Our society is growing and flourishing with active participation of our members throughout the hypertension community. Our Council’s activities can be tracked through the Council for High Blood Pressure Research (CHBPR) Web site at: http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1115

AHA is in the process of significantly upgrading the entire AHA Web site to make it easier to navigate. This will be welcomed by all!

At the joint meeting of the Public and Professional Education Committee and the Publications Committee, members voted to merge into a single committee. This was approved by the Leadership Committee. In addition, committee members noted that although significant advances have been made in diagnosing and treating hypertension, there are still significant numbers of cases of uncontrolled hypertension. This is seen as not meeting patient needs. Several ways of addressing this were discussed including dissemination of updated treatment guidelines and offering additional CME courses through the Council. The lack of effective treatment is seen as an ongoing concern of the Council and was revisited at the fall meeting. Published guidelines for treatment along with materials for physicians and researchers can be found in the AHA community library which contains editorial commentaries, clinical updates and links to articles of interest and patient resources. Visit the site to see what a great job our own Gabriel Navar is doing as editor of the hypertension section: http://www.ahalibrary.com/pt/re/

Our Council is in good shape financially and will be able to continue to provide significant numbers of travel awards and lectureships including four new travel awards from the Trainee Committee and the new Harriet Dustan Lectureship. See details on this new lectureship in the Chair’s letter.

A report to the Leadership Committee from NHLBI’s Winnie Barouch, PhD, indicated that paylines for R01s and R21s increased for the last funding cycle of FY2007. This news was met with enthusiasm by the committee members. The leadership committee was also informed by AHA of an upcoming increase in annual membership fees next year. There was concern expressed that the high fees will become a barrier to membership.

Finally, the highlights of the programs for the fall Council conference and the national AHA conference indicate that both are great venues for our members.

Thank you for your support of our Council and if there is a topic you would like to see covered in this newsletter, please let me know!

Request for Grant Review Volunteers

Nancy L. Kanagy, Newsletter Editor
Nkanagy@salud.unm.edu

As you know, the quality of NIH’s peer review process depends on the quality of the reviewers serving on study sections. NIH has requested help in identifying senior, experienced members of our society willing to volunteer to serve as NIH reviewers.

To assist in identifying members of our Council who are willing and qualified to serve, we ask you to go to the e-mail listed below to fill in the information requested so that we can pass it on to NIH. Each quarter we will receive a summary of how many of our members are actually serving as reviewers to report back to you.

If you are:
• An experienced senior scientist
• Have received major peer-reviewed research support from NIH or an equivalent agency
• Understand the grant review process and
• Are willing to serve as a study section member...

Please send an e-mail to:
Nkanagy@salud.unm.edu
Message from the Chair
L. Gabriel Navar, PhD, FAHA, Council Chair
navar@tulane.edu

Your Council Leadership Committee has been extremely busy since the last newsletter was submitted. We’ve been in high gear planning the workshop and program for the conference in September, determining our award recipients, selecting new members of the Leadership Committee and making various committee assignments. All of these activities have kept us busy and excited. The Professional and Public Education Committee and the Leadership Committee met in New Orleans on May 12 in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hypertension (ASH).

The ASH meeting proved highly successful and numerous members of our Council participated in the activities. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dan Jones, a member of our Council and president of AHA. He emphasized the tremendous accomplishments that have been made in the treatment of hypertension and associated cardiovascular diseases leading to a 25 percent reduction in heart disease death rates (and nearly 25 percent for stroke death rates). Nevertheless, Dan emphasized that much more can still be done and that more research on threshold and goals as well as basic mechanisms is needed to make a dramatic difference in our understanding of hypertension.

In an effort to increase cooperation and interactions with ASH, the CHBPR co-sponsored a very interesting session on “Neural Mechanisms of Hypertension.” Participants in this symposium included John Osborn from the University of Minnesota, Greg Fink from Michigan State University, Debra Diz from Wake Forest University, Fernanda Consolino-Colombo from Sao Paulo, Brazil and Ron Victor from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. We will ask these participants to provide summaries of their presentations to be included in the AHA Hypertension Community Library. Don’t forget to visit this Web site frequently for information and topics of interest to investigators and physicians in the area of hypertension: http://www.ahalibrary.com/pt/re/hypersub

The Leadership Committee meeting on May 13 reflected a tremendous amount of activity and I will only touch on the highlights. The Nominating Committee presented the results of the election for the new officers: Rhian Touyz was elected as the new Vice-Chair; Ron Victor, Donna Wang and Mark Chappell were elected as new Leadership Committee Members-at-Large; and Jan Danser was elected as the new international Member-at-Large. Please join me in congratulating these new members of the Leadership Committee. The Nominating Committee also selected Bob Carey as the winner of the 2008 AHA Distinguished Achievement award. The CHBPR is able to select a Distinguished Achievement awardee only once every three years.

Upon the recommendation of a committee headed by Bridget Brosnihan, the Leadership Committee approved a new award to be named in memory of Harriet Dustan, one of our Council’s most distinguished members who went on to serve as AHA president. This award will be given annually to an outstanding woman scientist. We are grateful to Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins for providing support for the 1st Annual Harriet Dustan Award.

The Awards Committee announced the winners of the awards presented at our Fall Conference (listed below with the meeting program).

The Program Committee, under the able direction of Council Vice-Chair Clinton Webb, presented plans for the outstanding Fall Conference held in Atlanta, Sept. 17-20, which are included in the report by Clinton.

