**Council and Leadership**

I’m pleased to update you on events and happenings involving BCVS. As my first year as your BCVS Chair draws to a close, it’s exciting to think about many positive events. First and foremost, please join me in congratulating Steve Houser, PhD, FAHA, who is our elected AHA president for the 2016-2017 term. Dr. Houser is a longstanding BCVS member and has served the AHA in many critical roles, most recently as Chair of the Research Committee. Congratulations!

I also would like to thank the BCVS leadership for its amazing service and support of our mission. Ronghua Liao, PhD, FAHA, of Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, is our BCVS Vice Chair. Thank you also to Wally Koch, PhD, FAHA, immediate past BCVS chair, who now chairs the BCVS nominating committee. Under his leadership, we have an outstanding roster of named lecturers for Scientific Sessions 2015 in Orlando, Florida. One of the continuing marks of excellence for BCVS is our highly acclaimed annual summer meeting. This year marks the 11th annual meeting, and it will be held July 13-16 in New Orleans. Plan on joining us in New Orleans for great science, superb networking and a host of early career programs. Scientific Sessions 2015 is scheduled for Nov. 7-11 in Orlando, Florida, and BCVS has a stacked program highlighted by several events for early career investigators as well as our Young Investigator competitions. Overall, there are many basic scientists at Sessions, and I look forward to meeting you there to discuss science and our Council.

One of the strengths of BCVS over the last few years has been the growth of our early career programming, and this is due to the excellence in leadership by the Chair of this committee, Maria Kontaridis, PhD, FAHA, of Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Kontaridis will certainly keep up the strong presence for our young people, and we look forward to the continued growth of our programming both at Scientific Sessions and our summer meeting. One of the spring highlights for me was attending AHA Lobby Day in Washington. It was an exciting event and terrific to perceive a responsiveness from our legislative leaders for the need to continue to foster biomedical research in the U.S. Several initiatives are currently under consideration to increase NIH funding, and we should all do what we can to promote this.

I have been honored to serve as your Council Chair for the past year and look forward to my upcoming second year. The future will bring new opportunities for funding, and we can hopefully look forward to an increase in NIH funding in the next few years. I encourage you to get involved with us on the BCVS Council and I’m always open to discussion on how you can help contribute to our level of scientific excellence.

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**Call for Fellowship Applications.**

The BCVS Council considers applications for AHA Fellowship during the spring and fall of each year. The deadlines for the fall cycle is Sept. 1. Visit the BCVS FAHA web page for all the criteria and instructions on how to apply through the online Awardees Fellowship system. Contact me if you have any questions or are in need of a sponsor. I can be reached at jcalver@emory.edu.

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**Basic Cardiovascular Sciences**

**Scientific Sessions 2015**

As we get closer to the start of the Scientific Sessions 2015, I would like to share some of the activities that are associated with the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences.

**Early Career**

- Each year, the BCVS Early Career Committee plans an early career session covering a variety of topics that are related to career development. The session is followed by a reception, during which participants can connect with senior investigators as well as other early career investigators in a relaxed, social setting.

**Award Competitions**

- The Louis N. and Arnold M. Katz Basic Science Research Prize for Young Investigators. This award encourages new investigators to continue research careers in basic cardiovascular science. This award historically has recognized research involving biochemical, cellular and molecular and genetic sciences, and now includes whole animal studies, especially those related to the creation of new genetic lines.
- The Melvin L. Marcus Young Investigator Award in Cardiovascular Sciences Award. This award encourages young investigators to continue research careers in cardiovascular or circulatory physiology. This award has historically recognized physiological research and research in large-mammal studies, and encompasses functional studies in genetically engineered mice or mammals that are the recipients of cell or gene therapy.

**Memorial Lectures**

- The Thomas Smith Memorial Lecture. This lecture was established in 1935 and has been selected as the Smith Lecturer for this year. The lecture is sponsored by BCVS and the Council on Cardiopulmonary, Critical Care, Perioperative and Reanimation. Steven Archer, MD, has been selected as the inaugural Bloch Lecturer.
- The Thomas W. Smith, MD, a pioneer in the application of biochemical, cellular and molecular approaches to investigate cardiac contractility. Stefanie Dimmeler, MD, PhD, of the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, has been selected as the Bloch lecturer for this year.
- The Melvin L. Marcus Young Investigator Award in Cardiovascular Sciences Award. This award encourages young investigators to continue research careers in cardiovascular or circulatory physiology. This award has historically recognized physiological research and research in large-mammal studies, and encompasses functional studies in genetically engineered mice or mammals that are the recipients of cell or gene therapy.

**Don’t forget to purchase a ticket for the BCVS Council Dinner.**

**BCVS proudly sponsors numerous travel awards and grants.**

**AHA Members save up to $300 off registration!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**American Heart Association | BCVS 2016**

**Basic Cardiovascular Sciences**

**Scientific Sessions 2016**

July 18-21 | Hyatt Regency Phoenix | Phoenix, AZ

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**Council Dinner**

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By John W. Calvert, PhD, FAHA

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**Message from the Chair**

Joshua M. Hare

MD, FAHA

Chair of the Research Committee. Congratulations!

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