The main activities of your Leadership Committee this past quarter have been related to planning the 2009 fall conference. This will be our 63rd Annual Conference and the Program Committee, headed by Rhian Touyz, is identifying session topics and structuring the workshop. We hope to receive a record number of abstracts and the due date for submission is May 22, 2009 (5 p.m., CST). The meeting will be held at the InterContinental Chicago O’Hare Hotel.

The following conference awards may be applied for:

- Annual High Blood Pressure Research Conference New Investigator Award, sponsored by the Council for High Blood Pressure Research
- Kidney Council New Investigator Travel Award
- New Investigator Travel Award, sponsored by the Trainee Advocacy Committee of the Council on High Blood Pressure Research
- The Harry Goldblatt New Investigator Award
- New Investigator Award for European Fellows, supported by an educational grant from AstraZeneca

In addition to planning the fall conference, Leadership Committee members have started plans for the next Hypertension Summer School. The goal of this program is to attract and motivate postdoctoral fellows, students and clinical trainees into careers in hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Ray Townsend is Chair of the organizing committee for the school. Dates and location for the 2010 Hypertension Summer School are:

Portland State University
Portland, Ore.

One of my major activities as Council Chair is to represent us at meetings of the AHA Science Advisory & Coordinating Committee (SACC). This committee meets quarterly and reviews the business of the AHA’s Councils. As noted previously by past Council Chair Gabriel Navar, the action item from this committee that will have the greatest impact on members of our Council is the decision to raise dues. This became effective in January 2009. I believe the improved member benefits are an incentive for membership renewal.

Remember that Scientific Sessions will be held in Orlando, Fla., at the Orange County Convention Center from Nov. 14–18, 2009.

Finally, I would like to say that this is an exciting time for the members of our Council. The next meeting of the Leadership Committee was held on Tuesday, May 5, and the next newsletter will report on that meeting. We are here to serve you.

From the Editor

Nancy Kanagy, PhD, FAHA

The new and improved AHA Web site introduced last fall is easier to navigate. This has been welcomed by all! Electronic submission of grants and reference reports is now proceeding smoothly and has decreased the excessive paper-shredding portion of AHA grant reviews.

Finally, the highlights of the programs for the upcoming fall Council conference and the national conference indicated that both will be great venues for our members.

This will include a new lectureship in 2009, the Harriet Dustin Lectureship, which will be presented to a member of our society.

As always, if there is a topic that you would like covered in this newsletter, please let me know!

Thank you for your support of the Council.
REQUEST FOR GRANT REVIEW VOLUNTEERS

As you know, the quality of NIH’s peer review process depends on the quality of the reviewers serving on study sections. NIH has requested help in identifying senior, experienced members of our society willing to volunteer to serve as NIH reviewers.

To assist in identifying members of our Council who are willing and qualified to serve, NHLBI is soliciting volunteers from the extramural community willing to serve on NHLBI and NIH peer review panels this summer and in the future. Note that applicants being reviewed by one peer review panel can participate as a reviewer on a different review panel.

If you are interested in serving, please send your contact information to NIH, including:
1. full name with middle initial, degree(s),
2. institutional affiliation(s),
3. e-mail address,
4. telephone number(s),
5. keywords (or MESH terms) describing your area(s) of expertise, and
6. a copy of your CV (PDF format, if possible) as an e-mail attachment to nhlbichiefreviewbranch@nhlbi.nih.gov.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
63rd High Blood Pressure Research Conference and Workshop
Sept. 23–26, 2009 • InterContinental Chicago O’Hare Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

Rhian Touyz, PhD, FAHA, Vice Chair of the Council and Program Committee Chair

The Planning Committee is putting together another outstanding conference for our annual fall meeting. This meeting focuses on recent advances in hypertension research and is considered one of the most important medical meetings on the subject in the world. The meeting, preceded by a one-day workshop, includes oral and poster presentations selected from abstracts submitted by clinical and basic researchers and draws an international audience of over 700 attendees.

The theme of the workshop this fall is “A Systems Biology Approach to Hypertension” and we will have experts in hypertension and kidney research ranging from molecules to patients. Participants will learn about state-of-the-art approaches to investigate mechanisms of hypertension at the molecular, cellular, tissue and whole animal level as well as about noninvasive strategies to explore hypertension in humans. The workshop program includes both state-of-the-art presentations and small interactive discussion groups and we are privileged to have the very best researchers and leaders in the field on the program including:

Gary Mitchell, MD; Cardiovascular Engineering Inc., Massachusetts
Non-invasive assessment of the vasculature in the clinic

Thomas J. Wang, MD; Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts
Biomarkers as tools to assess cardiovascular risk in hypertension

Costantino Iadecola, MD; Weill Medical School, New York
The brain and hypertension

Dan Levy, MD; NHLBI and Boston University, Director Framingham Heart Study
Genes, molecules, systems biology and epidemiology in hypertension — bringing it all together through Framingham

S. Moncada, MD, PhD; The Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research, England
Investigating the (patho)biology of nitric oxide in vessels

R. Lifton, MF, PhD; Yale University School of Medicine, Connecticut
Genetic dissection of human blood pressure variation — strategies and applications in hypertension research

Satoru Eguchi, MD, PhD; Temple University School of Medicine, Pennsylvania
Dissecting signaling pathways in hypertension - approaches and implications

Bruce A. Molitoris, MD; Indiana University School of Medicine, Indiana
Imaging techniques to study the (pathophysiology of the kidney

J J . Mullins, PhD; University of Edinburgh, Medical School, Scotland
Gene targeting and animal models for studying hypertension

B.C Berk, MD, PhD; University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, New York
New approaches to evaluate novel paradigms in receptors and their trafficking

William B. White, MD; University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Connecticut
Daytime blood pressure, nighttime blood pressure and masked hypertension — what does this all mean?

Edward G. Lakatta, MD; NHLBI Laboratory of Cardiovascular Science, Maryland
Aging and the cardiovascular system in hypertension

Anna F. Dominiczak, MD, PhD; University of Glasgow, Scotland
Hypertension genome studies

Ernesto L. Schiffrin, MD, PhD; McGill University, Canada
The vasculature in hypertension

Thomas M. Coffman, MD; Duke University Medical Center, North Carolina
Kidneys in hypertension

Francis J . Miller, MD; University of Iowa, Iowa
An update on the measurement of reactive oxygen species in the cardiovascular system

Arshed A. Quyyumi, MD; Emory University School of Medicine, Georgia
Handling stem cells in cardiovascular biology: methods of isolation, characterization and phenotyping

Mark your calendars and send in your abstracts by May 22 (regular submission deadline) or by July 10 (Late-breaking submission deadline). The link to submit abstracts and register for the conference is: www.americanheart.org/hbprcouncil.