Chair’s Report
Dorothy M. Lanuza, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

Welcome to the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing (CVN). As I begin my term as chair of the council, I would like to thank the previous chair, Dr. Kathy Grady, for her outstanding leadership during the past two years. I also want to thank the immediate past chair, Dr. Laura Hayman, for the sage advice she provided. On behalf of the Leadership Committee, I also want to express our appreciation to you, our council members, for your continued support and membership. Speaking of membership, the CVN is one of three American Heart Association councils invited to participate in an exciting new recruitment program, “Member-Get-A-Member.” This program will help us meet our goal of increasing membership in our council. For more information, visit the CVN Web site at www.americanheart.org.

Membership and active involvement in CVN provides you with a wealth of resources (check out the Web site), an opportunity to contribute towards improving the cardiovascular and stroke health of our nation, and a mechanism for increasing knowledge and enhancing professional growth. As one of the AHA’s 13 councils, our goal is to support the AHA’s mission to “reduce disability and death from cardiovascular disease and stroke.” We accomplish this goal through knowledge discovery, processing and transfer, and our members contribute through active participation in writing/co-writing scientific statements and practice guidelines. We also actively promote consumer utilization of our services through such programs as Get With The Guidelines. Also, through a new pilot project, “National Call-in Day,” women will have the opportunity to call in during a day in September and speak to nurses about their heart-related questions and concerns. Dr. Lynne Braun, a member of the council and a nurse practitioner with cardiovascular nursing expertise, will chair and coordinate this project.

If you are not a council member, I invite you to get more information and consider joining. If you are a member, please participate in “Member-Get-A-Member” or consider other recruitment initiatives such as “Give the Gift of Membership.” You can learn more about our council and its activities through:

- Council Connections,
- the CVN Web page (www.americanheart.org),
- the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing (JCN) — (the AHA CVN Department appears three times a year in the JCN), or
- the American Journal of Nursing (AJN), which is published four times a year through Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Additional news items include:

- Although we are experiencing the hot days of summer, it is never too early to start planning for our November conference. This year, the Scientific Sessions 2005 will...
be held in Dallas, Texas, Nov. 13–16. The council will hold its second pre-conference, “Stroke and Heart Disease: Moving Toward Common Goals,” on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 1:30–5:45 PM. The symposium will provide an update on the latest diagnostic and treatment information related to stroke and heart disease patients. The Scientific Sessions 2005, which starts on Sunday, Nov. 13, will provide four days of cutting-edge lectures and investigative reports. AHA nurse members will receive a substantial reduction in the registration fee (so be sure to identify yourself as a nurse). Our Council Dinner, one of the highlights of the Scientific Sessions 2005, will be held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 15.

- One of the many resources available to our members will be access to the award-winning 5th edition of Cardiac Nursing, by Woods, et al., which will soon be posted online. This book uses the nursing process framework to provide valuable information to nurses caring for patients who have cardiac diseases or are at risk for developing them.

- Leaders from our council are meeting with nurse leaders in the Stroke Council to see how we can increase and strengthen our collaborative efforts. This year’s pre-conference is just one example of such efforts.

- Drs. Chyun, Holm and Laniuzza have completed a survey of the educational needs of our council members in relation to their perceived competency in caring for the elderly. Their final report was recently submitted to American Nurses Association — Specialty Partner in Geriatrics (ANA-SNAPG).

In closing, the Leadership Committee and I encourage your active participation in AHA and CVN Council activities, and we look forward to seeing you at the Scientific Sessions 2005 in Dallas in November.

### Report from the Communications/Membership Committee

There has been a changing of the guard in the Communications/Membership Committee. The new officers are: Mary Caldwell, chair; Lynn Doering, vice chair and AJN liaison; Carol Mason, JCN liaison; Vicki Coombs, Web page editor; and Cheryl Zambroski, newsletter editor. We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to Debra Moser, who has chaired this committee over the last few years and has been responsible for very important strategic direction. Please feel free to contact any of the above officers if you would like to get involved. (Contact information is available online through the Membership Directory.)

There are two communications-related announcements:

1) The council will have a page in the American Journal of Nursing to communicate the functions and benefits of the council and to recruit new members.

2) The latest edition (2004) of the well-known textbook, Cardiac Nursing (edited by council members Susan Woods and Erika Froelicher, among others), will soon be available to Premium Professional members through our Web site. This will be the first nursing text available to the council and represents an important new membership benefit.

Remember that the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing is now the council’s official publication. As a Premium Professional member, you receive 30 percent off the subscription price.

### “Get Tough on Angina” Goes International

Only one year after its international debut in Dublin, Ireland, the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) was given the honor and privilege of presenting “Get Tough on Angina” at the Sixth International Conference on Preventive Cardiology (ICPC), held in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, on May 21–25, 2005. “Get Tough on Angina” program chairs Barbara Fletcher, RN, MN, FAAN; Nancy Houston Miller, BSN; and Kathy Berra, MSN, ANP, FAAN, presented a session entitled Improving Quality of Life in Chronic Stable Angina Patients: “Get Tough on Angina.” A Community-Based Education Program.

Also representing the CVN and PCNA was Laura Hayman, PhD, RN, FAAN, who, along with Fletcher, Houston Miller, and Berra, presented “Increasing the Role of Non-Physician Health Care Providers for CVD Risk Reductions in Primary Care.” Hayman also served on the Plenary Panel, “Building a Global Coalition.”