Report from the Chair
Susan J. Pressler, DNS, RN, FAAN, FAHA

As Scientific Sessions 2007 came to an end, I hope you were as energized as I was by the exciting research presented and the dynamic networking with colleagues that occurred. I realized while listening to several presentations that our cardiovascular nursing research has grown substantially over the past 15 years and we have reached “critical mass” — we have a group of experienced nurse scientists working as interdisciplinary professionals to find ways to improve the care of people with heart disease and stroke and to prevent or delay the onset of cardiovascular disorders. At Sessions, nurses providing clinical care were also highly visible; these nurses are critical for improving care because this is where translation of research holds the most promise.

The “State of the Science” presentations were the highlight of the Cardiovascular Nursing Council’s program at Sessions 2007 in Orlando, Fla. Several national nurse scientists and experts spoke about a wide range of topics including cardiovascular nurse-focused interventions, depression and anxiety in cardiovascular disorders, patient education interventions, and quality of life of patients with implantable cardioverter defibrillators. These extensive presentations summarized the existing literature and left the audience with challenges for future research. In a Sunday Morning Session, nurses and physicians gave thought-provoking presentations about patient safety in cardiovascular care; they paved the way for new ideas and areas needed to improve patient safety. The Annual Business Meeting and Dinner provided a time to honor our eight new Fellows of the American Heart Association. We hope you plan to attend Sessions in New Orleans in 2008 and be part of the activities.

In the coming year, CVN Council members Drs. Deb Chyun, Karyn Holm and Dorothy Lanuza will lead a new initiative that is being supported by Atlantic Philanthropies. Nurse Competence in Aging is a five-year initiative awarded to the American Nurses Association (ANA) through the American Nurses Foundation, and represents a strategic alliance between the ANA, the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, New York University College of Nursing. The funds will be used to: 1) disseminate information about nurse competencies for providing high-quality care to elders; 2) develop a multidisciplinary database to facilitate collaborative projects; 3) establish an annual award ($1,500) for three years to recognize exemplary nurse researchers, educators and/or practitioners who promote competency in aging care; and 4) coordinate a scientific conference about elder care as it relates to cardiovascular conditions and risk reduction. We are inviting CVN members as well as members of other Councils to take part in this initiative — please let us know if you are interested! We look forward to the work of this group.

Best wishes for a prosperous and productive 2008!

The Host City Reception:
Another Successful Year
Sandra Kreul, RN, MSN

The Host City Reception is a program initiated last year by the Membership and Communication Committee to introduce potential new members to the Council and provide an avenue to network with local nurses. This year’s reception, which was sponsored by the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing, was held Saturday morning before Sessions at the Orange County Convention Center. Attendees enjoyed brunch and a presentation by Dr. Debra Moser entitled “How to Enhance Your Patient Education and Counseling Skills to Improve Patient Outcomes.” Attendees also received tips on how to use the Scientific Session planner and had an opportunity to network with Council leaders and members.

Program Committee
Marjorie Funk, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

The Program Committee would like to thank everyone who attended Scientific Sessions 2007. We hope you found the program as helpful as we planned, as well as exciting and versatile. I would like to thank the members of the 2007 Program Committee for their creativity and hard work: Debra Lynn-McHale Wiegand, Vice-Chair; Lynn Braun, Lorraine Frazier, Teri Hernandez, Karyn Holm and Bunny Pozehl.

A Pre-Session Symposium on “Advances in the Care of the Hospitalized Cardiac Patient” was held on Saturday. Topics included stem cell therapy for heart disease, devices in heart failure (resynchronization, remote monitoring), glucose regulation in the acutely ill cardiac patient, family presence during resuscitation, rapid recognition and response to stroke, smoking cessation, supraventricular arrhythmias, sleep in the hospitalized cardiac patient, and electronic ICUs. In addition to the very informative state-of-the-science presentations described by our Council Chair, the Cardiovascular Nursing Council also sponsored more than 20 outstanding programs including the Katherine Lembright Award and Martha N. Hill New Investigator Award presentations on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Kathleen Grady, who received this year’s Katherine Lembright Award, delivered an outstanding lecture on “Stage D Heart Failure: Quality of Life Outcomes.”

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after Transplant and Mechanical Support.” A special “Ask the Experts” session led by several Council leaders and nursing experts focused on providing attendees with helpful tools and strategies for developing successful research grant proposals. A new session platform called “Daytime Seminars” was also introduced this year. Daytime Seminars are smaller, clinically focused sessions similar to Cardiovascular Seminars. One of these seminars, entitled “Case Studies in ECG Monitoring,” was led by Dr. Barbara Drew and included an interactive learning session that featured an audience response system.

Pat O’Brien, our representative from the Pediatric Cardiovascular Nursing Subcommittee, also reported that their programs were well received by attendees. This included two “How-To” sessions on pediatric nursing topics, an oral abstract session on the impact of heart disease on children and families and a joint session on late heart transplant outcomes with the Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young.

A total of 129 abstracts were submitted this year; 31 percent were accepted for oral or poster presentations. Unfortunately, the number of abstract submissions has dropped from previous years (148 in 2006, 131 in 2005, and 137 in 2004). The Program Committee would like to encourage CVN members to submit abstracts for Scientific Sessions 2008 as well as send ideas for program topics to Marge Funk at marjorie.funk@yale.edu.

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one-year Basic Membership to the Council was given to all registered attendees. Post-event feedback indicated that everyone enjoyed themselves and found the reception very helpful. Many thanks to the Council leaders and sponsors for making this event a big success!

Nursing Awards Committee
Debra Moser, DNSc, RN, FAAN, FAHA

The Cardiovascular Nursing Council dinner at Scientific Sessions in Orlando this November was once again a wonderful celebration of the excellence of our members. The following awards were presented:

Lembright Award: Kathleen Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN, Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute, Chicago, IL

Martha Hill New Investigator Award: Melissa Taylor, PhD. Finalists were Victoria Dickenson, PhD, and Jia-Rong Wu, PhD

Best Abstract Award: Terry A. Lennie, PhD, RN, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Arteriosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Prize: Two prizes were given, Teresita Corvera-Tindel, PhD, RN, Greater Los Angeles Health System, and Lorraine Evangelista, PhD, RN, University of California, Los Angeles

Excellence in Clinical Practice Award: Janet Parkosewich, MSN, RN, Yale New Haven Hospital

In addition, we inducted several new Fellows: Susan Barnason, Cheryl Dennison, Patricia O’Brien, Marilyn Prasun, Jill Quinn, Kismet Dogu Rasmusson, Brenda Thompson, Lani Zimmerman

These awards and others will be given at the Cardiovascular Nursing Council dinner again next year in New Orleans so keep checking the Website for an announcement of the opening of applications for awards.

After the awards presentations, a special “Ask the Experts” session was held, featuring several council leaders and nursing experts. The session was well received by attendees.

The evening concluded with the reception, which was attended by all registered attendees. The reception was a great success, with many attendees enjoying themselves and finding the event very helpful. Many thanks to the Council leaders and sponsors for making this event a big success!