



# LAY STAKEHOLDERS IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

## ISSUE 13

### 2022-2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It has been a productive and powerful year for the patient community! Achievements include an influential patient voice on AHA research and science committees and projects, new strategies for recruiting more non-scientist volunteers from under-represented groups, and new strategies for scientist collaboration.



**Bernie Dennis**  
Chairperson,  
Lay Stakeholder  
In Science & Research Taskforce

- More than 186 volunteers with varying backgrounds, patient health profiles, caregiver profiles, and AHA volunteer service experience are vetted to serve on the appropriate science and research committees or projects.
- 91 lay volunteers were active patient voices on science and or research committees.

### WHAT A YEAR!

|                               |   |        |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|
| PEER REVIEW                   | ↑ | 17.60% |
| RESEARCH COMMITTEES           | ↑ | 17%    |
| OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEES | ↑ | 16.60% |

### THANK YOU

Many thanks to Richard James and Steven Hood for passionately and faithfully completing their terms on the Lay Stakeholder Task Force.



### SCIENTIST INTERVIEWS

This spring, Task Force members interviewed six AHA volunteer scientists to highlight patient advocate involvement and the value of involvement reminding scientists that the lay stakeholders are active and willing volunteers. Included in the discussion:

- *Why Some Scientists Question the Lay Person Role.*
- *Ways To Increase the Lay Stakeholder Role by Highlighting the Lay Person Experience.*
- *The Thought Process of Purely Science to Understanding How the Practical Experience Will Strengthen the Final Grant or Award.*

Look for more to come...

## THE FISCAL YEAR IS ENDING

The strength of the American Heart Association is in its volunteers.

2022 - 2023 Lay Stakeholder Task Force Members

Bernie Dennis, Chairperson,

Richard James, Elvira Dsouza, Steven Hood, Ronda Johnson, Ronald Perez, PhD, Sandra Perez, Sue Townsel



# ACKNOWLEDGING LAY PUBLICATION AUTHORS



Aortic valve disease is a type of heart valve disease. In aortic valve disease, the valve between the lower left heart chamber (left ventricle) and the main artery to the body (aorta) doesn't work properly. The aortic valve helps keep blood flowing in the correct direction through the heart. A damaged or diseased aortic valve can affect blood flow to the rest of the heart and body.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO LAY STAKEHOLDER MAYA M. BROWN-ZIMMERMAN, M.P.H AND OTHER AUTHORS!

2022 ACC/AHA GUIDELINE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF AORTIC DISEASE: A REPORT OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY JOINT COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Nov. 2, 2022 — The American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association have published a new guideline on the diagnosis and management of aortic disease, focusing on surgical intervention considerations, consistent imaging practices, genetic and familial screenings, and the importance of a multidisciplinary aortic team. To learn more [ACC, AHA Issue Aortic Disease Guideline | American Heart Association](#)

A subarachnoid hemorrhage means that there is bleeding in the space that surrounds the brain. Most often, it occurs when a weak area in a blood vessel (aneurysm) on the surface of the brain bursts and leaks. The blood then builds up around the brain and inside the skull increasing pressure on the brain. This can cause brain cell damage, life-long complications, and disabilities.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO LAY STAKEHOLDER REGINA JOHNSON AND OTHER AUTHORS!

2023 GUIDELINE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH ANEURYSMAL SUBARACHNOID HEMORRHAGE

Published: May 22, 2023 -Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (aSAH) is a significant global public health threat and a severely morbid and often deadly condition. The 2023 guideline presents an evidence-based approach to preventing, diagnosing, and managing patients with aSAH, with the intent to improve quality of care and align with patients' and their families' and caregivers' interests. Many recommendations from the previous aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage guidelines have been updated with new evidence, and new recommendations have been created when supported by published data. It also identifies knowledge gaps and areas of care in need of further research.

[Read the full article in Stroke »](#)

If interested in serving, please contact [Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org) or [Angela.McCarty@heart.org](mailto:Angela.McCarty@heart.org)