I write to you as I prepare for the AHA meeting in Orlando. The BCVS has participated in the planning of this meeting and it looks to be better than ever. This year the BCVS Program Committee was led by Wally Koch and Glenn Fishman. They and their committee should be commended for the outstanding scientific program they have arranged. I see little time to visit Disney World.

I want to remind you that the BCVS Council is the place where you will find basic and physician scientists with research programs centered on fundamental aspects of cardiovascular science, mechanisms of cardiovascular disease, and translational biology. The Council is dedicated to expanding all types of research that can provide a better understanding of the causes and potential cures of cardiovascular disease.

The Council leadership recognizes that these are trying times for scientists with regard to funding. The economic recession started many years ago and continues. The BCVS leadership wants you to know that we advocate for support of investigator-initiated research within the AHA. In particular, the BCVS leadership is committed to supporting young cardiovascular scientists who are the future of our field. We are exploring novel ways to champion cardiovascular scientists and provide support for their work.

One of the major functions of the BCVS Council is to organize and support the presentation of cutting-edge research. The national AHA meeting is one opportunity for us to get together and see all types of science. We also organize a smaller summer conference that provides a more intimate setting for people to discuss their work. The Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Conference in July 2009 was organized by a group lead by Jeff Molkentin and Tom Force. The conference was outstanding and attracted record attendance. It was clearly the “go to” cardiovascular conference of the year. I recommend our BCVS summer conference for many reasons including that there is ample time for junior and senior investigators to interact and discuss their research. Each year this conference seems to get better.

We are in the process of finalizing the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences 2010 Summer Conference. It is being organized by a group led by Gerald Dorn and Peipei Ping. The theme of this year’s conference will be “Technological and Conceptual Advances in Cardiovascular Disease.” An outstanding group of faculty has been invited and the program should be announced shortly. Save the date, July 19-22, 2010, at Palm Springs, Calif., because this conference will be one you will not want to miss. Also, be sure to submit your abstract by April 5.

I hope you will all become more involved in the activities of our Council. There are many opportunities for you to participate. Log on to the BCVS Web page at www.americanheart.org/bcvscouncil and you will find all sorts of good things there.

Important BCVS 2010 dates:

- January 11 Abstract and award submissions open
- March 1 Online registration opens
- April 5 Abstract and award submissions close
- June 14 Advance registration closes
- June 21 Last day to withdraw abstracts
- June 28 Last day to renew your AHA professional membership and qualify for a registration discount of up to $300 (Promo code D9J217ZZ)

As a convenience for last-minute registrants, online registration will remain open until July 19. Register by June 14 and save up to $100.

Steven Houser
PhD, FAHA
Katz Award Finalists

Competition was held on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009, 3:45–5:00 p.m.
- Norifumi Takeda, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, “Cardiac Fibroblasts Are Essential for the Adaptive Response of the Heart to Pressure Overload”
- Toshitaka Yajima, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, “Absence of SOCS3 Regulation on gp130 Signaling in the Cardiac Myocyte Results in Increased Voltage-gated Sodium Channel (SCN5A) Current, Arrhythmogenicity and Cardiomyopathy”
- Michael Potente (Winner), Institute for Cardiovascular Regeneration, Frankfurt, Germany, “Sirt1 Limits Endothelial Notch Signaling During Blood Vessel Growth Through NICD Deacetylation”
- Il-Man Kim, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, “Gene Deletion Screen for Cardiomyopathy in Adult Drosophila Identifies Weary (Wry): A New Notch Ligand”
- Stephen Y. Chan, Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA, “MicroRNA-210 Controls Metabolic Adaptation During Hypoxia in Pulmonary Vascular Endothelium”

Marcus Award Finalists

Competition was held Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009, 5:15–6:30 p.m.
- Michael E. Davis, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, “Delivery of SOD With Polyketal Particles Protects Rats From Acute Myocardial Infarction”
- Hideaki Kanazawa, Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan, “Heart Failure Causes Cholinergic Transdifferentiation of Cardiac Sympathetic Nerves via Gp130-mediated Cytokines”
- Norimichi Koitabashi, John Hopkins Medical Institute, Baltimore, MD, “Cardiomyocyte Protein Kinase G Activation by Phosphodiesterase-5 Inhibition Suppresses Canonical Transient Receptor Potential (TRPC) Channel 6 Expression/Activity and Cardiac Hypertrophy Signaling”
- Timothy Nelson (Winner), Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, “Myocardial Infarction Repair With iPSC Induced by Human Stemness Factors”

Annual Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Summer Conference Award Highlights

The 2009 Annual BCVS Summer Conference, “Molecular Mechanisms of Cardiovascular Disease,” was held July 20–23 in Lake Las Vegas, Nev. The meeting organizers were Drs. Thomas Force, Jeffery Molkentin, Issel Komuro, Helmut Drexler.

The finalists for the Outstanding Early Career Investigator Award were:
- Michael E. Davis, Emory University, “Critical Effects of Timing of Catalase Therapy for Cardiac Regeneration and Stem Cell Therapy”
- Shigeki Miyamoto, UC San Diego, “PHLPP-1, an AKT Phosphatase, Regulates Cardiomyocyte Survival”
- Peiyong Zhai, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, “Inhibition of Glycogen Synthase Kinase-3 Protects Against Ischemia/reperfusion Injury but Exacerbates Prolonged Ischemic Injury Through Modulating Autophagy and Mammalian Target of Rapamycin”

Cardiovascular Outreach Award recipients were Medet Jumabay and William Lester.

Twenty attendees were awarded New Investigator Travel Awards: Henriette Brinks, Stephen Y. Chan, Dao-Fu Dai, Dominic P. Del Re, Ramon Diaz Trelles, John W. Elrod, Yoshihiko Ichikawa, Yasumasa Ikeda, Fabrice Jaffre, Saurabh Jha, Norimichi Koitabashi, Yasuhiro Maejima, Mehregan Movassagh, Andrew Pistner, Nicole H. Purcell, Sarvjeet Singh, Nikolai Sopko, Hongyu Zhang, Manling Zhang, Lufang Zhou.

Congratulations to everyone!