



LAY VOLUNTEERS IN SCIENCE

ISSUE 4

FALL 2018

AWARDEES TO BE ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER

PEER ENGAGEMENT NEWS

Furthering Knowledge
in Science



James Young

"About two weeks ago, I completed a certification " Human Biomedical Research Investigators and Key Personnel through the The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) offered through my employer. Completing these modules will make me more astute with any future Lay/Peer review opportunities, I believe. And, obviously, I was motivated to take these courses because of being utilized as an AHA Lay Reviewer."

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION / ALLEN INITIATIVE IN BRAIN HEALTH AND COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

As medical and scientific advancements have extended life expectancies, healthy aging is an urgent frontier for research. The burden of age-related cognitive impairment is growing exponentially – whether from Alzheimer’s Disease, vascular dysfunction, the combination of these, or other causes. These debilitating diseases are costly, both to our health care system in terms of long-term care facilities, and to individuals and their families in terms of personal and emotional toll.

The American Heart Association and the Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group (Frontiers Group) have come together to bridge a historical divide in the scientific and medical community. The current rigid distinction placed between cerebrovascular diseases and neurodegenerative diseases, once considered mutually exclusive conditions, may make it more difficult to understand and mitigate these disorders.

The Association and the Frontiers Group, together with additional contributors, including the Oskar Fischer Project, have committed over \$43 million to disrupt the incremental trajectory of brain health science and **open new frontiers of discovery** that will improve and lengthen lives through the American Heart Association / Allen Initiative in Brain Health and Cognitive Impairment. This Initiative will identify and fund highly-promising teams of bioscience investigators pursuing creative, transformative ideas with the potential to move brain health and cognitive impairment science forward. The initiative will grant one or more competitive basic science research awards of up to \$43 million over eight years.

AHA HAS A NEW MISSION STATEMENT

DID YOU HEAR? Our mission is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

What about cardiovascular diseases and stroke? Why aren't they mentioned anymore? How does the new mission statement change the way you evaluate applications and guidelines during peer review?

While our work remains anchored to our core, we've broadened our focus to meet the holistic health needs of the people we serve.

If our mission is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives, then we must ask different questions when critiquing research applications or guidelines. Reviews might include questions such as,

- ❖ How does the applicant relate to and support the mission of the American Heart Association to **be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives**, as evidenced by his or her science or background experience?
- ❖ Is the proposed research of high impact to the mission of AHA?
Is the Lay summary clear and compelling about the alignment of the research to the mission? Is the applicant thinking globally? Is the science inclusive of the whole human? Is the hypothetical outcome innovative enough to move the mission forward?
- ❖ How will the applicant and/or the proposed research assist the American Heart Association in becoming a catalyst to achieving maximum impact in equitable health and wellbeing?
Does the applicant have history in supporting the AHA? Will the applicant use his or her voice to support a global approach? Has or can the applicant collaborate with others and address passionately the need for life changing science in healthier lives for all humanity?

There are many good questions that could or should be asked before scoring an application as it relates to the AHA mission – Can you think of some? Send us an e-mail elizabeth.cooper@heart.org and let us know what questions we might include in the next peer review.

RECOGNIZING LAY SCIENCE VOLUNTEERS Research Committees and Subcommittees 2018 - 2019

AHA Research Committee	Bill Roach
Peer Review Subcommittee	Debbie Pitts
Strategic Outcomes Committee	Bill Roach
Funding Subcommittee	James Postl Alvin Royse
Bioethics Subcommittee	Debra Lockwood
Portfolio Management Subcommittee	Rita Hernandez-Figi
Oversight Advisory Committees (OAC)	Bill Roach, JD (SFRN Heart Failure) James L. Young, II (SFRN Obesity)
Strategically Focused Research Networks	Sally Powers (SFRN Children's) John Mullenholz (SFRN Vascular) Rita Figi (SFRN AFib) Marciela Wilson (SFRN AFib)
Research Leaders Academy	Bernie Dennis & Debbie Pitts

RESEARCH LEADERS ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

Annually AHA conducts a Research Leaders Academy (RLA). In August the RLA was held in Salt Lake City via invitation only.

- ❖ There were approximately 300 attendees including awardees, thought leaders and AHA leadership.
- ❖ The Academy blended science and practical topics such as *Communicating Science*, *How to Start a Lab*, *Managing Conflict* and *Implicit Bias*.
- ❖ A representative from each affiliate met the attendees from their affiliates.
- ❖ Follow up and relationship building with attending science professionals was encouraged.

Planning under way for the next meeting.



LAY REVIEWERS

Volunteers with a passion for research are welcome to contact Lay Stakeholder Initiative staff Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org or Angela.McCarty@heart.org for more information on how their personal or community advocacy experience with heart disease or stroke, such as survivorship, a family experience, or being a caregiver, can add a voice to research projects.

The volunteer stakeholder is an individual without formal training as a scientist or health professional but who has a strong interest in advancing the prevention and/or management of heart diseases and stroke.



UPCOMING PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS & WRITING GROUPS

- ❖ **Merit Award** Phase I, October 16, 2018 Dallas, TX; Phase II, November 16, 2018
- ❖ **Collaborative Sciences Award 2019**
- ❖ **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Guidelines Writing Group**
- ❖ **Vascular Guidelines Writing Group**
- ❖ **Institute of Precision Medicine: AHA and Amazon Web Services: Data Grants 3.0**

If interested in serving contact Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org or Angela.McCarty@heart.org



UPCOMING EVENTS/RESOURCES

- AHA/ASA Newsroom [News Release](#)
- Learn more about the Paul G. Allen Frontier partnership from AHA leadership [Watch](#)