I am incredibly proud of the excellent work presented by Cardiovascular Nursing members at Scientific Sessions 2011. The abstract and invited presentations were superb as speakers shared scientific and clinical innovations. Attendees were excited to learn new ideas that they could apply to their research or clinical practice. The Early Career Program was a great success, as novice and mid-career investigators heard strategies for writing grants and research collaborations from Karen Huss, DNSc, RN, of NINR and several seasoned investigators.

The Clinical Nursing Symposium provided nurses who practice in the acute care setting with cutting-edge information that they can immediately use for improved patient care. Thanks to Debra Wiegand, PhD, RN, FAHA, and Anna Gawlinski, RN, DNSc, FAHA, their respective program committees, the science committee chairs and members, and all who created such important program sessions.

CVN members had the privilege of hearing the Katharine A. Lembright Lecture by Marjorie Funk, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, who was also honored at our dinner program and annual meeting for her outstanding research career. I warmly congratulate Funk and all of the award recipients. We had an amazing celebration of the scholarship of these very deserving individuals. I also sincerely thank Terry Lennie, PhD, RN, FAHA, and the awards committee members for reviewing nominations and selecting such worthy recipients.

During this past year, CVN has been either a lead or co-sponsoring Council on 22 scientific or policy statements. Topics include stroke risk, depression, exercise standards, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, heart failure, behavior change, knowledge gaps of older adults and fetal cardiac disease. We appreciate the eagerness of CVN members to share their expertise as co-authors or chairs of these statements. I look forward to new proposals that showcase the unique contributions made by nurse scientists and clinicians as well as our collaborative efforts with other disciplines.

CVN is committed to the mission of Go Red For Women (GRFW) and our alliance with the Go Red national team continues to grow. We are grateful that GRFW sponsored the Martha Hill New Investigator Award. CVN has been offered the opportunity to partner with the Go Red team on a couple of initiatives as presented during our dinner program. A CVN Go Red task force will refresh a toolkit for military families — providing them with information and strategies to improve their heart health. The task force will also review data from Go Red Heart Match, an online support program that connects women with CVD and helps them develop emotionally supportive one-on-one relationships with other women. Suggestions for extending the reach of this program will be made.

In 2010, CVN launched the “40 for 40” campaign with a goal of raising $40,000 to support research, education and award recognition activities for nurse scientists and clinicians early in their careers. CVN is grateful to those of you who have already contributed to the campaign. We have raised almost $20,000! I encourage all of you to make a gift or an additional gift to this fund. (We can’t use these monies until we grow this fund.) CVN members have received information on how to contribute by email; however if you need this information, please contact me at lynne_t_braun@rush.edu.

Marie Cowan Promising Young Investigator Award Presented to Dr. Eun Kyeung (Grace) Song
Left to right: Lynne Braun, PhD, CNP, FAHA, FAAH; Lynne Braun, PhD, CNP, FAAN, FAHA; Eun Kyeung Song, PhD, RN; Terry Lennie, PhD, RN, FAHA

Martha Hill Young Investigator Award
Left to right: Terry Lennie, PhD, RN, FAHA; Lynne Braun, PhD, CNP, FAHA; Carolyn Miller Reilly, PhD, RN; Beverly Carlson, PhD, RN; Anne M. Fink, PhD; Mariann Piano, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

NEW! Supplement on Global Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

The Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association, in partnership with the AHA Council on Cardiovascular Nursing, the World Heart Federation and the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied Professionals, announces the release of Global Cardiovascular Disease Prevention: A Call to Action for Nursing. This state-of-the-art scientific paper addresses the global burden of CVD and the important role of nurses in primary and secondary prevention. Download a copy at www.jcnjournal.com.

Lynne T. Braun
PhD, CNP, FAHA, FAAN

Marie Cowan Promising Young Investigator Award presented to Dr. Eun Kyeung (Grace) Song.

Martha Hill Young Investigator Award presented to Lynne Braun, PhD, CNP, FAHA, FAHA, Carolyn Miller Reilly, PhD, RN, Beverly Carlson, PhD, RN, Anne M. Fink, PhD, and Mariann Piano, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA.
Tribute to Katharine A. Lembright
Aug. 10, 1918 — March 26, 2011

By Jacquelyn Huebsch
PhD, ANP, FAHA, CNP

Katharine A. Lembright said, “I never can remember not wanting to be a nurse!” Born Aug. 10, 1918, in Alliance, Ohio, Kay Lembright exemplified excellence in cardiovascular nursing. After a distinguished nursing career, including 21 years with the American Heart Association, Lembright died on March 26, 2011, at age 92.

Lembright attended Mount Union College in Ohio, graduated from nurse’s training at Elizabeth Steel Magee Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa., received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and later completed a major in Public Health at Duquesne University.

During World War II, Lembright served as an industrial nurse at Westinghouse Electric Corporation and continued an industrial hygiene career for several more years with the Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania health departments. She was one of 12 nurses who participated in the U.S. Public Health Services (USPHS) epidemiological study on the Donora smog disaster. Later, she became assistant executive secretary for Occupational Health Nursing at the American Nurses Association.

In 1960, Lembright joined the AHA as assistant director for nursing. During her tenure, Lembright staffed numerous AHA committees and Councils. But she is principally recognized for her work with nursing-related programs. Lembright advocated for cardiovascular nursing involvement in educational efforts, program planning and policymaking. Under her leadership, the Committee on Nursing Education was formed, and nurses became members of AHA committees such as CPR, Exercise, Risk Factor Screening, Rheumatic Fever, Smoking and Stroke.

By January 1969, nursing activities in the AHA were so important that the Board of Directors voted to establish the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing. Lembright’s commitment to cardiovascular nursing extended around the globe. She served as consultant with international partners in Canada, Mexico and the Netherlands as they developed nursing councils. She also was actively involved in the nursing component of the Inter-American Congress of Cardiology, working with nurses from Puerto Rico and South America.

Although she retired from the AHA in 1981, she remained active in her local AHA affiliate. Lembright’s great charm, delightful social skills and ability to accurately size up a situation or the people in it were especially valued by those who knew her. She had a deep professional sense for what should be done, the when and how of doing it right, and to whom to talk to help accomplish it.

Lembright created an inspiring history during her long and prestigious nursing career. Her rich legacy is commemorated with the CVN Annual Katharine A. Lembright Research Award.