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

It is hard to believe that my two-year term as Chair of the Council will soon be over. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve in this position and get to know the many talented and committed members of AHA/ASA, and especially the members of this Council. This has been a very positive, interesting and challenging experience. Thank you!

Council on Cardiovascular Nursing (CVN) Update

1. Strategic Plan — The Leadership Committee is revising the CVN Strategic Plan so that its goals include strategies to increase membership (national and international), mentorship of early career investigators and clinical leaders (national and international), addressing health disparities, and increasing membership diversity.

2. Possible Council Name Change — One topic of discussion at the April Leadership Meeting was whether or not we should change our Council’s name to be more inclusive. Choices discussed included to keep the current name, Council on Cardiovascular Nursing; change the name to the Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing, or change the name to Council on Nursing.

3. Possible New Clinical Subcommittee — A task force has been formed to explore whether there exists a need for and the topic of a potential new clinical science subcommittee related to advanced acute and long-term cardiovascular care. Our current Clinical Science Subcommittees are focused on Prevention, Stroke, and Pediatrics.

4. CVN Book — Other AHA/ASA Councils have published books to raise money for their respective Councils. A task force has been formed to explore the need for and the topic of a potential CVN book.

5. International Fellowship Mentoring Program — The AHA/ASA Council on Cardiovascular Nursing (CVN) and the European Society of Cardiology, Nursing (ESC) have collaborated to fund and evaluate a one-year pilot International Postdoctoral Mentoring Program to assist with postdoctoral training of European and/or American early investigators. The program aims to assist in strengthening the selected individuals’ research knowledge, skills and collaborative network. Information about the program and the application process can be found on the CVN Web site (http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1148).

6. Scope and Standards of Cardiovascular Nursing — The 1st Scope and Standards for Cardiovascular Nursing was developed and published in 1975 in collaboration with AHA, and revised in 1981. The new Scope and Standards of Cardiovascular Nursing, a collaborative writing effort of nurse representatives from about 17 cardiovascular nursing organizations, has been approved for endorsement by the AHA. Drs. Nancy Albert and Barbara Riegel were the CVN representatives for this project.

7. Heart Failure, State of the Science — This preconference was held on May 9th just prior to the AHA Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Conference (May 9-11).

8. Council Awards — There have been many changes to the Council Awards so please be sure to check the CVN Web site for specifics. The most notable change is the elimination of the Manuscript of the Year awards.
Because feedback was positive regarding the new programming format we pilot tested at Scientific Sessions 2006, we will use it again for Scientific Sessions 2007 in Orlando, Fla. Once again clinically-focused invited presentations will be combined with oral research abstract presentations. The purpose of this new format is to enhance the translational aspects of our research and the evidence base of our invited sessions, and to bring clinicians and researchers together. Topics of these sessions will be finalized after abstracts are accepted (submission deadline is June 1, 2007). As in the past, we will also have poster sessions.

In addition to the combined sessions, we will sponsor seven traditional How To Sessions and two traditional Cardiovascular Seminars. The How To Sessions will be moved from noontime to early morning this year. Tentatively scheduled sessions include assessing and promoting cognitive and psychosocial functioning in children with congenital heart disease, promoting full school participation for children with heart disease, assessing risk and causality, counseling patients on weight management, managing in-flight medical emergencies, enhancing accuracy in intervention research, and discontinuing cardiac devices at the end of life. The two scheduled Cardiovascular Seminars, which will be held in the early evening, are on sexual dysfunction and gene and lifestyle interaction.

The Ask the Expert Sessions have also been moved to early morning. The session sponsored by CVN will address developing a successful research grant proposal.

Our Sunday Morning Program is entitled “First Do No Harm: Cardiovascular Patient Safety,” and will include presentations on what cardiovascular clinicians can do to reduce harm, decreasing time to treatment in ST-elevation MI, rapid response teams, reducing errors in the cath lab and managing post-PCI complications, medication reconciliation, the role of anticoagulation clinics in enhancing safety, improving adherence to prevent hospitalization for heart failure, and future cardiovascular quality initiatives.

