008

- HEART TO HEART IN-KIND MEDICAL \$247,349 {64%}
  - NON-MEDICAL IN-KIND DONATIONS \$52,200 {12%}
  - EXPENSES \$88,337 {23%}
- TOTAL PROGRAM VALUE: \$387,886

## PROCEDURES PERFORMED

CathLab - Diagnostic {7}	\$35,700
Patient Exams {51}	\$30,345
Echo Studies and Readings {51}	\$61,200
Pediatric Open-Heart Surgeries {6}	\$67,329
Anesthesia {6}	\$32,500
Perfusion {6}	\$15,680
Intraoperative TEE Studies + Readings {3}	\$3,600
Post-Op Exams/Readings {8}	\$2,232
ICU Care Post-Op Care, MD {8}	\$3,125
RN/Tech Support {ICU + OR}	\$5,100
Professional Consulting / Didactic	\$27,247
<b>Total In-Kind Medical Services</b>	<b>\$284,058</b>

Our heartfelt thanks to the Edwards Lifesciences Fund, Medtronic Foundation, and the Russian Gift of Life USA for their generosity and their on-going support of our vision. We are honored to have them as partners as we continue our journey into the Heartland.