The Council on Clinical Cardiology achieved an important milestone on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 at Scientific Sessions in Orlando with the first “Clinical Cardiology Day at the AHA.” The morning began with a spirited and productive meeting of the Council leadership with a focus on advancing the newly developed Strategic Plan of the AHA. Many excellent strategies were developed to have our Council play a leadership role in improving the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular disease and stroke by 20 percent by the year 2020. The afternoon’s activities included the “Fellows in Training and Early Career Program” with over 250 attendees participating (there are plans to expand this highly popular and successful program in 2010), followed by the Laennec and Levine fellows competition.

On Saturday evening, the Council held its annual dinner with recognition of the accomplishments of the year, including publication of nine manuscripts and commissioning of 10 more. Many of the Council’s leaders were recognized for their service and accomplishments. The Herrick Lecture delivered by Dr. Bonow, entitled “Clinical Research at the Crossroads,” emphasized that only through the collective scientific and advocacy efforts of all of us in the community of science and medicine can the challenges of conducting research be overcome.

Moving forward the Council plans to focus on continuing to advance the AHA’s mission by promoting the highest standards of evidence-based care through scientific publications and programs such as the AHA’s “Get With The Guidelines” and “You’re the Cure.” While advancing the many important clinical, research and educational priorities of the AHA, there will be particular emphasis on advocacy and women and heart disease though 2010.

**2009 Awardees Presented at Scientific Sessions**

The Council on Clinical Cardiology Congratulates You!

Patrick O’Gara, Boston, MA, received the Distinguished Achievement Award

William Grossman, San Francisco, CA, was Laennec Clinician/Educator Lecturer

Peter Yurchak, Boston, MA (posthumous), was recognized as the Laennec Master Clinician (Award received by Mrs. Yurchak)

Gerald F. Fletcher, Jacksonville, FL, Recognition of Outstanding Leadership

**Message from the Chair**

N. A. Mark Estes III, MD, FAHA

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Laennec Young Clinician Award Finalists
Francis Alenghat, Boston, MA
Brian Kolski, San Diego, CA
Rahul Sakhuja, Boston, MA – (Winner, second from left)
Thomas Tadros, Boston, MA – (Winner, third from left)
Jacob Udel, Boston, MA

Samuel A. Levine Young Investigators Award Finalists
Jeffery Berger, New York, NY
Paul Bhella, Dallas, TX
Lori Daniels, San Diego, CA
Nils Johnson, Chicago, IL
David Leistner, Frankfurt, Germany — (Winner, center)

Women in Cardiology Mentoring Award
C. Noel Bairey Merz, Los Angeles, CA (center)

James B. Herrick Award & Lecture
Robert O. Bonow, Chicago, IL (left)