 Council on Cardiopulmonary Perioperative and Critical Care

Updates on the Resuscitation Science Symposium (ReSS)

CPCC members should mark their calendars for ReSS, the premier annual conference on resuscitation science, to be held Nov. 3 and 4, 2007, at the Orlando Convention Center, immediately preceding Scientific Sessions. Planning for ReSS is well underway, and the program will be notable for a number of wide-ranging topics, including “Metabolic Resuscitation: Hibernation, Hypothermia and Metabolic Control,” “International Advances in Resuscitation Training,” and “Cardiocerebral Resuscitation: Ventilation Not Necessary in Cardiac Arrest?” ReSS is unique in its goal of bringing together experts in trauma, emergency medicine, critical care, cardiology and other traditional disciplines all under the focus of resuscitation.

ReSS has grown rapidly over the past few years. In 2006, 390 abstracts were submitted, with approximately 25 percent accepted as posters or oral presentations. This year, abstract submission has nearly doubled, with 799 abstracts submitted for review. In 2006, over 350 people attended ReSS, and this year’s attendance is anticipated to grow as well.

An important goal at this year’s ReSS is to build on the recruitment and development of new young investigators to resuscitation science. On Friday, Nov. 2, there will be a dinner program for resident physicians, graduate students, fellows and early career faculty members who will be attending the symposium. Inquiries regarding this new program should be directed to Dr. Benjamin Abella, benjamin.abella@uphs.upenn.edu. In addition to this program, a number of travel awards will be granted for young investigators to attend ReSS.

Further information can be found through the Scientific Sessions 2007 Internet portal at http://scientificsessions.americanheart.org, or through the Council leadership. The co-chairs of ReSS 2007 are longstanding CPCC members Graham Nichol, MD, FAHA (University of Washington), and Lance Becker, MD, FAHA (University of Pennsylvania).

Meet the New CPCC Chair

Dr. Stephen Archer has assumed the role of Chair of the Council, following after the leadership of Dr. Mary Townsley. Dr. Archer trained in both internal medicine and cardiology at the University of Minnesota, and has recently joined the faculty at University of Chicago as Professor of Medicine and Chief, Section of Cardiology. His research program explores the molecular basis for oxygen-sensing in the ductus arteriosus and pulmonary arterial system. In his recent move to Chicago, Dr. Archer has moved his research group from the University of Alberta, Canada, where he was Professor of Medicine and Physiology.

The CPCC welcomes Dr. Archer and looks forward to his leadership for the next two years. Dr. Archer will be joined by Dr. Kenneth Bloch (Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School) who will serve as Co-chair of the Council, also for a two-year term.

AHA Research Grant Programs

CPCC members should be aware of AHA funding opportunities for both junior and established investigators. Such grant awards include Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Awards, Beginning Grant-In-Aid Awards, and Scientist Development Grants, among other programs. The AHA has highlighted resuscitation science as one various funding priorities for upcoming cycles, and CPCC members interested in resuscitation topics are therefore especially encouraged to apply. More information can be found at the AHA Web site or through your regional affiliate office.

CPCC events at Scientific Sessions

As in the past, CPCC will sponsor a number of events at Scientific Sessions, including the Courand and Comroe Young Investigator competition, several program blocks dedicated to pulmonary biology and resuscitation science, as well as the CPCC Council dinner program on Thursday, Nov. 6. All CPCC members are encouraged to attend the scientific programs and Council dinner. The Courand and Comroe competition, won last year by Dr. Georg Hansmann (Stanford University), showcases a high caliber of young scientific talent and is an event not to be missed.
Dear Colleagues:

It is my honor to serve as the Chair of the Cardiopulmonary, Perioperative and Critical Care Council (CPCC). The CPCC began as the Cardiopulmonary Council in 1973 and was chaired by Dr. Al Fishman. I am honored to follow a series of effective and committed predecessors, including Drs. E. Kenneth Weir, Michael Wolin, Lance Becker and our recent past Chair, Dr. Mary Townsley. After briefly introducing myself, I will offer some thoughts on the mission of the CPCC and why you and your trainees will benefit by being active members and participants.

