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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fusion Imaging Target of ASE Foundation's Largest Research Grant

Dr. Victor Mor-Avi of the University of Chicago accepts the 2014 ASEF Research Award at Summit 2014

Morrisville, NC (October 2, 2014) – The ASE Education and Research Foundation recently hosted a unique one-day event, **Value-Based Healthcare: Summit 2014,** on September 12 in Washington, D.C., which gathered thought leaders from across the healthcare spectrum to discuss cardiac imaging in the new value-based healthcare paradigm. The Summit culminated with the announcement that the ASE Foundation's largest research grant in its history, a $200,000 multi-year grant, has been awarded to a research team from the University of Chicago led by Victor Mor-Avi, PhD, FASE, Director of Cardiac Imaging Research. The team also includes Amit R. Patel, MD, Director of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography; Francesco Maffessanti, PhD, Post-Doctoral Scholar; and Roberto M. Lang, MD, FASE, Director of Cardiac Imaging Laboratories.

The proposal, titled *Echocardiographic Evaluation of Hemodynamic Significance of Coronary Stenosis in Patients with Chest Pain Undergoing CT Angiography,* aims to utilize 3D echocardiography in patients with acute chest pain as a way to assess the functional significance of coronary stenosis detected by computed tomography coronary angiography (CTCA). According to Dr. Mor-Avi, "in the United States alone every year, more than 8 million people require emergency evaluation for acute chest pain, with the estimated cost of over $10 billion." While non-invasive CTCA has become widely accepted as an effective first-line diagnostic tool in these patients, abnormal findings on this test often result in downstream stress testing. Specifically, choosing appropriate management for patients with intermediate-grade stenosis is challenging because the impact of the disease is unclear.

Dr. Mor-Avi explained that this project "will explore the possibility of 'fusion' of CTCA and 3D echocardiography for combined assessment of coronary stenosis and its functional significance, which may help in identifying patients who need intervention, and may thus have important implications in terms of reducing the number of unnecessary tests and resulting in significant savings."

Cardiovascular ultrasound, also known as echocardiography, is the most widely used imaging technique to diagnose heart disease, performed on over 20 million patients in the United States each year. Yet in this era of growing Medicare expenditures and federal budget deficits, increasing emphasis has been placed on demonstrating the value of any given test or procedure. As Summit Chair Benjamin F. Byrd III, MD, FASE noted in his opening address, one of the primary goals of Summit 2014 was to "bring decision makers together to foster proactive conversation on the ways to demonstrate the 'value' of imaging, especially echocardiography, in future U.S.-based healthcare." Providing funding for this research project tangibly demonstrates the Society's commitment to fostering innovation in clinical care based on data-driven decisions.

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 16,000 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 www.asecho.org or ASE's public information site, www.SeeMyHeart.org.

The ASE Education and Research Foundation (ASE Foundation) is ASE's charitable arm, helping to assure the viability and visibility of cardiovascular ultrasound. Foundation initiatives work to foster research and innovation, promote high quality clinical standards and patient care, offer training and career development to future health care providers, and bring humanitarian aid to populations in need. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.asefoundation.org.

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