Program Committee Report
Marjorie Funk, RN, PhD, FAHA, FAAN

By all accounts, programs sponsored by the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing at Scientific Sessions in Chicago were very successful. This year, we tested a new format in which clinically focused sessions by invited experts were combined with oral research abstract sessions. The purpose of this format change was to enhance the translational aspects of our research and the evidence base of our invited sessions, and to bring clinicians and researchers together.

In an effort to reflect the nature of our research more accurately, we also changed the names of our abstract categories this year. Physiologic Aspects became Physiologic Aspects and Acute and Chronic Care and Prevention, Education, and Patient Care became Prevention, Education, and Disease Management. Psychosocial and Behavioral Aspects stayed the same. We had a 95% increase in the number of abstracts submitted to the first category, which was the largest increase of all 98 AHA Scientific Sessions abstract categories! We had only a 2% decrease in abstract submissions to the other two categories. The 148 research abstracts submitted this year to our 3 categories compared favorably to the 137 submitted in 2004 and the 131 submitted in 2005. Although we had an increase in submitted abstracts, overall across all 98 categories, there was a 6% decrease in abstract submissions this year. As always, approximately 31% of all submitted abstracts were accepted for oral or poster presentation.

Our programs began on Saturday with an exceptional Pre-Session Symposium on Advances in the Care of the Hospitalized Cardiac Patient. Topics included: changes in the ACLS/ECC guidelines, hypothermia after cardiac arrest, in-hospital defibrillation, novel techniques in critical care monitoring, forearm blood pressure measurements, robotic cardiac surgery, hemostasis after PCI, what's new in cardiovascular diagnostic testing, acute management of decompensated heart failure, and mechanical circulatory support. The attendance of over 250 was a record for a CVN-sponsored pre-conference symposium (compared with 52 in 2005 and 127 in 2004).

Session highlights included a thought-provoking program on successful aging and cardiovascular health on Sunday morning. Debra Moser, winner of the Lembright Award, delivered an outstanding lecture on anxiety in cardiac patients. At the Ask the Experts lunch, participants discussed the state of cardiovascular nursing in 2006 with past Lembright Award recipients, including Marie Cowan, Kathy Dracup, Carolyn Murdaugh, Martha Hill, and Marguerite Kinney. The featured research session was on new insights into depression and heart disease, with an overview of the state of the science expertly provided by Lynn Doering. Innovative sessions included Enhancing Cultural Sensitivity in your Cardiovascular Research and How to Manage a Cardiovascular or Cerebrovascular Crisis at 35,000 Feet.

Distinguished Achievement Awardee

The Council on Cardiovascular Nursing presented the Distinguished Achievement Award to Dr. Gayle Whitman, RN, PhD, FAHA, FAAN, during the Council dinner in recognition of her major contributions to the mission and goals of the Council. Dr. Whitman considers her most significant contribution to CV Nursing within AHA as helping nurses become involved, viewed and valued in roles other than those just within the Council. She did this by serving on many AHA national and affiliate level committees. Utilizing her skill while in these leadership positions, she was able to propel nursing forward within the AHA. Currently, Gayle contributes to AHA through her staff position as vice president, Office of Science Operations, the first nurse to hold this position that includes managing the AHA national research dollars, all AHA scientific meetings, and all AHA Scientific publications including journals.

This year the Council presented the newly elected Fellows during the Annual Business Meeting. Eleven new Fellows were recognized for their leadership within the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association relative to cardiovascular diseases and stroke. These individuals have demonstrated evidence of ongoing contributions in cardiovascular diseases and/or stroke disease. See Page 33 for the newly elected CVN fellows.
Communications and Membership Committee Report
Mary Caldwell, RN, MBA, PhD

At the end of the fiscal year in June, Council membership was at its highest level ever at over 1,800 with more than 200 members added as a result of marketing campaigns and new member sign-ups at Sessions. One of the new marketing campaigns organized by Council leaders was the Host City Reception, which was held for new and potential Council members at this year’s Scientific Sessions in Chicago on Nov. 11. The event provided attendees with an opportunity to learn more about the Council from current members. This year’s Host City Reception committee including Kathy Grady (chair), Dee Fontaine, Cathy Murks, Meg Gulanick and Dorothy Lanuza. The committee was able to secure event sponsorship from several hospitals including the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Loyola, University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Approximately 60 participants attended the event, which was highlighted by inspirational messages from key leaders of the Cardiovascular Nursing Committee. Dorothy Lanuza, Council chair, described the activities of the Council and the roles that its members play in the AHA; Marge Funk, this year’s Program Committee chair for Sessions, described nursing program content; and Mary Caldwell, chair of the Council’s Communications and Membership Committee, encouraged attendees to join the Council and to get involved. It is hoped that the Host City Reception will become a regular fixture at Scientific Sessions and a means to acquaint new and potential members with opportunities within the Council.

