

**TRAINEE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE COMMISSION  
OF  
COUNCIL ON HYPERTENSION**

- PURPOSE:** To support the development of young basic and clinical scientists in the field of hypertension research.
- GOALS:** Improve networking of senior scientists and clinicians with trainees.  
Increase involvement of trainees in Council activities.  
Assess the needs of the current trainees.  
Encourage trainees to designate Council on Hypertension (CoH) as their scientific home.
- REPORTS TO:** Council Chair and Leadership Committee.
- COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** Twelve (12) members, including
- Chair: a senior member of the CoH who will automatically be appointed to the Leadership Committee; chosen by the Leadership Committee. The Chair will liaise with the CoH Nominating Committee with respect to TAC membership.
  - Co-chair: a trainee leader, who will be appointed automatically to the Leadership Committee; chosen by the Leadership Committee in consultation with the Trainee Advocacy Committee chair.
  - Mentor: a senior member of the Council chosen by the Leadership Committee.
  - 9 additional members who are trainee clinicians and/or investigators including graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows, and junior faculty. These members will be arranged into focus areas including, but not limited to: mentoring/networking (including mentoring program), website/media/communications, CoH conference activities, and recruitment/retention of members (liaise with CoH Membership Committee). When possible, each of these focus groups will consist of a junior and senior TAC member to ensure continuity of activities.
- METHOD OF APPOINTMENT:** The Council Chair appoints the Trainee Advocacy Committee Chair. The Council Chair, in consultation with the Council Vice Chair and the Trainee Advocacy Committee Chair, shall appoint Committee members.
- TERM OF OFFICE:** Terms shall be for two-years and shall begin on December 1 and end on November 30. Terms shall be staggered in such a way as to assure continuity. The Chair and Mentor may be eligible for appointment to one additional term.
- MEMBER COMMITMENT:** This committee shall meet by teleconference as needed.
- STAFFED BY:** AHA Science & Medicine Advisor and Program Manager

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

### **Committee Responsibilities:**

- Provide input to the Council Leadership Committee regarding the needs of trainees, and how the Council might meet these needs.
- Compose announcements to trainees on a regular basis regarding Council scholarships, prizes, and grant opportunities.
- Plan and execute the trainee workshop at the Annual Fall Conference.
- Participate in the organization of Hypertension Summer School.
- Create a link on the CoH website for trainees to visit
- Creation of a listserv for trainees
- Assess the needs of current CoH trainees
- Actively recruit beginning scientists and clinicians to the CoH
- Offer a Graduate Trainee Poster Competition for the Annual Fall Meeting
- Participate in the Fall Conference Committee and Scientific Sessions Program Committee, and work to develop other educational programs targeted toward trainees.
- Participate in AHA Scientific Sessions.
- Compose and publish AHA Advisories directed toward young clinicians and investigators, trainees and training programs.
- Develop a Young Clinicians/Young Investigator Newsletter published semiannually that would serve as an excellent source for information regarding: Council scholarships and prizes, AHA grant opportunities, opportunities at the national and local level, the release or publication of new guideline or scientific statements, AHA scientific conference schedule, and current advocacy programs and initiatives.

### **Chairperson's Responsibilities:**

- Attend Leadership Committee Meetings and present Committee report.
- Review minutes of Committee Meetings.
- Lead discussions at meetings and monitor activities.
- Assign responsibilities as needed.

### **Member Qualifications:**

- A member of the Council in good standing at the time of appointment.
- Organizational skills and time availability to be able to meet deadlines and follow through on commitments.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

- Excellent interpersonal relationship skills.
- Demonstrated change management skills such as accountability, flexibility, rational and timely decision making, initiative and innovation.
- Working knowledge of the AHA mission, strategic goals and organization.
- Extensive professional networks within and outside the Council and the AHA.