MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Wow! ATVB 2011 in Chicago was a terrific meeting. Attendance and abstract submissions exceeded expectations. The plenary lectures and simultaneous sessions had wonderful talks with speakers presenting cutting-edge science. But, people tell me that they most enjoyed the poster sessions; the opportunity to network with colleagues and have enthusiastic scientific exchanges between early stage and senior investigators was a true highlight. We congratulate and offer our sincere thanks to Rob Hegele and Murray Huff, who, together with their organizing committee, put together a great meeting. Thanks also to Julie Green and Jason Ware from the AHA for again managing a flawless ATVB meeting. ATVB 2012 is being organized by Steve Lentz and we eagerly anticipate another stellar program, we also express our thanks to Dena Thomas, our council manager, for her hard work not only at the Spring and Fall meetings but throughout the year to keep our Council functional and Nereida Parks, our council manager, for her effort as the Science and Medicine Advisor of ATVB.

There are other noteworthy events. Last year, our Leadership Council appealed to the AHA to restore the Established Investigator Awards (EIA). The AHA listened and now the EIAs are again part of the AHA portfolio of grants. The ATVB Council also has initiated a new award for Scientific Sessions in addition to our current award for the top-rated abstract submitted to Sessions from an ATVB early career investigator. We will share more details in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Also forthcoming is an announcement regarding the creation of a new mentoring program for members of the ATVB Council. Kerry-Anne Rye from our Leadership Council, with help from Muredach Reilly, has worked diligently to formulate a program with input from the AHA. Details regarding this mentoring program will roll out over the summer, and will hopefully be of use to our membership and provide another opportunity for ATVB members to be involved in council activities.

Finally, I invite council members to contact me by email (plowe@ccf.org) if you have questions, comments or you wish to become more actively engaged in ATVB activities. Member participation is key not only to a successful council but also to determining if you get the most out of being a member of ATVB. You can also visit our website at my.americanheart.org/atvbCouncil.

2011 Mentor of Women Awardee
Amy S. Major, PhD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Rama Natarajan, PhD, FAHA, was named this year’s winner of the Mentor of Women Award presented at the ATVB Spring Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Natarajan is an Endowed Professor and director of the Division of Molecular Diabetes Research at the Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope in Los Angeles. As a research scientist, Rama is also well known in uncovering the molecular mechanisms for accelerated cardiovascular and renal complications associated with diabetes. Her work was recognized with the “Scientist of the Year” award in 2008. Her service to the AHA and ATVB has also been untiring. Dr. Natarajan is a past member and chair of the ATVB Women’s Leadership Committee and a past member of the ATVB Leadership and Awards Committees. As a mentor, Dr. Natarajan has consistently demonstrated dedication to developing the careers of up-and-coming young scientists and is dedicated to teaching and training graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty. We would like to congratulate Dr. Natarajan for receiving this well-deserved mentoring award. She is a wonderful example to all young and established women scientists.

In addition, those who attended the Mentor of Women Award Luncheon were treated to a keynote address by Colleen Brophy, M.D. Dr. Brophy is the first woman professor of surgery (with tenure) at Vanderbilt. She is also the first woman chair of the Surgical Research Committee for the American College of Surgeons. Most importantly, however, Dr. Brophy is dedicated to promoting women in leadership in academic medicine and presented the group with some interesting statistics regarding women and their careers in biomedical science.

Important ATVB Council Events at 2011 AHA Sessions

ATVB Women’s Leadership Committee Networking Luncheon
Join your colleagues for lunch and an opportunity to network.
Date: Monday, Nov. 14
Time: Noon–1:30 PM
Place: Rosen Centre Hotel Grand A

2011 ATVB Annual Awards and Business Meeting Luncheon
An opportunity to get updates on the Council and honor the recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award and Special Recognition awards.
Date: Tuesday, Nov. 15
Time: 12:15–1:15 PM
Place: Rosen Centre Hotel Grand A
Boxed lunch provided!
Early Career Corner

Updates from the ATVB Early Career Committee

This is an exciting time to be writing an update from the ATVB Early Career Committee, as we are coming off the heels of the Spring 2011 ATVB meeting. During the meeting, the committee sponsored two well-attended career development sessions that generated a significant amount of discussion.

Drs. Larry Rudel, Nigel Mackman and Ryan Temel chaired the Thursday morning session, “Mentoring and Being Mentored.” Key points included the need to determine whether the mentor and mentee share similar views with regard to their scientific philosophy, the need for a personal visit to the lab to make sure the mentee is a good fit, and the need to be proactive about addressing problems early.

Drs. Alan Daugherty, Chip Davis and I chaired the Friday morning session, “Finding and Getting a Job.” Key points included the need to understand the promotion and tenure guidelines at the institution, the need to critically evaluate what an investigator needs in a startup package, and the need to establish mentorship and career development programs for early career investigators. Participation and visibility in meetings within your field of expertise was also identified as a critical step in pursuing jobs in both academia and industry.

ATVB Young Investigator Awards

Congratulations to this year’s winners of the ATVB Young Investigator Awards. Hyung Chun, MD, assistant professor of medicine at Yale University, was awarded the Irvine H. Page Young Investigator Research Award. The Kenneth M. Brinkhous Young Investigator Prize in Thrombosis was awarded to Anil K. Chauhan, PhD, of the University of Iowa. These awards recognize future leaders in their fields. To find out if you are eligible for next year’s award, visit the ATVB website at my.americanheart.org/atvbncouncil.

ATVB Council Lectures at 2011 AHA Sessions

Russell Ross Memorial Lectureship in Vascular Biology: David Cheresh, PhD, FAHA, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 9 AM, Orange County Convention Center, W307bcd

Sol Sherry Distinguished Lecture in Thrombosis: Bruce Furie, MD Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2 PM, Orange County Convention Center, W307bcd

George L. Duff Memorial Lecture: Steve Young MD, FAHA Monday, Nov. 14, 2 PM, Orange County Convention Center, W312

New for 2011: ATVB Early Career Investigator Award, Sunday, Nov. 13, 3:45 PM Orange County Convention Center, W307bcd

Please e-mail Amy S. Major, PhD, with suggestions for newsletter content at amy.major@vanderbilt.edu.