In my last message to you, I wrote about the short-fall in the budget of the National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics, jeopardizing the availability of mortality data for calendar year 2008. Because of intense interest in this issue on the part of our membership, the Council leadership urged AHA’s national leadership and advocacy staff to place this issue high on their priority list. I also asked in my last newsletter article that you become involved on a personal level with AHA’s advocacy efforts. Thanks to all our efforts, we have achieved success on the Hill.

According to Sue Nelson, AHA Vice President of Federal Advocacy, in late June both the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations approved a draft FY 2008 spending bill. Within CDC’s budget, the National Center for Health Statistics would receive $117 million, an $8 million increase over FY 2007. In the Senate committee’s report language, the Committee “encourages NCHS to continue making data accessible to the public as soon as possible” and notes that it has provided enough funding to continue uninterrupted collection of vital statistics in FY 2008. On July 15, the House Appropriations Committee approved its draft FY 2008 spending bill and NCHS came out winners on multiple fronts. Within CDC’s budget, the House committee provides $120 million for NCHS; an $11 million increase over FY 2007, and $3 million more than our “ask.” In the House Committee Report, much of our proposed language is included. This is a huge accomplishment, but the bills have not yet been signed by the President. We may need further efforts on this front, and if you are a member of the You’re the Cure Network we will be able to alert you if needed.

On another note, the call for abstracts and preliminary program has just become available for the 48th CVD Epidemiology and Prevention Annual Conference and the Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism Conference on March 11-15, 2008, in Colorado Springs. The preliminary program lists the awards sponsored by our council at the spring meeting, including the Stamler, Daugherty, and Williams Awards, the Trudy Bush Fellowships and various travel grants that are available. Please check that information; we encourage you to apply or to recommend that a colleague, student, and/or mentee submit an application.

Speaking of the above-named giants in our field, I hope that you will check out the Sandra A. Daugherty Foundation Website at www.daughertyfoundation.org. The Foundation is committed to fostering the development of junior faculty interested in clinical and translational science research careers involving community-based participatory research related to CVD prevention and epidemiology.
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

The Stanford Prevention Research Center, an interdisciplinary research program on the prevention of chronic disease, is seeking applicants for postdoctoral research fellowships for 2008–2009. Fellows gain direct research experience in cardiovascular disease prevention, community and health psychology, behavioral medicine, intervention methods, clinical epidemiology, research design, and biostatistics. Concurrent enrollment in a masters degree program in clinical research methods is possible. We particularly encourage applicants with interests in exercise, nutrition, the effects of the built environment on health, technology and behavior change, social and cultural determinants of health, child and adolescent health promotion, successful aging, and women’s health. Stanford University is committed to increasing representation of women and minorities in its fellowship programs and particularly encourages applications from such candidates. Only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible for this fellowship. Appointments are from 2 to 3 years. Applications are due by 01 December 2007. Information and application procedures are on our website: http://prevention.stanford.edu, or write: Ms. Susan Ayres, SPRC, Stanford Medical School, Stanford, CA 94305-5705, Susan.Ayres@Stanford.edu