The Communications and Membership Committee welcomes several new members. The new editors and co-editors (respectively) for the Council’s media outlets are: Lorraine Evangelista and Jill Howie-Esquivel (Council Connections newsletter), Terrie Lennie and Mary Woo (Website) and Chi-Chi Zimmerman and Mary Adams Carey (Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing).

GET WITH THE GUIDELINES™ (GWTG) is a Commitment that About 1,300 Hospitals are Making Every Day to Turn GUIDELINES INTO LIFELINES!

GWTG is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s evidence-based, in-hospital quality improvement program for cardiovascular and stroke patients. GWTG empowers hospital care teams to deliver evidence-based diagnostic tests and management strategies, identify gaps in processes and outcomes, and benchmark and track performance over time. Currently, over 600,000 patient records are entered in the GWTG database.

GWTG aids in making important differences in patients’ lives and in care teams’ satisfaction. Nurses are key partners in the success of any program that supports evidence-based practices for cardiovascular conditions. When a hospital has 85 percent compliance with recommendations for acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), beta blockers, ACE inhibitor and statins recommendations in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD), the potential impact on patient outcomes is an estimated avoidance of 120,000 PTCA/CABG procedures, 464,000 hospitalizations, 216,000 myocardial infarctions, 44,800 strokes, and 83,400 deaths.

GWTG provides important tools and resources to enable nurses working on a heart failure, CAD or stroke team to successfully make improvements that aid in compliance with evidence-based guidelines. Tools include educational materials, care planning and discharge worksheets, and opportunities to share best practices in webinars and workshops.

To learn more about how your hospital can turn guidelines into lifelines, go to www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines.
Nursing Awards Committee Report
Mariann R. Piano, RN, PhD, FAHA

Each year, the CVN council presents eight different types of awards to acknowledge the many outstanding contributions of nurse researchers, advanced practice and clinical staff nurses to the field of cardiovascular nursing. The types of awards, as well as the 2006 recipients, are as follows: Dr. Terry Lennie, FAHA, and co-authors (ML Chung, DL Habash, DK Moser) received the CVN Research Article of the Year award for the paper entitled: “Dietary fat intake and proinflammatory cytokine levels in patients with heart failure” (Journal of Cardiac Failure, 11, 613–618, 2005); Dr. Joann Duffy and co-authors (LM Hoskins, S Dudley-Brown) received the Clinical Article of the Year award for the paper entitled: “Development and testing of a caring-based intervention for older adults with heart failure” (Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing 20(5): 325–333, 2005). The CVN Stroke Article of the Year award winner was Dr. Patricia C. Clark and co-authors (SB Dunbar, DM Aycock, E Courtne, SL Wolf) for the paper entitled: “Caregiver perspectives of memory and behavior changes in stroke survivors” (Rehabilitation Nursing 31,26–32, 2006).

The Early Career Clinical Award was presented to Christina Cannone, BSN, RN. The CVN Excellence in Clinical Practice Award winner was Cindy Adams, a nurse practitioner, and the director for the Healthy Hearts Center at the Indiana Heart Hospital. Dr. Elaine Steinke, ARNP, received the “Arteriosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Prize” for her ongoing research in the area of heart failure. The Martha N. Hill New Investigator Award winner was Dr. Lola Clark of Rush University in Chicago. The title of her presentation and paper was “Impact of progressive resistance training among women in cardiac rehabilitation.” The two finalists were Drs. Mohannad Abu Ruz (University of Kentucky) and Amy Valderrama (Emory University).

This year the Katherine Lembright Award winner was Dr. Debra Moser, FAHA, FAAN, from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Moser received this award for her long-term track record in the area of cardiovascular research, AHA volunteer work, numerous publications, presentations and ongoing mentorship of new faculty. Finally, on behalf of the CVN Council, I would like to thank the generous support of our award sponsors, which include CV Therapeutics, Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals, Blackwell Publishing and Dr. Maniscalco.

Please check the CVN Council Website for award descriptions and the 2007 award deadlines. Please contact Dr. Marianne R. Piano directly regarding any award questions (piano@uic.edu).