Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology

Message From the Chair
Dr. Lawrence Rudel, Ph.D., FAHA

At the annual fall AHA meeting this year, we had three presentations from the winners of the three named lectureships of the ATVB Council. It is a compliment to our Council to have such distinguished individuals represent us. The high quality of the winning scientists and their research deserves comment. The Russell Ross Memorial Lectureship in Vascular Biology was given by Dr. Peter Newman on Monday. Dr. Newman has been at the Blood Center of Wisconsin in Milwaukee since 1983 where he currently serves as vice president of research and associate director. He discussed his work to identify plasma membrane receptors of circulating blood cells that participate in the maintenance of homeostasis. Platelets express G protein-coupled receptors, kinase- and phosphatase-linked receptors, and working together with the host of adhesion molecules that are proliferated, provide an intricate control of platelet activation and aggregation. Dr. Newman provided details that allowed us a glimpse of how this magnificently complicated regulatory system is coordinated. His talk was clearly organized and allowed the audience the chance to appreciate the complexity of the biology within this essential biological system.

The Sol Sherry Distinguished Lecture was given by Dr. Zaverio Ruggeri, who is professor of medicine and experimental medicine, head of the Division of Blood Cell and Vascular Biology and director of the Roon Research Center for Arteriosclerosis and Thrombosis at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif. Dr. Ruggeri discussed his work on platelet adhesion in acute arterial thrombosis. Platelet adhesive properties are central to a variety of pathophysiological processes that extend from inflammation to immune-mediated host defense. The ability of platelets to circulate in blood as sentinels

Message from the Editor
Kathryn J. Moore, PhD

The complete newsletter can be found on the my.americanheart.org Web site under the ATVB Council. We are continuing to improve the site, where you can find information on Council activities, awards, lectures and early career development opportunities. Please feel free to e-mail me with suggestions at kmoore@molph.mgh.harvard.edu.

Highlights from Scientific Sessions 2008

In addition to the ATVB Council lectures, ATVB orchestrated an exciting group of basic and translational scientific sessions in Orlando that were well attended. Additional highlights from the meeting included:

Annual Awards and Business Luncheon

The Annual Committee Reports revealed that our Council continues to grow in strength. ATVB Council membership has increased and the impact factor of our journal, Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, continues to climb. In recognition of their outstanding contributions, this year’s ATVB Council Special Recognition Awards were presented to:

- **Arteriosclerosis:** Godfrey Getz, MD, PhD, FAHA
  Edward Fisher, MD, PhD, FAHA
- **Thrombosis:** Susan Smyth, MD, PhD
  David Dichek, MD, FAHA
- **Vascular Biology:** W. Robert Taylor, MD, PhD
  Rama Natarajan, PhD, FAHA
- **Distinguished Achievement Award:** Alan Daugherty, PhD, DSc, FAHA
- **Distinguished Scientist Award:** David Ginsburg, MD, FAHA
  Richard J. Havel, MS, MD, FAHA
  Louis J. Ignarro, PhD, FAHA

ATVB Early Career Networking Reception

Written by Amy Major

This year’s ATVB Early Career Reception was a great success and was attended by over 120 Council members. Like last year’s reception, the mission was to provide an informal, friendly forum for young ATVB investigators to mingle and network with established Council members. Smaller sessions such as this prove to be an invaluable way for early career members to have some one-on-one time with leaders in the field 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.

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of vascular integrity but to adhere where alterations are detected and signal to other platelets and blood cells for adhesion and aggregation represents the finely tuned system of the Ruggeri research. He talked about microparticles that provide selective targeting properties through recombinant adhesive domains. All in all, he provided a lucid trip through the blood with platelets and helped us understand their thrombogenic potential.

The George Lyman Duff Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Aldons Jake Lusis, who is currently a professor of medicine and microbiology and immunology as well as vice chair of human genetics at UCLA. Dr. Lusis has a long, outstanding track record in the study of mouse genetics which he has consistently applied to the study of metabolic and cardiovascular diseases. During his tenure at UCLA, he has participated in two longstanding Program Project grants focused on lipoprotein metabolism in atherosclerosis and he has been the leader of development of genetic models in these studies. His talk gave us a brief look at his current attempts to use mouse genetics to develop an approach that integrates common DNA variations, global gene expression array analyses and clinical phenotypes. His approach recognizes that cardiovascular disease, for example, involves hundreds of genes together with environmental factors that result in a myriad of interactions. It is only through the inspiration and knowledge of unique individuals like Dr. Lusis that we will be able to narrow down the field of genetics and identify important controlling subsets of genes that provide insights into the various types of expression of metabolic diseases. It is a complicated task that comes on the heels of the complete sequencing of the human genome, but one which promises to take science to the next level of understanding. We congratulate Dr. Lusis as he joins the list of over 50 past Duff Lecture recipients, who make up an outstanding list of the Who’s Who of our ATVB Council leadership. His lecture together with those of Drs. Newman and Ruggeri provided ample evidence of the tremendous scientific strength of our ATVB council. We congratulate these three scientists and offer them our thanks for providing us with their insights.

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In addition to the great posters, there was a “job board” available for young investigators seeking positions as well as those hoping to hire postdocs or junior faculty. Many thanks to our sponsors, Merck Research Laboratories and the University of Kentucky, for providing the funds for the wonderful food and drinks and to the members of the Early Career Leadership Committee, Muredach Reilly, MD and Tracie Siemon, PhD, for organizing the event. A special thanks to Ms. Dena Looper of the AHA for helping with all of our committee’s functions. We are looking forward to next year’s reception in Orlando, Fla. See you there!

10th Annual Conference on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology

Mark your calendars! The Annual Conference on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology will be held April 29–May 1, 2009 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. This springtime meeting sponsored by our council has grown steadily in popularity since the inaugural meeting in Colorado one decade ago. The smaller format of this meeting, its ample networking opportunities and the cutting-edge program have made this the third-largest meeting sponsored by the AHA. This year’s meeting is being held in conjunction with the Society for Vascular Surgery, which will no doubt enhance the already outstanding program. Other highlights of the meeting are the Annual ATVB Council Dinner, the ATVB Women’s Leadership Luncheon and the presentation of the Hoeg, Page and Brinkhous Awards. Please visit the ATVB Council Web site to view the preliminary program.

Early Career Events at the ATVB 2009 Spring Conference

In a continuing effort to enrich the education and training of our early career and trainee ATVB Council members, the Early Career Leadership Committee has organized two events at the upcoming ATVB Spring Conference. On Wednesday, April 29 there will be a special session entitled “Improve Your Presentation Skills at Your Poster,” presented by former ATVB Council Chairman Alan Daugherty, PhD, from the University of Kentucky. This will be followed on Thursday, April 30 with “Improve Your Presentation Skills at the Podium,” presented by Past AHA President Robert Eckel, MD, from the University of Colorado Denver. Both sessions will be held from 7:00–7:50 a.m. The sessions are free and anyone is welcome to attend. The ATVB Council also offers 20 Travel Awards for Young Investigators to support the efforts of early career ATVB Council members. Please feel free to contact any member of the ATVB Early Career Leadership Committee if you have questions.