Council On

Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology

**Message from the Chair**

The ATVB Council had a successful presence at the recent AHA Scientific Sessions in Orlando. Our activities were well attended and the wide variety of scientific topics indicates a robust Council membership. The economic hard times have greatly influenced donations to the AHA and the 8 percent decrease in attendees at this meeting is a sign that funds are limited. Our Council is a research-intensive group, as indicated by the highly attended Early Career Networking Reception and the strong support of the Spring ATVB meeting. We have long encouraged our younger members to apply to the AHA for early career grant funding, typically with good success. Most of our senior scientists can bear witness to the fact that granting success with the AHA was essential for getting a successful career started. Among the most loyal supporters of the AHA are undoubtedly the past AHA Established Investigators. So, it seems that a Council like the ATVB needs to send strong signals to the AHA administration giving our thoughts about the importance of research support for the scientific enterprise of basic heart disease research in this country. I encourage anyone who has ideas about this important topic or suggestions about the maintenance of strong research funding by AHA to contact Dr. Kenneth Bloch, MD (who heads the AHA Research Committee) at kdbloch@partners.org. I think it is incumbent on members of the ATVB Council to provide a strong signal that we depend on and greatly benefit from the research support of the AHA, and will work to boost donations to the AHA in the name of increasing research support. We are one of the larger Councils of AHA and clearly need to work to make a difference. The economic downturn makes our efforts to promote AHA even more critical.

**Highlights from Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Fla.**

In addition to the exciting group of basic and translational scientific sessions in Orlando, ATVB hosted presentations from the winners of the three named lectureships of our Council. The George Lyman Duff Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Linda Curtiss of The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif., on “The Toll of Toll-like Receptors on Atherosclerosis.” Dr. Curtiss provided details on how TLRs, proinflammatory sensors of pathogens, are potential links between inflammation, infectious disease and atherosclerosis.

The Sol Sherry Distinguished Lecture in Thrombosis was given by Dr. Nigel Mackman, who is the John Parker Professor of Medicine at University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Mackman’s presentation, “Hemostasis and Thrombosis: Two Sides of the Same Coin?” provided a provocative look at the most recent developments in the field.

The Russell Ross Memorial Lecture in Vascular Biology was given by Dr. Roy L. Silverstein, Professor of Molecular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Dr. Silverstein’s presentation, “Macrophage CD36 Signaling Regulates Pro-atherogenic Responses to oxLDL,” described his long track record in the study of this scavenger receptor and its various contributions to atherogenesis. His outstanding lecture, together with those of Drs. Curtiss and Mackman, highlighted the tremendous scientific strength of our ATVB Council.
Annual Awards and Business Luncheon

The annual committee reports revealed that our Council remains strong. ATVB is the third largest of the AHA’s Councils, behind Basic Cardiovascular Sciences and Clinical Cardiology. However, ATVB membership has decreased in the past year and we would encourage everyone to renew their membership and recruit trainees to join.

The ATVB Council presented Special Recognition Awards in the three categories that make up our membership to individuals who have made outstanding contributions.

Arteriosclerosis:
John S. Parks, PhD, FAHA
Christian Weber, MD

Thrombosis:
Daniel T. Eitzman, MD
Joel S. Bennett, MD

Vascular Biology:
Kathryn J. Moore, PhD, FAHA
Mark W. Majesky, PhD

Additional awards presented at the Business Luncheon during Scientific Sessions included the Distinguished Achievement Award to Goran K. Hansson, MD, PhD and the Distinguished Scientist Award to Garret A. Fitzgerald, MD, FAHA. We congratulate these distinguished scientists.

Early Career Corner

ATVB Early Career Networking Reception

This year’s ATVB Early Career Reception was a tremendous success. The mission was to provide an informal and friendly forum for young ATVB investigators to mingle and network with established Council members. Smaller sessions such as these prove to be an invaluable way for early career and trainee members to have some one-on-one time with leaders in the fields of arteriosclerosis, thrombosis and vascular biology research. The highlight of the reception was the 60 posters that were chosen from the highest scoring abstracts submitted by Early Career ATVB Council members. In addition, a ‘job board’ was available for young investigators seeking positions as well as those hoping to hire postdocs or junior faculty. A special thanks to Merck Research Laboratories for sponsoring this year’s reception and to the members of the Early Career Leadership Committee (Muredach Reilly, MD and Tracie Selmon, PhD) for organizing the event.

Amy S. Major
PhD

Special Recognition, Arteriosclerosis
John S. Parks (center), Christian Weber (not pictured)

Special Recognition, Thrombosis
Joel S. Bennett (center left), Daniel T. Eitzman (center right)

Special Recognition, Vascular Biology
Mark W. Majesky, Kathryn J. Moore

Kathryn J. Moore
PhD, FAHA

Message from the Editor

An expanded version of the newsletter can be found on the my.americanheart.org Web site under the ATVB Council, where you can find additional information on Council activities and early career development opportunities. Please feel free to e-mail me with suggestions at Kathryn.Moore@NYUMC.org.