Letter from the Chair
Mary Cushman, MD, MSc, FAHA

There are many Council activities you should be aware of:

- We are aiming to increase the Council’s involvement in AHA scientific statements, guidelines and policy papers. A new Publications Committee is forming, led by Mercedes Carnethon. Dr. Carnethon is interested in hearing from Council members with ideas for new papers. E-mail her your ideas (carnethon@northwestern.edu).
- The AHA International Mentoring Program is looking for mentors and mentees. This program connects international members with networking opportunities, advice and advocacy. Mentors and mentees can sign up easily at this Web site: http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3040709. AHA staff and volunteers will do the rest to make a match (made in heaven?).
- Advocacy. It is important that our voices be heard on issues related to vascular health. This should occur on a local and national level. You can become involved through your local AHA chapter or by attending AHA’s Lobby Day in April 2009. Importantly, all our members should join AHA’s grassroots advocacy group, the You’re the Cure Network. This is simple to do at YoureTheCure.org.

Finally, please see the piece by Dr. Eric Rimm, the Program Chair. We are deeply indebted to him and the Program Committee for their very hard work on behalf of the Council and all who attended the outstanding Spring Conference on March 11–14, 2008, in Tampa, Fla.

Please be sure to renew your AHA membership. Membership is critical to the success of each scientific Council, since part of your membership dues flows to your Council. These funds are used to support a wide range of activities, from early career development to scientific conferences.

Welcome New Fellows of the American Heart Association

Matthew Allison, MD, MPH; Assistant Professor, Univ. of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
Virginia J. Howard, PhD, MSPH; Assistant Professor, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
Ingeborg A Brouwer, PhD; Assistant Professor, VU Univ. Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Ka He, MD, ScD; Assistant Professor, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
Marie A. Krousel-Wood, MD, MSPH; Clinical Professor/Director, Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Metairie, LA
Longjian Liu, MD, PhD, MSc; Associate Professor, Drexel Univ. School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA
Roberto Marchioli, MD; Head, Lab. Clin. Epidemiol. of CVD, Santa Maria Imbaro, Italy
K.M. Narayan, MD; Ruth & O.C. Hubert Professor, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory Univ., Atlanta, GA
Steven Shea, MD, MSPH; Professor, Columbia University, New York, NY
Wen-Chih H. Wu, MD; Staff Cardiologist & Assistant Professor, Providence VA Medical Center, Alpert Medical School, Brown Univ., Providence, RI

Join us at the 35th Ten-Day Seminar on the Epidemiology and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease
July 26–Aug. 7, 2009
Granlibakken Conference Center
Tahoe City, Calif.

Application Deadline:
5 p.m. CST, Monday, March 23, 2009

Web site:
http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3059403

Course Description:
The primary goal of the seminar is to provide an intensive introduction to the epidemiology and prevention of major cardiovascular diseases for qualified health professionals planning careers in research, teaching or practice in this area. A select faculty of epidemiologists, biostatisticians and prevention researchers will present discussions, lectures and laboratory and tutorial sessions illustrating basic principles of cardiovascular disease epidemiology and prevention and their applications.
Letter from the Program Committee Chair
Eric Rimm, ScD, FAHA

Highlights of the 49th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention (March 11-14, 2009) in conjunction with Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Metabolism Conference (March 10-12, 2009) Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club • Palm Harbor, Fla.

We are delighted this year to have had over 450 high-quality abstracts presented as oral or poster sessions during the Epidemiology and Prevention Conference.

In addition to the abstracts, we had several highlighted sessions summarized below:

- The 2nd Annual Kritchevsky Lecture, by Dr. Graham A. MacGregor, St George’s University of London, on “Salt Reduction, from Evidence to Worldwide Implementation”
- The Frederick H. Epstein Memorial Lecture, by Dr. Pierre Ducimetiere, INSERM and the University of Paris, on “The French Paradox: Fact, Fantasy or Mystery?”
- Our translational lectures included talks on
- This year, due to the large number of requests for more behavioral presentations we also invited Dr. Karen A. Matthews of the University of Pittsburgh to speak on “Socioeconomic Status, Psychological Stress and Risk for Cardiovascular Disease: What’s New.”
- In our usual tradition, we also included a session on novel risk factors. This year Dr. F. Javier Nieto from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, presented on “Sleep Disorders and Cardiovascular Disease.”
- The American Society of Preventive Cardiology organized a debate entitled “Do We Need Clinical Trials to Tell People What Lifestyle Habits Will Prevent Heart Disease?” in which Dr. Barbara V. Howard from the Medstar Research Institute, Hyattsville, Md., argued the pro side and Dr. Walter C. Willett, from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass., offered an opposing view.

Highlights from Scientific Sessions 2008, New Orleans
Finalists and Awardees:
Elizabeth Barrett-Connor Award

Elizabeth Barrett-Connor Research Award. L–R: Mary Cushman, Joseph Yeboah, Renate Schnabel, Shannon Dunlay

Honors at the Epi Council Dinner: Michael Criqui

Distinguished Achievement Award: Mary Cushman and Michael Criqui (recipient)

- A special “Third-Day Program” focused on the “Global Burden of Cardiovascular Disease” and brought together experts from all corners of the world to discuss prevalence, time trends, global risk factors, economic burden and the impact of activism.
- We had the annual excitement that surrounds the top trainee presentations for the Stamler Awards and once again organized activities for new investigators, including the popular “roundtable luncheon” sessions and “connection corner.” These allowed junior attendees to network with each other and with senior investigators, NHLBI representatives and others involved in Council leadership.

Our annual Council reception and dinner becomes more popular each year especially now that the dinner is conducted in collaboration with the NPAM Council.

The conference was held at the beautiful Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club, Palm Harbor, Fla.