Innovation in Precision Medicine and Big Data at Scientific Sessions

am so proud of the Council on Genomic and Precision Medicine. We are a dynamic, hardworking, enthusiastic and innovative group and these qualities shone through again at Scientific Sessions 2017. Sessions for our council were highlighted by several exciting programs including our second annual Precision Medicine Summit, an Early Career Day, and innovative Big Data and Clinical Genomics boot camps led by our Early Career Committee.

The second annual Precision Medicine Summit opened with an exciting main event session, “The Future of Precision Medicine and Big Data,” highlighting talks about the AI of Us research program, the Million Veteran Program, big data and artificial intelligence, computational health, and impactful uses of electronic health records linked to genome sequencing to identify undiagnosed Mendelian cardiovascular diseases in the Geisinger Health System.

The summit continued with “Rapid Fire Reports from the Research Landscape” highlighting talks about the AHA’s My Research Legacy program, a program where individuals can sign up to share their health, genetic and lifestyle data; results from large cardiovascular consortia including HERMES, CARDiOGRAMplusC4D, the Global Lipids Genetics Consortium, and AFGEN, that have identified important genetic loci for common diseases; cutting edge proteomics technologies to identify novel cardiovascular risk biomarkers; and the eMERGE network which is optimizing use of electronic health records for genomics research. Another program in the summit, Improving Precision in Cardiomyopathies, highlighted the role of genetics in dilated cardiomyopathy. And finally, a new exciting session “Precision in Action” presented multi-

several work around the role of titin variation in dilated cardiomyopathy.

Robert Gerszten, MD, FAHA, was awarded the council Mentoring Award, which honors an accomplished scientist who goes above and beyond with dedicated leadership and success in mentoring individuals in scientific careers. Dr. Gerszten is a physician-scientist and Chief of Cardiology at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and used cutting-edge metabolic, proteomic and genomic technologies to identify novel molecular mechanisms of cardiovascular disease. He gave an amazing multi-disciplinary science talk as part of his award, encompassing human discovery studies, functional genomics and PSCs to elucidate a complete scientific story. Of note, Dr. Muranuru is taking over as the new editor of the AHA journal affiliated with our council, Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics, which has been charged by Circulation: Genomic and Precision Medicine to reflect its (and our council’s) expanded focus. (For more on our council name change, see page 17.)

Congratulations to Jennie Lin, MD, a physician-scientist and junior faculty at University of Pennsylvania, who gave a wonderful talk on “RNA-binding protein A1CF modulates plasma triglyceride levels through transcriptic regulation of stress-induced VLDL secretion” and won our Young Investigator Competition. It was a tough competition with incredible talks from four semi-finalists, including ones from Louis Wang, MBBS, FRACP, from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Mark Benson, MD, PhD, from the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Sarah Parker, PhD, from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. We also awarded Arthur Ko, Jae Gyun Oh, PhD, and John Giudicessi, MD, PhD, Early Career Investigator Travel Grants, and the International Travel Grant to Temo Barvati. Congratulations to these highly accomplished scientists! We are honored that you are part of our council’s family.

I am extremely grateful to the committees and council members for a highly successful Sessions. As we look forward for the next year, we have many new initiatives, and we look forward to working with researchers and clinicians across genetics, metabolomics, proteomics, precision medicine, computational biology, and many more. Please check out our council podcasts “Getting Personal:Omics of the Heart,” led by Jane Ferguson, PhD, FAHA, Chair of our Publications Committee, either through the same titled podcast on your home device or via a stroke data; and http://circgenetics.ahajournals.org/content/podcast-archive-0.

Our council contributes to the mission of the AHA in many ways. Some of our contributions include the cutting-edge workshops that were highlighted within our Chair’s report. However, our council members may not be totally aware of opportunities that exist to become involved with the leadership of our council. Our leadership team is comprised of at-large volunteer members and members that serve on the following committees: the Committee on Scientific Programs/Science and Clinical Education (CSP/SCILL), Early Career Committee, Membership & Communications Committee, Professional Education Committee, and the Molecular Determinants Subcommittee.

The council is always interested in having additional members become engaged as volunteer servant leaders. We are currently seeking members who are interested in serving with the Membership & Communications Committee. Both domestic and international members are encouraged to respond to this opportunity. Feel free to email our council manager, Wayne Bellett, wayne.bellett@heart.org or the Membership and Communications Committee Chair Elvin Price etprice@vcu.edu for additional information.

Opportunities for service and involvement abound within the council