Report from the Chair
Dorothy M. Lanuza, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

In the last issue of the newsletter, the Cardiovascular Nursing (CVN) Council Committee chairs shared their reports related to Scientific Sessions 2006. There were 18,817 attendees — the highest attendance since 2000. In keeping with this trend, the nursing attendance was also up considerably with 866 nurse clinicians and scientists, a 43 percent increase from 2005. I would like to thank everyone for attending and supporting the CVN Council programs during Scientific Sessions!

CVN Council Self-Evaluation
In May, I presented our council’s Self-Evaluation Report to the AHA’s Council on Operations (COC). Dr. Roberto Bolli, the chair of COC, was favorably impressed by the summary of our activities/accomplishments which include:

• First council to promote an international mentorship program by working closely with the European Cardiovascular Nursing Group.

• Creation of an Advocacy Committee, which was dissolved when the AHA decided to have each council identify an advocacy ambassador representative.

• Increasing our membership at the Premium level by 25 percent (from 348 members in 2004–05 to 581 in 2005–06). As of January 31, 2006, the total membership (i.e., at all membership levels) in the Council on CVN was 1,590 members.

— Winners of our recent Member-Get-A-Member Campaign were

• 1st Place — Margaret Murray, MSN, CCNS

• 2nd Place — Elaine Steinke, PhD, RN

• 3rd Place — Michelle Langenfeld, RN, MS

• The success of the State-of-the-Art Stroke Nursing Symposium held in conjunction with the International Stroke Conference. In 2001, the first conference had less than 50 attendees. In 2006, the attendance was more than 800 and it is estimated that the 2007 attendance (2/6/07) will be even higher.

COC encouraged our council to: 1) Try to broaden our recruitment focus to include nurses from a wide variety of settings; 2) implement a new format for our Scientific Session programs; and 3) increase the number of new investigator awards.

The Lembright Circle has been established. It provides a process whereby all interested Lembright Awardees who want to contribute to the development of the council’s next generation of CV Nursing Scientists and Leaders, can participate in mentorship programs.

AHA Scientific Writing Groups
Our council actively participates in many AHA writing groups for scientific statements, practice guidelines, and advisory papers. Our council was the primary sponsor for four articles and co-sponsored 21 articles.

Competence in Aging Grant
A Competence in Aging Implementation Grant (submitted by Drs. Karyn Holm, Deborah Chyun, and Dorothy M. Lanuza) was recently funded for approximately $13,000 (submitted to the alliance of ANA/ANF, the American Credentialing Center and the Hartford Foundation, and funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies). The purpose of this grant is to encourage specialty nursing groups, such as CVN, to develop strategies to provide education for (in our case) cardiovascular disease and the elderly, as well as promote nursing competence in caring for the elderly.

CVN and PCNA
We need to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the pocket manual of guidelines our members received from PCNA. It is just one of the many benefits our strategic alliance with PCNA provides.

International Collaboration and Mentorship
With an international attendance at Scientific Sessions averaging more than 40 percent, it is clear that the AHA has a global influence. In keeping with this trend, the Council on CVN is making efforts to increase its own global influence. This year, the collaborative “CVN/ECC International Mentorship Program” will be implemented. This pilot project will be funded for one year by matching funds from our council and the European Council on Cardiology International Nurses’ Working Group.

In addition to our collaboration with our European colleagues, several of our members are also engaged in collaborative activities with colleagues in other parts of the world. For example, as AHA Chair of the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing, I was invited by Dr. Fusako Sato to give a keynote address for the Third Annual Scientific Session of the Japanese Association of Cardiovascular Nursing (JACN), held on Nov. 25 and 26, 2006 in Nagoya, Japan. Although this was only the third year that the conference was held, more than 500 Japanese CV nurses attended. The conference is similar to ours, but they also provided an afternoon session on cardiovascular education for the
public. It was a wonderful conference and I felt extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to meet our Japanese nurse colleagues in Nagoya, Ise, and Osaka to exchange ideas and knowledge.

Many of our council members are actively involved in international work such as Dr. Erika Froelicher, who is in Jordan on a Fulbright scholarship. Also, Drs. Deborah Chyun and Marge Funk have provided CV education and collaboration in China through the international collaborative projects of Yale University. There are many others in our council who are collaborating and working with international colleagues, such as Drs. Sandra Dunbar and Laura Hayman. Using the AHA mentorship model (i.e., using electronic communication, which requires little funding), our International Committee will be exploring how to increase our collaboration and sharing of knowledge with colleagues in the Pacific Rim area. This will be in addition to the CVN/ECC mentorship program.

