The Council for High Blood Pressure Research (CHBPR) is engaged in an increasing number of programs, and I would like to bring you up to date. The Council Operations Committee of the American Heart Association is in the process of developing a new International Mentoring Program. Dr. Don DiPette will serve as the first mentor coordinator for the CHBPR. Don’s job will be to receive requests for HBPR mentorship from young investigators and clinicians from outside the United States via the central AHA office and to pair these prospective international mentees with CHBPR mentors. We are grateful to Dr. Michael A. Moore for leading this important effort.

The CHBPR is conducting a scientific conference on the clinical management of hypertension in association with the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and the Southern Medical Association, on Oct. 11, 2006, from 1–9 p.m. at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, N.C. The conference is mainly for primary care physicians and allied health providers. We are grateful to Dr. Michael A. Moore for leading this important effort.

A scientific advisory on resistant hypertension has been prepared by Dr. David Calhoun and a CHBPR writing group. This document will travel through the AHA review process this summer in preparation for publication in winter 2006. The CHBPR will also collaborate with the Endocrine Society on writing an evidence-based clinical guideline for primary aldosteronism.

The first CHBPR Trainee Advocacy Committee has been appointed by the committee chair, Dr. Stephanie Watts, in collaboration with Dr. Joey Granger, program mentor. The committee will shortly select a trainee vice chair who will automatically become a member of the Council Leadership Committee. Future chairs and vice chairs will be appointed by the Council Nominating Committee. The Trainee Advocacy Committee will address the needs of trainees within our council. While the CHBPR leads the AHA in percent of premium professional members (927 currently), we only have 66 early career and 99 student/trainee members. The Trainee Advocacy Committee will work to make these junior categories of membership in our council more attractive to young investigators.

The CHBPR will host a council dinner at AHA Scientific Sessions beginning in 2007.

The CHBPR congratulates Dr. Daniel Jones, a Fellow of our council, on his selection as president-elect of the AHA! Dan is the second member of our council in recent years to be chosen as AHA president. Dr. Suzanne Oparil served in that capacity several years ago.

This is my last letter as chair of the CHBPR, as my two-year term will expire after the October 2006 meeting. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with our council and look forward to continuing to work with CHBPR and all AHA councils during my next two years as chair of the Council Operations Committee. I am deeply grateful to the members of the CHBPR who have supported all of the council activities during the past four years, including leading us to record attendance and participation at our workshops and annual fall conferences. The spirit of CHBPR is high and its direction is in great hands with Dr. L. Gabriel Navar as our incoming chair. Please join me in welcoming Gabby as our new leader.
2006 Lewis K. Dahl Memorial Lecture at Scientific Sessions

This year’s Lewis K. Dahl Lecture will be given by Chris Baylis, Ph.D. of the University of Florida. Her research focused on the role of nitric oxide (NO) in hypertension and renal disease, and she has made many seminal contributions to this field. She has found that NO production is reduced in renal disease, in part due to decreased endothelial production, and that NO deficiency contributes to cardiovascular events and progression of kidney damage. Two possible causes of GENERALIZED NO deficiency are substrate (L-arginine) limitation and increased levels of circulating endogenous inhibitors of NO synthase (particularly asymmetric dimethylarginine [ADMA]). Arginine availability may be limited to impaired renal synthesis in chronic kidney disease (CKD). In addition, inhibition of transport of L-arginine into endothelial cells and shunting of L-arginine into other metabolic pathways (e.g., involving arginase) might also decrease availability. Dr. Baylis has found that elevated plasma levels of ADMA in CKD are likely due to reduced catabolism by dimethylarginine dimethylamino-hydrolase (DDAH) rather than reduced renal clearance. The latter might be associated with loss-of-function polymorphisms of a DDAH gene and/or functional inhibition of the enzyme by oxidative stress in CKD and end-stage renal disease. An increase in ADMA has emerged as a major independent risk factor in end-stage renal disease (and probably CKD). In addition to generalized declines in NO production, the abundance and activity of the neuronal NOS within the kidney declines as injury develops in diverse models of CKD, and there may be differential effects on different nNOS isoforms that determine the extent/rate of CKD progression.

Dr. Baylis was born in England and obtained a BS and PhD in physiology from Leeds University, United Kingdom. She was a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Barry Brenner and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1992. Dr. Baylis is currently professor of physiology and functional genomics and medicine (nephrology) at the University of Florida at Gainesville. She is also UF’s J. Robert Cade Professor of Physiology and director of the UF Hypertension Center. Dr. Baylis is an active member of several national and international societies, including the AHA’s Council on...
2006 Harry Goldblatt Award Finalists

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

L. Gabriel Navar, PhD
Chair, Programming Committee

The 2006 Harry Goldblatt Award Finalist abstracts are: 1) Tianxin Yang, Akira Nishiyama and Mingyu Liang, Department of Physiology, Medical College of Wisconsin: “Micro RNAs in the Kidney: Regional Distribution and Physiological Implications”; 2) Akira Nishiyama, Department of Pharmacology, Kagawa University Medical School: “Enhanced Renal Interstitial Fluid ATP and Tubuloglomerular Feedback Mechanism in Dahl Salt-Sensitive Hypertensive Rats”; and 3) Tianxin Yang, University of Utah School of Medicine: “Collecting Duct-Specific Knockout of PPAR gamma Impairs Sodium Retaining Ability and Reduces Blood Pressure during Sodium Depletion.” The winner will be determined after each finalist presents his or her abstract in a special session at the annual fall conference. The winner will be announced and awards will be presented at the Council for High Blood Pressure Research Awards Luncheon, also at the annual fall conference. The first-prize winner determined at the annual fall conference will receive a plaque and $1,000; the other two finalists will each receive a plaque and $500. All finalists will receive conference travel reimbursement up to $1,200 each and complimentary registration.