Council on Cardiopulmonary Perioperative and Critical Care

Courand and Comroe Young Investigator Award

The Courand and Comroe Young Investigator Prize in Cardiopulmonary and Critical Care was established to recognize the accomplishments of young investigators and to encourage promising investigators to continue with their research in biomedical sciences. Five finalists presented their research findings on Nov. 12 at Scientific Sessions 2006.

The winner of the Prize was Dr. Georg Hansmann from Stanford University. Dr. Hansmann’s presentation was titled “PPARγ Protects Against Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension and Is Central In A Novel Antiproliferative BMP-2-PPARγ-ApoE-Axis in Smooth Muscle Cells.” Other authors were Drs. de Jesus Perez, Powers, Schellong, Wang, Urashima, and Dr. Marlene Rabinovitch.

This year the finalists were predominantly from groups studying the pulmonary circulation. Other finalists were Dr. Fionna Murray from the University of California, San Diego (Increased Expression and Activity of Phosphodiesterase-1 Isoforms in Pulmonary Artery Smooth Muscle Cells from Patients with Pulmonary Hypertension and Role in Proliferation), Dr. Kathryn Farrow from Northwestern University, Chicago (Reactive Oxygen Species Induce Phosphodiesterase 5 [PDE5] Expression and Activity in Ovine Fetal Pulmonary Artery Smooth Muscle Cells), Dr. Hidemi Kajimoto from the University of Alberta, Canada (A Critical Role of Rho/Rho-kinase Pathway in Constriction and Closure of Human and Rabbit Ductus Arteriosus: Redox Activation Mediates Calcium Sensitization), and Gael Rochefort, MSc, from the University of Alberta, Canada (A Critical Role of Malonyl-CoA Decarboxylase in Pulmonary Hypertension; a Metabolic Basis for Vascular Remodeling). Each of the five finalists delivered a superb presentation of their research findings, and deserve our congratulations for their outstanding work.

Applications for the 2007 Courand and Comroe Young Investigator Prize, to be presented at the 80th Scientific Sessions, are encouraged. Applicants must be AHA members (Early Career or Premium Professional) and be working in an area of research related to pulmonary or critical care/resuscitation science. Candidates should have completed training within the last five years, or be PhDs/MDs in their first five years after faculty appointment. Candidates are required to submit an AHA abstract as well as an unpublished manuscript based on independent research. Additional supporting information is required, including a curriculum vitae and a statement detailing how much of the design and research work was done by the candidate. The deadline is late May 2007. Additional information about the eligibility and evaluation criteria for this award can be found on the AHA Website.

CPCC Junior Investigator Travel Stipends encourage young investigators to participate in Council and AHA activities at Scientific Sessions. Applicants must be AHA members as well as early career investigators or trainees. Winners are selected based on the scientific ranking of the abstract. Four awards were made at Scientific Sessions 2006, and each winner received a $500 travel stipend. We congratulate the winners for 2006:

- **Roman Fleischhackl, MD**: Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
- **Joshua Reynolds**: Department of Emergency Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA
- **Makoto Sahara, MD**: University of Tokyo Graduate School of Medicine
- **Paul Yu, MD, PhD**: Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Each year, the Council on Cardiopulmonary Perioperative and Critical Care recognizes the best abstracts submitted for Scientific Sessions in two categories: Resuscitation Science and Cardiopulmonary/Critical Care. The awards are given to the first author of the abstract that receives the highest score given by the Council’s Program Committee. Members of the Program Committee cannot be coauthors of the winning abstract.

Two awards were made for resuscitation science in 2006: Dr. Julia Indik (Sarver Heart Center and Department of Medicine, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.) and Dr. Carsten Wunderlich (University of Technology Dresden, Dresden, Germany). The winner for cardiopulmonary science was Dr. Ying Yu (University of California, Irvine). Awardees were recognized at the Council’s annual reception, dinner and business meeting held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Chicago on Nov. 15, 2006.