

**Commission**  
**COUNCIL ON LIFELONG CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE AND HEART HEALTH IN THE YOUNG**  
**(YOUNG HEARTS)**

**PEDIATRIC HEART FAILURE SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Purpose:**

Children with heart failure require frequent hospitalizations and suffer significant morbidity. Advances in outcomes for children with heart failure have not kept pace with advances in adult heart failure. Mortality rates remain unacceptably high, and length of stay and charges are increasing over time. Therefore, there is an important need to understand the cellular and genetic mechanisms that are unique to pediatric heart failure to properly inform the development of appropriate therapies. Recent advances in genomics, regenerative medicine, stem cell biology, and imaging make this an ideal time to evaluate how these fields/techniques can be applied to facilitate understanding of pediatric heart failure. This committee will support the Young Hearts's mission to improve the health of children with heart failure or cardiomyopathy through research, education, prevention, advocacy, and quality improvement.

**Membership:**

This subcommittee will consist of a Chair from the Young Hearts Council. Members will be from the following Councils: 2 members from Young Hearts (including Chair), 1 member each from CLCD, NPAM, BCVS, EPI, CVSN, CVRI, CVSA, QCOR and 3CPR. There will be no more than 12 members in total.

**Method of Selection:**

Chair will be selected by the Young Hearts Council. Membership from the other councils will be chosen by the Chair of those councils.

**Terms of Service:**

Terms shall be for two-years and shall begin and end with the AHA fiscal year (July-June). Terms shall be staggered in such a way as to assure continuity. Members may be eligible for appointment to one additional term (serving a total of 4 years).

**Member Commitment:**

The Committee shall meet quarterly or as needed via teleconference, email correspondence and face-to-face annually in the fall during Scientific Sessions. When face to face meetings are deemed necessary each council with a representative on the committee will be responsible for travel expenses of their member.

**Responsibilities:**

- To enable investigators to engage in information sharing and dialogue, and to collaborate on science that will address taking an integrated approach in pediatric heart failure.

- To identify knowledge gaps and also serve as a conduit for young investigators/early career persons to get involved.
- To proactively identify opportunities for scientific statements and programming, and drive placement of relevant programming at AHA Scientific Sessions and Specialty Conferences.
- Provide input and support to AHA professional education activities and programming.
- Develop educational materials, for the lay community, primary care practitioners, nursing, and allied health—those non-cardiologists who are also involved in the care of children with heart failure.
- Provide expert input to the development of quality improvement measures and provide expert guidance and uniformity in the measures, metrics, and benchmarks would expedite this important movement.
- To act as spokespersons as requested and quickly respond directly to media or to other AHA entities to suggest other experts and spokespersons in the area of pediatric heart failure. As spokespersons, promote the AHA strategic goals to the public, and support educational and outreach programs, public affairs, advocacy communications and media relations.
- To provide advice regarding topics, content, and experts to serve on internal (AHA) and external writing groups and committees.
- To play a role in translating basic research and clinical recommendations to reduce the burden of disease as it relates to CVD and Stroke.