Biosketch: I am a cardiologist and translational physician-scientist. I have been a committed AHA volunteer since the 1980s, chairing the peer review committees for Minnesota and then the first Midwest Consortium Peer Review Committee before a term as CPCC’s representative on the Fall Meeting Program Committee. In my clinical life, I attend on the wards and see patients in clinics. My clinical interests include pulmonary hypertension and developing strategies to improve cardiovascular care. I am committed to training the next generation of physician-scientists. Currently, I am the Chief of Cardiology and Harold Hines Jr. Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago, where my major goal is the creation of a transdepartmental Heart and Vascular Institute, to enhance patient care, research and education. I am a native of Canada, and prior to relocating to Chicago, I served as Heart and Stroke Chair and Director of the Cardiology Division at the University of Alberta. My Translational Cardiovascular Research program has two aims:

1) **Defining the molecular basis of oxygen sensing:** (relevant to hypoxic pulmonary...
vasoconstriction and oxygen-induced ductus constriction)

2) **Identifying experimental therapies for vascular diseases:** (i.e., notably persistent ductus arteriosus and pulmonary arterial hypertension).

**Thoughts on the CPCC:** A Council provides a “home” for like-minded scientists, practitioners and students within the large organization that is the American Heart Association. Councils are your peers, people who care about the issues that are near and dear to your heart. A Council, by addressing the interests of its members, elevates the profile of the Science and provides a forum for presentation and advancement of the discipline.

Reflecting on the mission of the Council, I am struck by the success of the CPCC in simultaneously and equitably advancing two rather distinct disciplines, the cardio-pulmonary circulation and resuscitation science. The Council is the home to research on hemodynamics, pulmonary hypertension, oxygen sensing, resuscitation and more recently, perioperative care and anesthesia.

Through our resuscitation members, our Council has a leadership role in determining guidelines for CPR and ACLS. Our members are an eclectic group, including basic researchers, physician scientists, clinical trialists, outcomes researchers, nurses, paramedics and students.

**Ten Reasons You Should Join the CPCC and Participate in our Mission:** There are many Council activities that take place, often unrecognized by AHA members, but which benefit us all. These are some of the benefits of becoming an AHA volunteer by joining the CPCC.

1) **Promoting Your Research Through Design of the Program at Scientific Sessions:** The means by which the program for the annual AHA meeting is created is a mystery to most participants. The program is not centrally planned, but reflects the “grassroots” interests and efforts of the members of the AHA’s 13 Councils and several interdisciplinary working groups. Your voice directly influences the final program. Our Council actively creates sessions in which your research is showcased (from poster sessions and oral abstracts to Sunday morning and plenary sessions). The larger our membership and the more abstracts we submit, the more of your type of science will be presented. If you fill out a simple form, outline your proposed session and suggest speakers, our Program Chair, **Dr. Karl Kern**, can add (in most cases) your ideas while designing the CPCC portion of the meeting. Thus, CPCC membership brings influence on what is presented at the meeting and what is deemed as “important.” In addition, our link with the Emergency Cardiovascular Care unit (ECC) ensures resuscitation has a home in the CPCC. Our members are key designers and participants in the annual **Resuscitation Science Symposium**, held in conjunction with the AHA meeting.

Just look at the wonderful program we have created this year:

**Resuscitation Meeting/Sessions:**

1. Novel Approaches to Field Resuscitation of Trauma
2. Metabolic Resuscitation: Hibernation, Hypothermia and Metabolic Control
3. International Advances in Resuscitation
4. Clinical Trials in Resuscitation: What’s Gone Wrong?
5. Is Ventilation Necessary in Cardiac Arrest?
6. Imaging in Resuscitation Research
7. Are Physician Responders Necessary to Improve EMS Care?

