MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention has worked strategically to advance the mission of the American Heart Association by promoting excellence in cardiovascular imaging and fostering the professional development of our established and early career colleagues.

For the first time, the CVRI Council sponsored an Early Career Day educational session at Scientific Sessions 2011. The session — “Making a Career in Imaging” — was well received.

CVRI sponsors five early career investigator travel stipends annually to Scientific Sessions. Our Council will continue participating in the Early Career Day program in November 2012. The 2011 CVRI Early Career Session was directed by Harold Litt, MD, and Lawrence Boxt, MD.

We are always encouraged by the quality and the number of our Judkins Award applications. At Scientific Sessions 2011, five finalists presented. Our winning applicant, Yuxiang Ye, received his award for “Blood Monocyte Recruitment in Microvascular Obstruction and Intramyocardial Hemorrhage: New Insights from Fluorine-19 Cellular Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Experimental Reperfused Myocardial Infarction.”

We encourage established AHA members to apply for Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA). The honor is especially appropriate for long-standing members of the Council. Interested CVRI members who serve on Council committees or otherwise feel that they fulfill the award’s criteria can access the application at my.americanheart.org/fellowship.

The AHA Council Operations Committee’s Council Engagement Report Card review of the 16 Councils in September 2011 was highly complimentary of our activities and accomplishments, resulting in the CVRI Council receiving second place. Particular note was made of our FAHA recruitment, focus on early career members and participation in the Council Leadership Gift Campaign.

Ultimately, our Council members are responsible for its excellence and success. We congratulate all of you for your input into CVRI activities and for making a difference.

Pamela Woodard
MD, FAHA

Dotter Lecturer 2011: Elias Zerhouni, MD

An unsurpassed highlight of Scientific Sessions 2011 was the Charles T. Dotter Memorial Lecture, delivered by Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, and titled “Fundamental Trends in Imaging: What Future?” Zerhouni’s accomplishments are well known and too numerous to list. Of course, his most prominent recent position was director of the National Institutes of Health. Prior to this appointment, Zerhouni served as chairman of the Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Science, and Martin Donner Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, where he also served as executive vice dean. Especially relevant for the connection to our Council is his career as an accomplished cardiovascular imaging researcher. His group was instrumental in developing numerous techniques that have enhanced our capabilities of non-invasively imaging the structure and function of the cardiovascular system.

Elías Zerhouni, MD, and Pamela Woodard, MD, FAHA

NASCI Annual Meeting

The North American Society for Cardiovascular Imaging will hold its 2012 annual meeting Oct. 13-16, 2012, at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena, CA. Recognized experts from North America and the world will provide in-depth coverage of cutting-edge techniques and applications of cardiovascular imaging in adult and pediatric patients.

An annual highlight of this meeting is the competition among scientific presenters for the AHA Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention Young Investigator Awards. Finalists selected from the abstract submissions of applicants to attend NASCI present their papers at Scientific Sessions.

The Langham Huntington in Pasadena is a landmark hotel. It is located at the base of the picturesque San Gabriel Mountains, just minutes from downtown Los Angeles. Located on 23 acres with grand historic ballrooms and gardens, the hotel features world-class dining, an award-winning spa and recreational choices such as tennis and nearby golf. For more information and to register, please visit www.nasci.org.
Diagnosing Heart Disease in Women: The Role of Imaging — Recent AHA Journal Highlights in Cardiovascular Imaging

The extent of non-obstructive CAD by coronary computed tomography angiography (CCTA) predicts mortality in women, but not in men, and may be helpful to optimize therapeutic strategies for women.

In their analysis of 1,127 participants, Shaw, et al, explored sex differences in four-year all-cause mortality by CCTA measurements of obstructive and non-obstructive CAD. The purpose was to devise a preliminary model by which to guide further research on risk detection for women. The researchers found that while four-year survival was similar, women more often had no coronary stenosis. Mortality worsened for both women and men by the number of vessels with ≥50 percent stenosis. More interestingly, while non-obstructive disease was prevalent in women and men, the extent of non-obstructive CAD by CCTA predicted mortality in women, but not in men. They concluded that despite less extensive and severe obstructive CAD in women, the novel inclusion of CCTA-defined non-obstructive CAD provided enhanced detection of risk, and may help optimize therapeutic strategies for women.


Examples of non-obstructive CAD: (A) calcified lesion in the proximal left anterior descending artery; (B) “mixed” and non-calcified plaque in the proximal and midportion of the left circumflex artery; and (C) calcified and non-calcified plaque in the proximal right coronary artery.

Prevalence of obstructive CAD in women and men by age deciles. Prevalence of non-obstructive CAD in women and men by age deciles in 490 patients with <50 percent coronary stenosis.

CVRI Melvin Judkins Young Investigator Award Competition


Shahriar Heidary, of San Jose, CA., for “Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance Imaging Elucidates Genotype-Phenotype Relationships in Patients with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy.”

John O’Sullivan, of Ireland, for “Multi Detector CT Accurately Defines Infarct Size, but Not Microvascular Obstruction Post Myocardial Infarction, and Sodium Nitrite Increases Microvascular Obstruction Region Blood Flow Without Affecting CT Hypoenhancement Area”

CVRI Vice-chair: Yuxiang Ye; Shahriar Heidary; Paco Bravo; Hiroshi Ashikaga; Constantino Peña, MD, CVRI Scientific Sessions Program Committee Chair; Unpictured: John O’Sullivan

Left to right: Vincent Ho, CVRI Vice-chair; Yuxiang Ye; Shahriar Heidary; Paco Bravo; Hiroshi Ashikaga; Constantino Peña, MD, CVRI Scientific Sessions Program Committee Chair; Unpictured: John O’Sullivan.

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