Becoming one of the topics for this issue of Connections is women's health, I'm featuring my colleague at Emory University, Nanette Wenger. We recently celebrated her 52nd year at Emory. Few people have had as much of an impact on raising our awareness of issues related to women's cardiovascular health than Dr. Wenger. During her long career, she has authored over 1,400 original manuscripts, review articles and book chapters. She has served as a member and chairperson of over 500 committees, scientific advisory boards, task forces, and councils of the American Medical Association, American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the Society of Geriatric Cardiology. Dr. Wenger has changed the cardiology paradigm that coronary artery disease only affects men.

Although she is not primarily an imager, Dr. Wenger clearly understands the value of imaging for diagnosing coronary artery disease particularly in women. Most importantly, she leaves behind a legacy through her scientific contributions, many trainees and tireless advocacy on behalf of women's cardiovascular health. As one of the councils of the American Heart Association, I believe we owe her a debt of gratitude for her many contributions.

The 38th Annual Meeting of the North American Society for Cardiovascular Imaging was held Oct. 3–5 in Seattle (NASCI, nasci.org; Vincent Ho, MD, MBA, President; Geoffrey Rubin, MD, President-Elect; David Bluemke, MD, PhD, Vice President; Bruce Greenberg, MD, Treasurer; Jill Jacobs, MD, Secretary). The Program Committee (Gautham Reddy, MD, MPH, Chair; Frandics Chan, MD, PhD; Harold Litt, MD, PhD; and Karen Ordonas, MD) provided a spectacular program that included elements for novice cardiac imagers such as Cardiovascular Imaging Boot Camp, Pediatric Boot Camp, “how to” sessions and mentored case reviews. It also included advanced CT dose reduction strategies, outcomes and evidence-based practice guidelines and emerging technologies (e.g., diffusion tensor MRI imaging and dual energy/spectral CT) for advanced cardiovascular imagers. The parallel Congenital Heart Disease track covered both basic and advanced topics relating to pediatric and adult considerations. Dr. Pam Douglas, MD, MACC, Ursula Geller Professor for Research in Cardiovascular Diseases and director of Duke Clinical Research Imaging Program, delivered a provocative keynote address entitled “Imaging to Diagnose Coronary Artery Disease: Where are we? Where are we going?”

NASCI’s annual meeting also had a record number of abstract submissions to the scientific program. A panel of experienced cardiovascular imagers, chaired by U. Joseph Schoepf, MD, reviewed and identified the most worthy submissions, with oral presentation offered to the top 25 percent. The oral scientific sessions were highlighted by the NASCI/CVRI Young Investigator Award competition. A panel of senior NASCI/CVRI members selected three winners from a field of eight young investigator finalists. The scientific poster competition was another well attended event in which 10 finalists were selected for oral presentation and probed by experienced judges who selected the best poster presentations for awards.

The winners are:

**2010 NASCI/CVRI Young Investigator Awards**

**Medical University of South Carolina**

Initial Clinical Experience with Dynamic Real-Time Myocardial Stress Perfusion for an Integrative CT Assessment of the Heart

M. Weininger, MD, U.J. Schoepf, MD, D.K. Kang, MD, G.W. Rowe, DSc, P. Costello, MD, G. Bastarrika, MD

**Mayo Clinic — Rochester**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging-Derived Index of Ventricular Interdependence: a proof-of-concept pilot study in individuals with and without surgically-confirmed constrictive pericarditis

N. Anavekar, MBBCh, B. Wong, MD, T. Foley, MD, M. Morris, MD, C. Bonnichsen, MD, J. Oh, MD, P. Julsrud, MD, J. Breen, MD, P. Araoz, MD, J. Glockner, MD, E. Williamson, MD, P. Young, MD
We enjoyed seeing many CVRI council members at the 2010 AHA Scientific Sessions in Chicago, Ill., Nov. 13–17. Like last year, the scientific program was segmented into seven cores with notably high interest from council members in Core 1 (Cardiovascular Imaging), Core 6 (Vascular Disease: Catheter-based and Surgical Interventions) and Core 7 (Vascular Disease: Biology and Clinical Science). The program included 2010 updates on state-of-the-art advances in echocardiography, nuclear medicine, CT, MRI, molecular imaging and percutaneous intervention. Clinical sessions emphasized multi-modality imaging and appropriate management for coronary artery disease and special populations such as patients with heart failure, valvular heart disease, adult congenital heart disease, non-ischemic cardiomyopathy, aortic dissection, peripheral vascular disease or renal compromise. Special sessions included a morning Plenary Session (Cardiovascular Imaging 2010: What is the Evidence for Clinical Practice?) devoted to the role of imaging in the current age of outcomes and evidence-based practice.

In 2010, the scientific program also benefited from a 15 percent increase in the number of cardiovascular imaging scientific abstract submissions. Because of the high quality of the abstract submissions, we procured an increase, albeit modest, in the number of abstract acceptances for presentation that further enriched the scientific content of the meeting. As usual, the Melvin Judkins Young Investigator Award Competition on Sunday afternoon fielded a stellar international group of early career finalists. This year’s winner was Rajesh Dash, MD, PhD, of Stanford University. The other finalists were: Alistair Lindsay, MBChB (John Radcliffe Hospital, U.K.); Kai Lin, MB, MSc (Northwestern University); Nathan Mewton, MD, PhD (Hospital Cardiovasculaire Louis Pradel, France); and Junji Moriya, MD, PhD (Chiba University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan).

The Council was honored to have John Kaufman, MD, FAHA, Director of the Dotter Institute and Professor of Radiology at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Ore., deliver an excellent 2010 Charles T. Dotter Memorial Lecture. Dr. Kaufman has served as President of the Society of Interventional Radiology and Chair of the CVRI Council. His presentation, entitled “Endograft Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm: The Premise, the Promise, and the Data,” briefly highlighted the brilliant career of Dr. Dotter and his vision that has been the basis of many modern interventional procedures. Dr. Kaufman insightfully reviewed the history and scientific evidence related to endograft repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms, which has become a standard procedure in clinical practice. This topic is particularly timely when medical innovation is being questioned in terms of real patient benefit.

Please mark your calendars for the 2011 AHA Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 12–16!