In closing, I would emphasize that your Council is vibrant and extremely active. Our membership continues to grow and we hope that you will make a special personal effort to recruit at least one new member so that we can continue this trend. There are many ways to get more involved and I invite you to consider participating more actively in Council activities. As always, I invite you to send me any suggestions as to how the Leadership Committee can make your Council more responsive to your needs.

Report from the Scientific Sessions Program Committee
J. Howard Pratt, MD, FAHA, Chair of CHBPR
AHA Scientific Sessions Program Committee

Scientific Sessions 2008 (New Orleans, November 9-11) is once again well represented by CHBPR. Highly ranked clinical and basic science abstracts will be presented in eight oral and poster sessions. Leading scientists/clinicians will discuss some of the most important topics in hypertension beginning with a Sunday Morning Session, which will include a presentation of the AHA’s scientific statement on the Diagnosis, Evaluation and Management of Resistant Hypertension. Seminars centered on hypertension include: 1) ACE2: A Novel Regulator of Cardiovascular and Respiratory Physiology and Pathophysiology, 2) Genetics of Hypertension: How Far Have We Come and What Does the Future Hold? 3) Role of PPARgamma in Cardiovascular Regulation, 4) Hypertension: Clinical Significance of Racial and Gender Disparities, and 5) Diabetes and Hypertension: Clinical Considerations. Finally, there will be an “Ask the Experts” session entitled “Aldosterone as a Common Participant in the Development of Hypertension.”

Other relevant sessions cover the epidemiology and prevention of hypertension and the complications of hypertension such as stroke, heart failure and renal failure. Scientific Sessions will include such notable presentations as the Nobel Lecture by Mario Capecchi, molecular geneticist and co-winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Medicine; Late-Breaking Clinical Trials, and the Paul Dudley White International Lecture, entitled “Stem Cells — Translational Potential.”

Daniel W. Jones, MD, FAHA, delivered the keynote lecture at the ASH meeting in May 2008. It is an honor to have a member of our Council represent us so well as president of AHA.
The 62nd High Blood Pressure Research Conference was held September 17–20, 2008 at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center, Atlanta, Ga. This two-and-one-half-day scientific program featured over 300 presentations on recent advances in hypertension research. The meeting was sponsored by the Council for High Blood Pressure Research and the Council on Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease. The program included state-of-the-art lectures and oral and poster presentations selected from abstracts submitted by clinical and basic researchers from around the world, all followed by discussions led by authorities. The goal of this meeting was to provide physicians and research investigators with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge, advance their skills and apprise themselves of the latest developments in research pertaining to hypertension, stroke, kidney function, vascular biology, obesity and genetics.

The Fall Conference was preceded by a workshop entitled “Novel Signaling Paradigms in Vascular and Renal Disease” on Sept. 17. The preliminary program was as follows:

8:00–10:00 am  Vascular signaling and disease
Novel aspects of endothelin receptor function. A. Ergul, Augusta
Is there an EDHF receptor? B. Campbell, Milwaukee
Vascular actions of the MAS receptor. Robson Santos, Brazil
NADPH oxidase and vascular signaling. R. Brandes, Germany

10:30 am–12:30 pm  Breakout discussion sessions
Is there a role for endothelin receptor antagonists in renal medicine? G. Remuzzi, Bergamo
Hypertension: Which inhibitors of the renin-angiotensin system do we need? E. Schiffrin, Montreal
Is nitric oxide synthase still important in vascular biology? D. Harrison, Atlanta

1:30–3:30 pm  Calcium signaling in the vasculature
Regulation of vascular function by rapid intracellular Ca events. F. Santana, Seattle
Calcium signaling receptor. W. Beierwaltes, Detroit
Gap junctions in vascular signaling. C. de Wit, Germany
Calcium-sensitization pathways in vascular function. N. Kanagy, Albuquerque

4:00–5:30 pm  Cell signaling in renal disease
Signaling mechanisms of endothelin in kidney disease. A. Benigni, Bergamo
Novel signaling pathways of renal disease reversal. R. Kalluri, Boston
Actin signaling in glomerular podocytes. P. Mundel, New York

5:30 pm  Keynote Address and Opening of the Fall Conference
The past, the present, and the future of signaling pathways in the vascular wall. P.M. Vanhoutte, Hong Kong

Awards presented at the meeting included:
Irvine Page — Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award
(Sponsored by Monarch Pharmaceuticals)
K. Bridget Brosnihan (Winston-Salem)
Thursday, September 18, 8:00–8:15 am

Update from Council Membership Committee
David Calhoun, MD, FAHA
Chair of Membership Committee

I continue to encourage current Fellows in the Council for High Blood Pressure Research to consider colleagues and associates who are appropriate for nomination to become Fellows. Being designated a Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA) is reserved for researchers and healthcare professionals who have made significant scientific or corporate contributions in the field of cardiovascular research. Current Premium Members of the HBRC Council are eligible and can be nominated by active Fellows. Congratulations to our newest Fellows listed below who were approved by the Leadership Committee in May 2008.

Incoming Fellows
Yanfang Chen, MD, PhD
Wright State University
Dayton, OH
Kanchan Chitaley, PhD
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Khalid M. Elased, RPh, PhD
Wright State University
Dayton, OH
Fred S. Lamb, MD, PhD
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
Brett M. Mitchell, PhD
Texas A & M Health Science Center
Temple, TX