The ATVB Council has more than 4,500 members and is the third largest of the 16 AHA councils. Last year, membership in our council declined, but is beginning to recover. There are many benefits to being a member of the AHA and ATVB, and we hope that you will continue to support the AHA and its goals through your membership.

The 2010 AHA Scientific Sessions was held in Chicago, Ill., Nov. 13–17. Our council activities were well attended, and the scientific presentations displayed the breadth of interests of our members. The economic hard times greatly influenced the donations to the AHA, which ultimately translated into a substantial decrease in allocation of funds for AHA research. This year, thanks to some major gifts to the AHA, it is anticipated that research funding should increase over last year’s allocation.

We have long encouraged the participation of our younger members in ATVB and AHA activities, and the attendance and energy at our Early Career Investigator Poster session at Sessions speaks to the success of this endeavor. Our council thanks and congratulates Ryan Temel, chair of the Early Investigator Committee, Jordan Miller, vice-chair, and the other members of the committee for organizing the event. We gratefully acknowledge Merck Research Laboratories, Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. for their generous support of the event.

As a new feature of the Early Career Investigator event, we recognized the highest ranked AHA abstract within our council. This year’s winner was Katey Rayner, from New York. We also presented the named lectures of ATVB: the Sol Sherry Lecture in Thrombosis was given by Sanford Shattil (California); the Russell Ross Lecture in Vascular Biology by Jordan Pojer (Connecticut); and the George Duff Lecture in Arteriosclerosis by Ernst Schaefer (Massachusetts). Their lectures were uniformly excellent. We’re also proud that two of our own were honored for their accomplishments: Dr. Jan L. Breslow, the Fredrick Henry Leonhardt Professor at Rockefeller University, received the Research Achievement Award; and Dr. Charles T. Esmon, the Lloyd Noble Chairman in Cardiovascular Research, HHMI at Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, was awarded the Basic Research Prize.

The ATVB Council has a strong interest in the development and recognition of promising early career scientists. Early career scientists who are not members of the AHA are strongly encouraged to consider joining the AHA with the ATVB Council as their primary affiliation to ensure they receive notifications and take advantage of opportunities available through the ATVB Council.

For more information, please visit our website (americanheart.org/atvb) and follow the link to Early Career Development Opportunities. There, you will find links to relevant conferences, training opportunities and events sponsored by the ATVB Council. Furthermore, the ATVB Council Early Career Committee is an advocate for young investigators, and a complete list of ECC members and their contact information is on our website. For additional information, you can contact Dena Thomas at dena.thomas@heart.org.
Many of the topic areas had 30 percent to 50 percent decreases in abstract submissions. While Bill Chillian, head of our Program Committee, does a great job in organizing programs and symposia at Sessions, his committee needs your support for themes and topics for Sessions and ultimately in abstract submissions. Early December marked the opening of the Session Organizer to submit your ideas for 2011 Sessions.

For many of our senior scientists and council leadership, the AHA Established Investigator (EI) Awards were critical to their career development. Unfortunately, the AHA suspended the program due to donation shortfalls. On behalf of our council, we expressed the importance of the EI program for ATVB to the Research Committee — and the AHA listened. A task force has been constituted to reconsider the EI Award program. The AHA does respond, and we urge you to express ideas and concerns that you have to the ATVB Leadership.

Finally, I urge you make your plans and submit your abstracts for the ATVB Conference at the Hilton Chicago. Murray Huff, Rob Hegele and the Program Committee have organized an exciting meeting. We are also planning a strong program for early career investigators at the ATVB meeting. See you at 2011 ATVB, April 28-30, in Chicago, Ill. For ATVB to remain strong and vibrant and a voice for our council members, we encourage everyone not only to renew their membership and be actively engaged, but also to recruit new members to join. Please feel free to contact me (plowe@ccf.org) and to visit the ATVB website (americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1201) to discuss how you can become involved in ATVB activities and to learn more about our council.

Highlights from 2010 Scientific Sessions

As is in the past, ATVB hosted presentations from the winners of the three named lectureships of our council. The high quality of these distinguished scientists and their research deserves comment.

Dr. Ernst Schaefer presented the George Lyman Duff Memorial Lecture. Dr. Schaefer, whose presentation was entitled “HDL Particle Metabolism in Health and Disease,” is a professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, and the director of the Lipid Metabolism Laboratory at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston, Mass., and the Cardiovascular Research Clinic. Dr. Schaefer is a leader in the field of HDL metabolism and played a defining role in understanding many common familial lipoprotein disorders associated with premature heart disease and low HDL.

Dr. Sanford Shattil gave the Sol Sherry Distinguished Lecture in Thrombosis. He is a professor of medicine and chief of the Hematology-Oncology Division at UCSD. Dr. Shattil’s presentation, “Integrin Signaling in Vascular Biology and Beyond,” provided insight into the biology of integrins and their roles in both normal and pathological cellular processes.

Dr. Jordan Pober presented the Russell Ross Memorial Lectureship in Vascular Biology. Dr. Pober is professor and vice-chair of the Department of Immunobiology for the Section of
Human and Translational Immunology at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Pobers’s presentation, “T Cell Interactions with the Arterial Wall,” highlighted his contributions to the understanding of how endothelial cells may influence the interactions of T cells and antigen presenting cells in the vasculature.

These outstanding lectures exemplify the scientific vigor of our ATVB Council. We congratulate these three scientists and thank them for providing us with their insights.

Annual Awards and Business Luncheon

At the Business Luncheon, ATVB recognized our strength in membership numbers, the quality of our scientific contributions and the importance of the research we conduct related to the 2020 goals of the AHA. Recognizing that young investigators represent the future of the ATVB and AHA, our goals are to provide opportunities for scientific interchange and networking among all colleagues of our council. We encourage every council member to visit our Early Career website (americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3004012), which is dedicated to early career issues, as well as the ATVB website at americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1201.

In its effort to remain at the forefront of scientific communication, the AHA is launching a new open access journal. This exciting endeavor will allow for the rapid dissemination of scientific discovery. An editor-in-chief and members of the editorial board are needed for the yet-to-be named AHA journal. If you’re interested in being involved, please let me know.

Also, the ATVB journal will soon be seeking a new editor-in-chief. Mark Taubman, who did such a stellar job in this position for the past four years, will be relinquishing this position. We congratulate and thank Mark for a job well done! In recognition of Mark’s contributions, the ATVB awarded him its Distinguished Scientist Award. Other awardees of council recognition awards are identified within this newsletter. We congratulate them on their achievements and thank them for their service to ATVB.

The ATVB Council also presented Special Recognition Awards in the three categories that make up our membership to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the AHA and our council.

Arteriosclerosis:
Alain Tedgui, PhD; Paris, France

Thrombosis:
Charles Abrams, MD; Philadelphia, Pa.
Mortimer Ponoz, MD; Philadelphia, Pa.

Vascular Biology:
Jun-Ichi Abe, MD, PhD, FAHA; Rochester, N.Y.
William Chilian, PhD, FAHA; Rootstown, Ohio

Message From the Editor

Amy S. Major, PhD, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

The complete newsletter can be found on the my.americanheart.org website under the ATVB Council. We are continuing to improve the website, where you can find information on council activities, awards, lectures and early career development opportunities. Please feel free to e-mail me with suggestions at amy.major@vanderbilt.edu.