

AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS: CVSA REVIEW

The Council for Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia enjoyed excellent participation in this year's AHA Scientific Sessions. To summarize:

Sunday, Nov. 15

The Sunday Morning CVSA Program for this year was entitled "Advances in Valve Surgery" and reviewed the state of the art in aortic and mitral valve surgery. The program also included excellent poster sessions on CABG outcomes, valvular heart disease, intraoperative myocardial protection, and the surgical treatment of heart failure, transplantation and arrhythmias. On Sunday afternoon, Dr. D. Craig Miller, MD of Stanford University was awarded the Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award during the opening ceremonies of the meeting. This represents the highest honor bestowed by the American Heart Association in recognition of a longstanding track record of education and mentoring of young cardiovascular scientists and clinical trainees. Congratulations to Dr. Miller for this great achievement. Later that afternoon, the 14th Vivien Thomas Young Investigator Award Competition took place. Five outstanding finalists competed for this award, chosen from 11 applications. The winner this year was Krishna Singh from St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto for his paper entitled "BRCA1 is a Novel Regulator of Endothelial Function and Limits Atherosclerosis." Congratulations to Dr. Singh and his mentor, Dr. Subodh Verma, MD.

Monday, Nov. 16

Monday morning began with an "Ask the Experts" session on minimally invasive coronary artery bypass grafting and a "How To" session on how to repair the anterior mitral valve leaflet. Dr. Thomas Spray, MD, from the University of Pennsylvania, gave the William W.L. Glenn lecture in recognition of all of his remarkable accomplishments in

the field of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery and his intimate involvement with the American Heart Association. Abstract oral sessions on pediatric cardiac surgery, short- and long-term outcomes with aortic valve surgery, and surgical treatment of heart failure, transplantation and arrhythmias were well attended. Poster sessions on myocardial protection and intraoperative management and coronary artery bypass surgery outcomes provided a timely update. Excellent cardiovascular seminars took place Monday afternoon and evening covering surgical therapies for heart failure, revascularization for multivessel coronary artery disease, surgical approaches to ischemic mitral insufficiency and an update on endovascular stent grafting.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Tuesday morning began with "How To" sessions entitled "Valvular Surgery and Heart Failure, When, Why, and How" and "How to Treat Aortic Root Endocarditis." An "Ask the Experts" session entitled "Mentoring: Developing the Academic

Surgeon" provided valuable information. Abstract oral sessions were held on thoracic aortic disease and valvular heart disease and had excellent presentations and discussion. Comprehensive poster sessions on valvular heart disease and thoracic aortic disease rounded out the new science in these areas. The CVSA Council was represented in the evening plenary session entitled "Percutaneous Surgical and Medical Management of Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy." The very enjoyable and well-attended CVSA Council Dinner and Business Meeting was held on Tuesday evening during which Drs. Miller and Spray were honored.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Wednesday began with an "Ask the Experts" session entitled "Aortic Valve Repair Strategies" and a "How To" session entitled "How to Treat Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysms." Excellent science was presented and discussed in the afternoon oral abstract session on surgical treatment of heart failure, transplantation and arrhythmias.



Thomas Spray, MD

2009 Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award

Presented to D. Craig Miller, MD

Thelma and Henry Doelger Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery
Director, Cardiovascular Surgical Physiology Research Laboratories
Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, California

The AHA is pleased to present the Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award for 2009 to Dr. D. Craig Miller for his exceptional 30-year record of training, mentoring and enriching the career development of a large and growing cadre of emerging cardiothoracic surgeons and research personnel.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Miller served his surgery residency at Stanford, where he was the Chief Resident in Peripheral Vascular Surgery, Cardiovascular Surgery and Thoracic Surgery. He also served as Chief of the Cardiac Surgery Section at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center and Director of Stanford's Vascular Surgery Residency program. Dr. Miller joined the Stanford surgery faculty in 1978 and rose to the rank of Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery in 1989. Since 1998, he has been the Thelma and Henry Doelger Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery.

Dr. Miller is widely regarded as the consummate surgeon-scientist. He has perfected and applied innovative surgical techniques for treating complex cardiac disease, methods that have had life-saving benefits for countless patients. And with unparalleled commitment, he has worked tirelessly to convey his skills as a surgeon and his sensitivities as an individual to his fortunate trainees, including many who have become leaders in academic medical centers and are extending their knowledge and experience to new generations of trainees.

For more than three decades, Dr. Miller has devoted enormous amounts of his time — often on evenings, weekends, even holidays — to guiding, instructing and mentoring those in his charge. His wisdom, patience, worldliness and inimitable personal style have touched hundreds of individuals during his tenure at Stanford, where he has directly trained approximately 75 cardiothoracic surgical

residents and research fellows. These trainees readily attest to the profound impact Dr. Miller has had on their lives and careers. None can forget meeting him for the first time — his cowboy boots and hat, his trademark personal style reminiscent of a rancher just finishing a 14-hour day herding cattle, as he actually did during his youth. Dr. Miller's intelligence, insight, and sincere eagerness to impart knowledge have earned him a fiercely loyal and faithful delegation of successful surgeons and scientists.

Dr. Miller's academic record is virtually unmatched in academic cardiothoracic surgery. During his career, he has overseen almost \$20 million in grant funding, most of it from the National Institutes of Health. He has served at the highest levels in all of the major American societies in his specialty, including presidency of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and the Western Thoracic Surgical Association and chairmanship of the then Council for Cardiovascular Surgery of the American Heart Association. He has actively participated in international societies, including service as president of *Spain's Sociedad de Cardiocirujanos*. He is associate editor of *The Journal for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*, the premier cardiothoracic surgical journal, and he serves on editorial boards of eight other journals including *Circulation*.

A prolific and productive investigator, Dr. Miller has authored almost 500 publications in peer-reviewed journals. A hallmark of his career has been an intense focus on elemental cardiovascular physiology that underpins the clinical application of surgical techniques. His passion about understanding the basic workings of the heart has been "infectious," instilling in those he has trained a high degree of interest and corresponding expertise. At the same time he has emphasized, and required of his residents and



D. Craig Miller, MD

fellows, extraordinary concentration on surgical precision and the highest possible standards of patient care — and in doing so, has proven to be an inspirational leader.

Among Dr. Miller's previous honors are the American Heart Association's Distinguished Scientist Award; the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Association's Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia Council; the Antoine Marfan Award of the National Marfan's Foundation; the Wilfred Bigelow Award of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, and the Outstanding Achievement in Medicine Award of the Santa Clara County Medical Society.

During this long and laudable career, Dr. Craig Miller has lastingly influenced many lives, combining excellence in teaching with a uniquely personalized, hands-on approach to mentorship and career guidance. I take great pleasure, therefore, in presenting the American Heart Association Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award for 2009 to Dr. D. Craig Miller.

Clyde Yancy, MD, FAHA
President, American Heart Association