**General AHA Sessions:**

1. Stem Cells, Pulmonary Vascular Diseases and Therapeutics
2. Cardiac Dysfunction of Critical Illness
3. Cardio-Cerebral Resuscitation
4. How to Choose an Animal Model of Pulmonary Hypertension
6. How to Use the NRCPR Database to Improve Your Hospital’s Resuscitations.

2) **Appearing on the Program:**

There is an increasing tendency within the Association towards featuring our AHA Fellows (denoted as FAHA) on the program as Chairs and Speakers. Your involvement as a member, and eventually as a Fellow (the result of nomination by your colleagues to the CPCC), shapes the meeting and also helps advance your career.
3) **Engaging Trainees:** Our future leaders cut their teeth at Scientific Sessions. The CPCC offers a series of travel awards to get young trainees to Sessions and also hosts the Courand and Comroe Young Investigator competition. We will soon begin a program to mentor foreign trainees, which will match applicants from abroad with an interested CPCC researcher. This initiative will be headed by Dr. Stefan Janssens.

4) **Representing Your Interests to AHA National:** The CPCC communicates on your behalf both within the organization and on a national stage. Internally, the Chair and Vice Chair communicate your interests to “AHA central,” presenting requests for publication of AHA position papers and suggesting policy changes to the Council Operations Committee (COC) and Science Advisory & Coordinating Committee (SACC).

5) **Position Papers:** Council members can propose the commissioning of AHA position papers to address important areas of cardiology or resuscitation medicine. Council–sponsored proposals eventually go to the Manuscript Oversight Committee and the Science Advisory and Coordinating Committee, and if approved, go on to become guidelines or position papers. This is your chance to steer the ship! Currently we are collaborating with the American College of Cardiology on an Expert Consensus Position Paper on Pulmonary Hypertension.

6) **Advocacy:** We are actively engaged in advocacy and in the April “Lobby Day” event in Washington, D.C., where we remind our elected representatives of the importance of the mission of reducing death and disability from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Dr. Hunter Champion is our Advocacy Ambassador and takes a lead in this important outreach.

7) **Awards:** The Council is home to the Dickinson W. Richards Lecture. Established in 1973, this lectureship award is given annually to one of our prestigious colleagues for their research achievements. It honors Dr. Richards, a Nobel Laureate and co-developer of cardiac catheterization, together with Werner Forssmann and Andre Cournand (the first recipient of this award). The nomination process is ably overseen by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Lance Becker (to be followed by Dr. Mary Townsley). Both the Dickinson Richards lecturer and the finalists for the Courand and Comroe prize attend the AHA’s Annual Business Meeting as the guests of our Council.

8) **Meetings:** The CPCC has been instrumental in supporting the Grover meeting, the longest running scientific meeting dedicated to the pulmonary circulation. The meeting is a thematic, focused-research retreat held at the Lost Valley Ranch in Dekkers, Colo. Without the Council’s support, this highly successful biennial gathering, initiated by one of our past CPCC Chairs, Ken Weir, would not have developed. Our ongoing financial support ensures that the meeting continues to flourish.

9) **Our Newsletter:** To track our many activities I encourage you to read the CPCC Newsletter, prepared by Dr. Benjamin Abella. Ben is always on the lookout for news of interest to our members. If you have a short scientific piece, a viewpoint you would like to express or an achievement of one of our members you wish to have highlighted, please contact Ben.

10) **Networking with Old Friends and Making New Friends:** The Council becomes our home within AHA. Through the highs and lows of any research career, from the first abstract to the last hurrah, it is nice to have a peer group who knows you and cares about you both professionally and personally. The CPCC is small enough to be a supportive and intimate home within the AHA and large enough to make an impact. So sign up and be heard!

I look forward to working with you over the next two years and representing your interests.

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