Chair's Report
Kathleen L. Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

As the weather turns warm again, the flowers bloom, and the trees bud, it is time to think about your American Heart Association volunteer activities! We’d love to have you join us on any number of exciting committees and projects. There are opportunities to participate on committees, join writing groups, develop and lecture at conferences, advocate on behalf of the AHA, and much, much more! Please visit our Web site to learn more about the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and how you can get involved.

I’d also like to take a moment to reflect on Scientific Sessions 2004. Kudos to Dr. Christi Deaton and her Program Committee for coordinating outstanding oral abstract sessions, poster sessions, cardiovascular seminars, and how-to sessions. We had our first Saturday Pre-conference and attracted almost 150 participants. The Program Committee is already hard at work preparing for Scientific Sessions 2005 (including our 2nd annual Saturday Pre-conference)!

Also, please don’t forget that May is “abstract deadline month.” Consider reporting your cardiovascular or stroke research findings at the AHA. Disseminating your findings at the AHA is very rewarding as well as an opportunity to network with your colleagues. Visit www.americanheart.org for more details about AHA abstract submission.

Finally, the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing celebrated its awardees (in recognition of their clinical, scholarly and research accomplishments) at its Council dinner at Scientific Sessions 2004 in New Orleans. It was a wonderful evening of celebration of our new talent and senior leaders in the fields of cardiovascular and stroke nursing. Please consider applying for an award this year. Check our Web site through www.americanheart.org, go to “Science and Professional,” click on “Member Services,” and go to “Cardiovascular Nursing Council.” Award deadlines are typically in May.

Hope to hear from you soon!

From the Editor
Cheryl Zambroski, PhD, RN

For more in-depth information on each feature in the newsletter as well as past issues of the Council Connections, check out the CVN Web site at www.americanheart.org.

From the Program Committee

Initial planning has begun for Scientific Sessions 2005. Members of CVN and the program committee have developed exciting ideas for invited sessions in November. These include plenaries, special sessions, cardiovascular seminars, how-to sessions, Ask the Experts and Sunday Morning Programs. Given the enthusiastic response to the ACS update held November 6, 2004, the CVN Council is also preparing another pre-sessions clinical conference. Invited sessions were finalized in February and March.

Report from the Communications/Membership Committee

Be the first to nominate someone for the new “Early Career Clinician Award.” This award will be given for the first time in 2005. Check the Web site for more information!
PCNA to release “National Guidelines and Tools for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction: A Pocket Guide”

The Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) is pleased to announce the development of its newest publication, “National Guidelines and Tools for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction: A Pocket Guide.” This resource provides information on the multiple national guidelines and recommended treatment goals that pertain to both primary and secondary cardiovascular disease prevention and risk management. This unique compilation of guidelines and tools will facilitate the healthcare provider’s ability to initiate global risk factor assessment and optimal treatment.

“National Guidelines and Tools for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction: A Pocket Guide” will be mailed to PCNA members in late spring of 2005 and will be available for purchase by non-members at that time. PCNA will provide continuing medical education for this publication. The pocket guide is sponsored by an unrestricted educational grant from AstraZeneca. For additional information, visit the PCNA Web site at www.pcna.net.

MISSION
STATEMENT

The primary mission of the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing is to support the AHA mission to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular disease and stroke. In addition, the Council identifies and articulates the areas in which nurses can lead in the accomplishment of the AHA mission.

Tobacco Free Nurses

Started by nurses who understand nurses and the challenges they face, the Tobacco Free Nurses initiative provides Web-based support services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Web site, www.tobaccofreenurses.org, provides up-to-date, easily accessible information and advice that nurses can use to help smokers quit, as well as resources about tobacco control. It offers links to telephone “quit” lines, the latest research, professional resources and tobacco control organizations. For nurses who want to quit, the Web site offers a link to Nurses QuitNet — a site tailored to the needs of nurses. The site is also available for nonsmokers and offers the latest research and scientifically proven cessation strategies. It also describes skills needed to help people quit, and provides easy information about access to medications and products, and information on their use.

The first 5,000 nurses who visit Nurses QuitNet and want to stop smoking will be offered the full range of premium services free for one year. This will require registration, including providing minimal information about smoking and quit-attempt history. Nurses QuitNet instantly adapts its content and suggestions based on the individual’s status and circumstances at the time of the visit. If more nurses want to use these services, they will receive these services at reduced cost. Nonsmokers also may register to receive free access to resources to help patients quit smoking. For more information, contact Erika S. Froelicher at 415-476-4833 or erika.froelicher@nursing.ucsf.edu

State of the Art Stroke Nursing Symposium

The State of the Art Stroke Nursing Symposium preconference event on February 1, 2005, was an outstanding success again this year. Almost 600 health professionals attended. The event primarily focused on best practice and the scientific evidence that underpins stroke care involving primary and secondary prevention, and emergency and acute care as well as rehabilitation and long-term care. A variety of healthcare professionals shared their expertise and reemphasized the importance of multidisciplinary efforts to support stroke survivors and their significant others. Given the increasing popularity of this symposium, plans are already under way for 2006. If you would like to submit an abstract and be a part of this event, look for submission deadlines on the ASA Web site under the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing.