

## Basic Cardiovascular Sciences

## Highlights of the Upcoming Scientific Sessions 2005 in Dallas, Texas

Four members of our council will be honored at the Scientific Sessions

**P**lease join us in congratulating our distinguished colleagues who will be honored at this coming Scientific Sessions for their substantial contributions to cardiovascular research.

**Dr. Jeffrey Robbins**, Cincinnati

Children's Hospital, will receive this year's **Research Achievement Award** of the American Heart Association. This award has been conferred annually since 1953 in recognition of distinguished lifetime scientific achievements and/or educational efforts in the field of cardiovascular research. Dr. Robbins is selected to receive this honor because his contributions to the field of cardiovascular biology have drastically changed the way that basic cardiovascular research is carried out by allowing scientists to use "gain of function" approaches specifically in the myocardium via cardiac-specific transgenesis. In a series of landmark papers, he was the first to define the promoter elements needed to drive high levels of gene expression in the mammalian heart.

**Dr. Andrew Marks**, Columbia

University, will receive this year's **Basic Research Award** of the American Heart Association. This award is to recognize and reward an individual who is making outstanding contributions to the advancement of cardiovascular science and who currently heads an outstanding cardiovascular basic research laboratory. Dr. Marks' research has provided fundamental insights into the molecular mechanisms involved in the regulation of E-C coupling. His recent work identified novel mechanisms contributing to the abnormal contraction of failing myocardium and molecular triggers of cardiac arrhythmias.

This year, two outstanding members of our council are elected **AHA Distinguished Scientists**, the highest

designation of membership currently given by the American Heart Association. Here we send our congratulations to **Drs. Harry A. Fozzard**, University of Chicago, and **Stephen Vatner**, UMDNJ.

Dr. Vatner is professor and chair of the department of Cell Biology and Molecular Medicine at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. In his career of over 30 years of research, Dr. Vatner's seminal work on mechanisms of cardiovascular control has led to over 400 peer-reviewed scientific publications. From 1991 to 1999, he served as the editor-in-chief of *Circulation Research*, the flagship journal of our council.

Dr. Fozzard is Otho S.A. Sprague Distinguished Service Professor of Medical Sciences at University of Chicago. His work spans a wide range of cardiovascular research, from clinical investigation in arrhythmias, to engineering, biophysics and molecular electrophysiology. He has been instrumental in supporting the growth of cardiovascular research and is widely recognized as one of the true leaders in ion channel and arrhythmia research.



Jeffrey Robbins

Andrew Marks

Stephen Vatner

Harry Fozzard

## The 2nd Annual Symposium of our council is a great success!

This year's conference, co-organized by Dr. David Kass and Susan Steinberg, was held at Keystone Conference Center on July 24–27. The three-and-a-half day symposium, with the theme of “Targeting heart failure: new sciences, new tools, new strategies,” attracted over 375 participants from around the world. The fascinating science, stimulating discussion, as well as the highly entertaining social activity at the summit of 12,000 ft. made this conference a resounding success. Please join us in expressing our sincere appreciation for the hard work of Drs. Kass and Steinberg and all the members of the organizing committee.

The next symposium will be held at the same location on July 31 to August 3, 2006, with a focus on “Translation of basic insights into clinical practice.” The program committee, co-chaired by Drs. Roberto Bolli, Eric Olson, Ryozi Nagai and Nadia Rosenthal, is already in action. We have every reason to expect an equally exciting event for the next year. Please mark your calendar now!

### BCVS to Hold its Young Investigator Award Competition on Saturday, Nov. 12 at Hyatt Regency Hotel

The Louis N. & Arnold M. Katz Basic Science Research Prize for Young Investigators and the Melvin L. Marcus Young Investigator Award in Cardiovascular Sciences oral abstract competitions will begin at 4:30 PM, Saturday, Nov. 12. Each of the award competitions will feature research presentations by five finalists. A wine and cheese reception will follow at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

Winners will be announced at the BCVS Annual Council Dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the Petroleum Club.

We encourage you to arrive in Dallas a day early this November to attend these extremely stimulating abstract sessions and to cheer for your colleagues and friends.

### Louis N. and Arnold M. Katz Basic Science Research Prize for Young Investigators Finalists

**Sudha Shenoy, PhD** *Duke University*  
β-arrestin dependent, G protein independent ERK1/2 activation by the β2 adrenergic receptor

**Matthew Wolf, MD, PhD** *Duke University*  
Genome-wide screen in adult *Drosophila* to identify novel cardiomyopathy genes

**Rei Shibata, PhD** *Boston University*  
Adiponectin protects against myocardial ischemia-reperfusion injury through AMPK- and COX-2- dependent mechanisms

**Minoru Satoh, MD, PhD**  
*Brigham and Women's Hospital*  
Requirement of Rac1 in the development of cardiac hypertrophy

**Geoffrey Pitt, MD, PhD** *Columbia University*  
Ca<sup>2+</sup>/Calmodulin is essential for IKs assembly and regulation

**Rahul Kakkar, MD** *University of Chicago*  
Coronary vasospasm in KATP mutant mice arises from a smooth muscle extrinsic process

### Melvin L. Marcus Young Investigator Award in Cardiovascular Sciences Finalists

**Yasushi Mukai, MD, PhD**  
*Brigham and Women's Hospital*  
Transgenic mice with endothelial-specific activation of protein kinase Akt demonstrate attenuated remodeling following vascular injury

**Patrick Hsieh, MD, PhD** *Brigham and Women's Hospital*  
Controlled delivery of PDGF-BB, an endothelial-derived cardiomyocyte survival factor, for myocardial protection using injectable self-assembling peptide nanofibers

**Fadi Akar, PhD** *Johns Hopkins University*  
The mitochondrial origin of post ischemic arrhythmias

**Masaaki Li, MD, PhD** *Tufts University*  
EPC TSP-1 mediates diabetes-induced delay in reendothelialization after arterial injury

**Darwin Jeyaraj, MD, MRCP**  
*MetroHealth Medical System*  
Segmental strain as novel mechanism for ventricular electrical remodeling underlying T-wave memory

**Eugenio Cingolani, MD** *Johns Hopkins University*  
Post-transcriptional gene silencing of the L-type calcium channel accessory β subunit suppresses cardiac hypertrophy response *in vitro* and *in vivo*