From the Chair
Towards A More Inclusive Council
L. Gabriel Navar, PhD
Chair, Council for High Blood Pressure Research

The middle of the summer is supposed to be for vacations, days off and taking life at a slower pace. Not this summer! Your Council officers and program committee members have been busier than ever getting ready for many exciting activities of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research. By the time you read this, we will have completed the Hypertension Summer School, which was a terrific success. This meeting, co-sponsored by the Kidney Council, was held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, July 28–Aug. 1, 2007. We had about 75 students from the United States and other countries and more than 20 faculty participants, with outstanding faculty presentations and small group conferences. Our special thanks go to Program Committee Chair Stephanie Watts, Co-Chair Don DiPette and the rest of the committee. We are grateful to Susan Kunish, Yvette Ballantyne and Marcia Baker for their administrative expertise that made everything run smoothly. We also greatly appreciate the financial support provided by several companies and organizations.

In a previous letter, I mentioned that some Council members are concerned that we are not sufficiently inclusive in our activities and that committee assignments are often distributed to the same people year in and year out. I completely agree that we should do everything we can to be more inclusive and distribute the many Council responsibilities among our entire membership. However, we need your help to achieve this goal. We need you to tell the Council leadership how you feel about the Council and how you think we can be more inclusive. We need you to volunteer to participate in Council activities. To this end, I am preparing to send out a brief survey this fall that will ask you how your Council leadership can better serve you. We want to know what aspects of Council activities you feel are of greatest benefit and how you wish to increase your participation and visibility in the Council. When you receive the survey, please make a special effort to fill it out and return it. However, I welcome your comments at any time and greatly appreciate any suggestions you may have. Please feel free to send me an e-mail with your ideas at navar@tulane.edu.

In closing, I hope that you had a pleasant and productive summer and I look forward to the best turnout of our Council members at the fall conference in Tucson.

See you in Tucson in September!!
CHBPR teams up with NHLBI to increase Physician awareness of CORAL and CLEVER

NOW ENROLLING, CORAL (Cardiovascular Outcomes in Renal Atherosclerotic Lesions) is an NIH-funded, prospective, multi-center, two-arm, randomized trial to determine whether stenting adds value to optimal medical therapy in individuals with:

1) History of hypertension on two or more antihypertensive medications and/or Stage 3 or greater chronic kidney disease (eGFR<60cc/min); and 2) One or more renal artery stenosis >60% and <100%. The primary endpoint is a composite of renal and cardiac death, MI, stroke, hospitalization for CHF, doubling of creatinine and need for renal replacement therapy. Patients will be followed for 2–5 years.

For more information on becoming a new CORAL clinical site or referring patients to CORAL, please contact Holly Burtch, R.N. at the Clinical Coordinating Center, University of Toledo: Phone (419) 383-6289 or e-mail holly.burtch@utoledo.edu.

The best care strategy for individuals with aortoiliac peripheral arterial disease (PAD) and claudication is not known. The “Claudication: Exercise Versus Endoluminal Revascularization, or “CLEVER” study is a multicenter, four-arm, randomized, clinical investigation that will define the relative efficacy, risk, and cost effectiveness of use of claudication medications alone vs. supervised exercise rehabilitation, vs. primary stent placement, vs. supervised exercise plus stenting. Major clinical endpoints, including walking performance, will be measured at both 6 & 18 months. This major NHLBI-sponsored trial seeks patients with aortoiliac PAD and claudication. For more information, please contact Dr. Joselyn Cerezo at the Clinical Coordinating Center at (401) 444-1739 (jcerezo@lifespan.org), or see www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct/show/NCT00132743?order=1).

Hypertension Summer School 2007

Stephanie Watts, PhD
CHBPR Summer School Program Chair

Sponsored by the Council on High Blood Pressure Research and CV Therapeutics

The 6th Hypertension Summer School was held on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., from July 28–Aug. 1. This intensive three-and-a-half-day summer school was held to provide trainees — clinical and basic in nature — with the most current information and initiate discussions on needed directions for hypertension research. A real goal was to encourage student participation at every level, and interaction with faculty. Seventy-five trainees from eight different countries and 16 different states of the United States attended, and they were accompanied by 25 faculty members, many of whom are Fellows of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research. This year’s students were simply the best: inquisitive, not afraid to argue, and enthusiastic. Three events in particular highlight these characteristics: all participants compared measurements of their own blood pressure using different techniques, there was a newly introduced troubleshooting workshop on clinical and basic research problems, and there was a competition in which students developed and marketed a drug to treat type II diabetes and renal complications (see the posters on page 3). The weather was beautiful and the company superb. The committee for the summer school would like to thank all of the faculty but in particular the students for making this 6th summer school such a success.

LOOK FOR SUMMER SCHOOL TO HAPPEN AGAIN IN 2009!!!

Annual Fall Conference and Scientific Sessions Workshop

‘New Developments in the Renin-angiotensin System: The (pro)renin Receptor, Renin Inhibition and ACE2’

A. Jan Danser • Workshop Organizer

This one-day workshop will highlight new components of and tools to study the renin-angiotensin system (RAS): the (pro)renin receptor, ACE2, and a new class of RAS blockers, the renin inhibitors. Aliskiren, a renin inhibitor, has just obtained FDA approval. The workshop will consist of three plenary sessions, with speakers from the Americas, Europe and Asia. The afternoon will comprise three parallel breakout sessions, critically addressing the importance of prorenin, renin inhibitors and ACE2 under the guidance of a discussion leader. During these breakout sessions, a limited number of abstract submitters from the main meeting will present their hot new data to stimulate the discussion. The program will culminate with a special presentation, entitled “From Prorenin to Renin Inhibition.” The workshop will be held Wednesday, Sept. 26, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the evening poster session of the main meeting, posters related to the workshop topics will be presented. All attendees at the main meeting are invited to come early to participate in this exciting workshop.
Hypertension Summer School 2007
Student Competition to Develop and Market a Drug to Treat Type II Diabetes and Renal Complications

The Winner

U2 Can Beat It
Diabeat-It

Runner-up

SETEBAID
Turn your diabetes around!

Bi-Gluco-One

Sucruvio
Because it really is all about the kidney