MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) Council continues to gain members and momentum. In keeping with this growth, the PVD Council is rapidly developing initiatives and expanding on existing endeavors. Recent highlights of our activities include a highly successful all-day Fellow’s Peripheral Vascular Disease Workshop, which was held at Scientific Sessions 2011. There were 220 participants. Many thanks to Alan T. Hirsch, MD, FAHA, Michael Conte, MD, FAHA, and Cindy MacDonough, AHA staff and the speakers and moderators.

Speakers presented abstract sessions on vascular biology, vascular medicine and vascular intervention. Some of our most well-attended and stimulating sessions included ankle-brachial index measurement, critical limb ischemia and comparative effectiveness research in peripheral artery disease.

Also at Scientific Sessions, the Council awarded the first Jay D. Coffman Young Investigator Award to Gregory Piazza, MD, of Harvard Medical School, for his abstract, “A randomized controlled trial of physician alerts to prevent symptomatic venous thromboembolism after hospital discharge.” This prestigious award honors Jay Coffman, MD, from Boston University, an early leader in vascular medicine.

The Council is gearing up for its spring meeting, held April 18-20 in conjunction with the ATVB meeting in Chicago. Please join us for many stimulating sessions regarding arterial and venous disease research and clinical practice. On April 19, the Council will host a luncheon at the ATVB meeting and will award the first Hobson Young Investigator Award for best research abstract. I look forward to seeing you there.

The PVD Council anticipates several new scientific publications in 2012, including statements on:

- Women and Peripheral Artery Disease
- Renal Fibromuscular Dysplasia
- Ankle-Brachial Index Measurement

We welcome your input into suggestions for new statements from the PVD Council.

In the coming months, we look forward to initiatives from our Early Career and Membership committees. I look forward to continuing to work with you to advance science and the Council’s mission.

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Scientific Statements and New Clinical Guidelines on Peripheral Artery Disease

The Peripheral Vascular Disease Council has several writing groups developing scientific statements that summarize clinically topical issues related to peripheral vascular diseases. In 2012, the Peripheral Vascular Disease Council anticipates publication of these scientific statements. They include statements on measurement of the ankle-brachial index, fibromuscular dysplasia and women and peripheral artery disease. A focused update of the “Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Peripheral Artery Disease” was published in late 2011.
Membership in the PVD Council

We encourage membership in the Peripheral Vascular Disease Council. We also encourage members to consider applying for FAHA status in the American Heart Association. Information and an application for FAHA can be found at my.americanheart.org/fellowship.

Commitment to Junior Members

The Peripheral Vascular Disease Council remains committed to promoting the careers of its junior members. Toward that end, the Council recently formed an Early Career-Fellow in Training Committee. The committee provides input to Council leadership regarding the needs of trainees and early career PVD Council members. It will provide feedback about how the Council might meet such needs. It will develop messages and materials regarding Council membership, awards and grant opportunities. It also will assist in developing trainee educational programs and tools. If you are interested in working on this committee, contact Karen Modesitt at karen.modesitt@heart.org.

PVD Spring Meeting Teams with the ATVB Council

The Peripheral Vascular Disease Council will hold a joint scientific meeting with the ATVB Council April 18-20, in Chicago. Four joint PVD/ATVB sessions will be held. More information can be obtained at: my.americanheart.org/atvbsessions.

Sessions planned for the Peripheral Vascular Disease spring meeting with the ATVB Council include:
- Revascularization for Carotid Disease: What Do the Data Support? (Josh Beckman, MD, MS, FAHA)
- Vascular Biology at the Crossroads: Future Opportunities for Science and Medicine (Elizabeth Nabel, MD)
- Pathophysiology and Medical Management of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (Robert Thompson, MD, FAHA)

Please join us for stimulating discussions on these topics.

Also, the Peripheral Vascular Disease Council will host a luncheon April 19 at the spring PVD meeting in Chicago. You may obtain a ticket for the luncheon when registering for the meeting.

Professional Online Network:

An exclusive networking community for the science and research professional.

The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association are pleased to announce the Professional Online Network, a new tool for collaboration and networking within the science and research professional community.

At AHA/ASA, we are constantly working to provide the latest information and tools to help you increase your knowledge and improve your practice. The new site will help you:
- make introductions across specialties
- share and discuss research and clinical topics
- communicate with like-minded professionals

my.americanheart.org