

## Meeting of minds

*At the Herma Heart Institute's annual Heart Summit, medical experts focused on a complex condition*

### This past October, Children's Hospital of

Wisconsin welcomed physicians from some of the world's leading institutions to the Heart Summit, the Herma Heart Institute's signature conference, where medical experts exchange ideas on a complex cardiac condition to help improve treatments and build medical consensus. This year's topic was complex left ventricular outflow tract disease (LVOT).

LVOT is a rare defect — accounting for 5 to 10 percent of all congenital heart defects — in which an obstruction affects the flow of oxygen-rich blood from the heart. Numerous variables, including the exact nature and location of the obstruction, can affect the severity and treatment of the condition. The Heart Summit featured presentations on LVOT, as well as robust discussions and a live open-heart surgery.

### INTERACTIVE LEARNING

The most anticipated component of the Heart Summit was the live surgery that Viktor Hraska, MD, PhD, surgical director of the Herma Heart Institute, performed on a 4-year-old child with LVOT.

Heart Summit participants followed Dr. Hraska's procedure via a live, 3D video feed. The one-of-a-kind setup breaks down the wall of the OR and allows audience members to get an in-depth look at what happens during open heart surgery. Not only did attendees witness the surgery in breathtaking detail, but they were able to speak with Dr. Hraska and ask him questions.

"Our intent is to move out of the traditional classroom and one-way video streaming, and let an audience of cardiologists, surgeons, anesthesiologists, intensivists and the entire



The Heart Summit, clockwise from left: Viktor Hraska, MD, PhD, performs open-heart surgery for LVOT; a participant watches the surgery live in 3D; live video feed of Dr. Hraska and his team.

care team see inside the operating room — in 3D — to gain deeper understanding of what is actually happening during surgical repairs," said Aaron Kinney, DBA, FACHE, executive director of the Herma Heart Institute. "This helps surgeons discuss techniques in real time, helps cardiologists better appreciate the before and after, and helps the rest of the care team increase their familiarity of specific surgical repairs."

### LASTING IMPACT

The Heart Summit's interactive format allowed all in attendance to gain valuable insights on LVOT. This will ultimately help health care teams make the most educated decisions possible for their patients.

Due to its success, the Heart Summit will expand to a three-day conference in October 2019 on the topic **Management of the Failing Fontan: A look into the future.** Learn more at [chw.org/theheartsummit](http://chw.org/theheartsummit).