Our Pre-Conference Symposium on Advances in the Care of the Hospitalized Cardiac Patient: Second Annual Cardiovascular Nursing Symposium will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007. This program is targeted toward advanced practice nurses in the acute care setting, although others will find it relevant. Presentations have been confirmed on these topics: stem cell therapy, devices in heart failure, glucose regulation, managing supraventricular tachycardias, and promoting sleep in the hospitalized cardiac patient.

For the first time this year, the AHA will offer interactive learning sessions using an audience response system in a special classroom-style room designed for that purpose. CVN will sponsor one of these sessions; the tentative topic is “Case Studies in ECG Monitoring.”

We are also cosponsoring some sessions with other Councils and working groups that will be of interest to CVN members.

The February 2007 State-of-the-Art Stroke Nursing Symposium, a regular preconference event of the International Stroke Conference, included paper and poster presentations and had an attendance of 845 healthcare professionals. Once again, this very successful symposium covered a wide range of topics, with a focus on important advances such as assessment/management of intracranial hemodynamics, translation of prevention strategies into practice, strategies to improve the outcomes of survivors and their families, and recertification for JCAHO Primary Stroke Centers.

Program planning is currently underway for the State of the Art Stroke Nursing Symposium to be held Feb. 19, 2008. Abstract submission for the symposium begins June 11 and closes on Aug. 27.
Report on State of the Science: Promoting Patient Self-Care in Heart Failure

On May 9th, the CVN sponsored a State-of-the-Science Preconference of the AHA Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Conference in Washington, DC. The preconference, which was also sponsored by the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses, focused on presenting the state of the science related to patient self-care in heart failure. Conference organizers are planning a special issue of *The Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing* with individual articles by each of the presenters on their topic.

**Conference Overview:** Despite recent advances in heart failure science and care, the disorder remains a significant burden for patients and families. The complexity of heart failure necessitates a patient-focused, interdisciplinary approach to treatment and care. Ultimately, most care is done in the home by patients and their families or other caregivers, yet the promotion of patient self-care has received relatively little systematic attention from researchers.

The foundation for self-care is comprehensive patient/family education and counseling that includes skill building, behavioral strategies to increase adherence, and alterations to the structure of healthcare delivery. In 2000, Grady and colleagues published “Team Management of Patients with Heart Failure: A Statement for Healthcare Professionals from the Cardiovascular Nursing Council of the American Heart Association,” which identified best practices based on evidence and expert opinion. The newly revised Heart Failure Society of America guidelines address disease management strategies that incorporate patient education, counseling and follow-up care. However, there has not been a coordinated, systematic effort to review the existing state of the science in patient/family self-care in order to determine priorities for future research. Moreover, research efforts to date have been conducted in relative isolation, which has resulted in parallel lines of discovery that have failed to build upon each other. Thus, a systematic review is critical if we are to meet the challenges resulting from the rising numbers of heart failure patients who will need care in the next decade.

The objectives of this conference were to:
1. synthesize the state of the science of heart failure patient self-care, and
2. determine priorities for future research in this area.

Specific outcomes:
1. synthesis document to be published in peer-reviewed journal, and
2. specific strategies for moving priorities forward.

**Topics and speakers**

Introduction and state of clinical practice: **Robin Trupp** and **Nancy Albert**

1. Self-care theory: **Barbara Riegel**
2. Family-focused interventions to promote self-care: **Sandi Dunbar**
3. Self-care and nutrition: **Terry Lennie**
4. Influence of cognitive function on self-care: **Susan Pressler**
5. Exercise and self-care: **Kathy Dracup**
6. Quality of life and self-care: **Kathy Grady**
7. What do we know about adherence and self-care: **Lorraine Evangelista**
8. Difficulty assuming self-care: vulnerabilities of patients that interfere with self-care: **Debra Moser**.
9. Influence of sleep disturbances on self-care: **Nancy Redeker**
10. Self-care at the end-of-life: **Cheryl Zambroski**
11. It’s all in your mind: a new paradigm for heart failure: **Mary Woo**

In addition, invited guests from the NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and National Institute of Nursing Research discussed funding opportunities in this area of research.

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