**Dr. Susan Gortner**

Finally, along with accomplishments of our council, there were also some sad events. In 2006, our esteemed member Dr. Susan Gortner passed away. Susan was a remarkable individual dedicated to cardiovascular nursing. From 1973–78, Susan was the U.S. Government’s Chief Nurse and directed the Federal Center that gave rise to the National Institute for Nursing Research at NIH. Susan was a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and in the AHA. She was the recipient of the AHA Katherine A. Lembright Award in 1991 and in 2001 was honored by the American Academy of Nursing as a Living Legend. She will be greatly missed!

In closing, please give consideration to recognizing and nominating (self-nominations are also accepted) individuals in the council whose achievement may make them eligible for one of our council’s awards or for an AHA Fellowship.

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**NEWS**

**Congratulations**

Jerilyn K. Allen, ScD, RN, FAAN is a professor, associate dean for research and the former director of the PhD program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, with joint appointments in the school of medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Allen has been recently appointed as the M. Adelaide Nutting Endowed Chair and Professor. M. Adelaide Nutting, a pioneer in nursing education at Johns Hopkins and in the nation, served as the superintendent of nurses and principal of the hospital nursing school from 1895–1907. In 1914, Ms. Nutting asked the nursing alumnae to establish a fund that would support educational independence. In 1984, at the dedication of the School of Nursing as an independent academic division of the university, the Nurses’ Alumni Association announced the endowment of the M. Adelaide Nutting Chair. Dr. Allen’s contributions through her program of research to promote the understanding of cardiovascular risk factors, prevention and lifestyle modification in persons with or at high risk for cardiovascular disease are well-recognized and highly regarded in the field of cardiovascular nursing and medicine. She has developed and tested innovative models to advance nursing care such as a program of home-based risk factor modification, a nurse care management system for the treatment of hyperlipidemia, and improving adherence to national guidelines in federally qualified community clinics to reduce total cardiovascular risk in urban underserved communities.

**Scope & Standards of Cardiovascular Nursing**

“Scope and Standards of Cardiovascular Nursing” was last revised in 1981. Two representatives of the Cardiovascular Council of Nursing, Nancy M. Albert, PhD, CCNS, CCRN, CNA, FAHA and Barbara Riegel, DNSc, RN, FAAN, FAHA, are working collaboratively with other cardiac nursing organizations and the American Nurses Association to update the document. The draft document was recently posted for public comment on the American College of Cardiology Web site and is now in the final phase of production. Once finalized, this document will provide guidelines for registered nurses across the continuum of patient care and work settings, job roles, and level of nursing practice based on nurse licensure. It is our hope that these guidelines will provide a foundation of (1) expectations that specialty cardiac nurse organizations can use to develop specialty-specific standards of practice; (2) practice for general and specialty cardiac nurses so that patient outcomes are maximized; and (3) professional education expectations of all cardiac nurses, especially related to processes of care that are essential components of any nurse’s role.

**CVN Web Page**

Drs. Mary Woo and Terry Lennie will work to revise the CVN Web page over the next year to add additional links and improve navigation. A new Kudos link has been added to recognize accomplishments of CVN members. If you have a notable accomplishment or know of a fellow member who should be recognized, please send information to be posted. The easiest way to send the information is to click on the feedback link at the bottom of the Web page. This will bring up an e-mail message where you can send information. The Council Committee link will be updated soon to list members of all committees. It will also provide a way for you to volunteer to join a committee. We are interested in making the Web site as user-friendly as possible. Please take a few minutes to visit the CVN Web page and provide us with feedback or suggestions on how we can improve the site to best meet your needs.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heart Failure: State of the Science Conference

Join us for an exciting heart failure state-of-the-science conference sponsored by the AHA Council on Cardiovascular Nursing. “State of the Science: Promoting Patient Self-Care in Heart Failure,” will be held in Washington, DC, on May 9, 2007, from 8–11:30 am. This meeting is a pre-conference of the AHA Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Conference, also to be held in Washington, DC (Omni Shoreham Hotel), May 9–11, 2007. For more information, see http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3041715. You can choose to only attend this pre-conference.

Overview: Despite the recent advances made in heart failure science and care, the syndrome 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 to accommodate patient self-care. 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 the 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 be in need of care in the next decade.

The objectives of this conference are to:

1. Synthesize the state of the science of heart failure patient self-care; and
2. Determine priorities for future research in this area.

Topics and speakers

Introduction and state of clinical practice: Robin Trupp, APRN-BC, CCRN, CCRC, FAHA and Nancy Albert, PhD, RN, CCRN, FAHA

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

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

E-mail Debra Moser at dmoser@uky.edu with any further questions.