CVSA Preps for Sessions 2014

The CVSA Council is actively preparing for Scientific Sessions 2014 in Chicago. Focused sessions on valve surgery, coronary revascularization, left ventricular assist devices and translational therapies are among the many concepts being developed by CVSA Vice Chair and Program Chair Marc Ruel, MD, MPH, FAHA, and CVSA Vice Program Chair Jennifer Lawton, MD. Ruel and Lawton participated in the recent CSSP meeting, where they are gearing up for the next CSSP meeting where the CVSA Council will be finalized.

Collaboration across several cores will be a top priority this year. CVSA looks forward to the high-quality abstracts submitted every year for presentation at Sessions. Accepted abstract presenters will have an opportunity this year to submit their full-length manuscripts for consideration for publication in Circulation or one of the Circulation specialty journals. Young investigators are encouraged to consider submitting their work for the Vision Thomas Competition or for the Young Investigator Travel Grants. Get more information at my.americanheart.org/councilawards.

We are also accepting nominations for the CVSA Surgery Mentoring Award. This award recognizes a senior scientist who has a record of providing exceptional support for scientists in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, anesthesia and other related fields individually and globally through mentorship and advocacy.

Nominations and applications for all CVSA awards can be submitted at my.americanheart.org/cvsawards.

Ruel and Lawton are working with Chicago members of CVSA to select the venue for the CVSA Annual Business Dinner. This event is always highly anticipated and provides a stellar networking opportunity for CVSA Council members. More details to come.

Professional Membership Update

The professional membership update demonstrates global appeal with more than 100 countries represented. There is a new Professional Associate membership program, and early recruitment and retention are priorities. The Council Operations Committee’s goals are to enhance leadership participation and add diversity representation on the Councils. The leadership gift campaign was successful with 100 percent participation and $150,000 raised with nearly 30,000 volunteer hours.

Research Committee Focuses on Population Science

The research committee update focuses on population science—Cardiovascular Genome Population Studies based on Framingham and Jackson heart studies funded with $30 million. Research grants (one $250,000 grant for two years and one $250,000 grant for four years) will be offered annually as interinstitutional and interdisciplinary funding mechanisms that use these databases. Individualized development plans will be added to training grants and part of the peer review process, and lay reviewers have been added to peer review. The lay reviewer will focus on the potential impact the AHA mission, not on the science, and the score will have equal weight to other reviewers.

Three Strategically Focused Research Networks have been chosen: prevention, hypertension and disparities in cardiovascular medicine. Each network consists of three to four research centers with a PI at each center. Based on the network topic, three grant applications (one each in clinical, basic and population science) are awarded. Each will undergo phase I peer review, phase II presentation and conclude with the awardee chosen. The network topics are chosen solely by the board, and topics not chosen are recycled for review.

AHA Initiative Updates

Tobacco Control, My Life Check, CEO Roundtable, At the SACC meeting in Dallas, the CEO update included investment in tobacco control with respect to e-cigarette advertisements directed toward youth. The My Life Check longitudinal tool to follow individual health and, the CEO Roundtable with 24 CEOs evaluating the promotion of healthy habits within their companies. AHA 2020: The AHA 2020 impact goal is, by 2020, to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent. Efforts will target women, children, and multicultural populations and will examine issues related to healthy living, stroke and heart failure. Impact strategies are to reduce sodium intake, decrease sugar-sweetened beverages, promote healthy activity for children and adults, reduce tobacco consumption, control hypertension, modeled after a 90 percent success rate at Kaiser system; reduce stroke with educational ad campaigns to help spot stroke and to act quickly; and monitor outcomes using seven health metrics. Faith-Based Initiative: AHA has an initiative to engage the faith-based sector to create a culture of health among African Americans and Hispanics by educating pastors, who can then educate their communities. Over three years, quarterly engagement by webinar and yearly faith-based roundtables will occur.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEMBERS

The CVSA Council invites you to consider becoming a member. There are several opportunities to participate. Contact Veronica Zamora at veronica.zamora@heart.org to learn how you can become part of this dynamic Council.

Science Advisory Coordinating Committee Reports Initiatives

Laine Tseng, MD, recently represented CVSA at the Science Advisory Coordinating Committee meeting. She reports several exciting initiatives in progress, many of which have significant impact on CVSA membership. The AHA Scientific Meetings Initiative’s first priority is producing the best science, closely followed by offering the best networking and best clinical education. Metrics suggest that AHA meetings ranked higher than other meetings for best science but they need to work on networking and clinical education. Improvements being considered are reaching out to early career members, using technology in education, iTunes streaming and more.

Save the Date for Sessions 2014!

From the world’s leaders in cardiovascular disease, Sessions features:

• 5 days of comprehensive programming
• 10,000+ presentations
• 1,000+ abstract presentations
• 1,600+ invited faculty
• 1,200+ exhibitors showcasing the latest cardiovascular technology and resources

Lead the way in the fight against cardiovascular disease and stroke. Join us in 2014 at Scientific Sessions—compete after a 90 percent success rate at Kaiser system; reduce stroke with educational ad campaigns to help spot stroke and to act quickly; and monitor outcomes using seven health metrics. Faith-Based Initiative: AHA has an initiative to engage the faith-based sector to create a culture of health among African Americans and Hispanics by educating pastors, who can then educate their communities. Over three years, quarterly engagement by webinar and yearly faith-based roundtables will occur.

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Scientific Sessions is the leading cardiovascular meeting in the United States for Basic, Clinical, Translational, and Population Science, with more than 18,000 cardiovascular experts, from more than 105 countries. In addition, there are more than 1.5 million virtual professional attendees.