



# LAY VOLUNTEERS IN SCIENCE

ISSUE 6

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## LAY STAKEHOLDER IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH WORKING GROUP FORMED

The AHA Lay Stakeholders in Science and Research Working Group, chaired by William (Bill) Roach met for the first time on April 17, 2019. The newly formed committee has broad responsibility for engagement of lay stakeholders in all aspects of the AHA research enterprise.

Reporting to the AHA Peer Review Subcommittee the working group is concentrating on additional strategies for recruitment of non-scientist volunteers; engagement during and after involvement in science activities. The working group is also focused on targeting consistent public acknowledgement of lay stakeholder volunteers; training methods and new methods for improving quality. Another charge is broadening the inclusion of the Lay Voice, continued integration between scientists and lay members on AHA science committees; as well as, forming a committee to draft a manuscript describing AHA's efforts and outcomes using lay reviewers on grant review study sections.

## NON-SCIENTIST VOICE IS SHAPING PEER REVIEW

Understanding the impact of science submitted to the AHA for funding is paramount for Lay Stakeholders serving on peer review committees. Now the lay summary required by each applicant will have a bigger impact on scoring. Beginning with the Strategically Focus Research Networks the lay summary will be a scored element for grant applications.

Efforts are in process to educate applicants on the importance of describing their research project for an audience without a science background. The goal is to improve understanding of how each application might accelerate the discovery, interpretation of scientific knowledge to enhance and treat cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular disease. Applicants will be informed that evaluation of this criterion will be influenced by how the lay summary section is written. In turn, Lay Reviewers should be able to better determine how the proposal will impact the AHA's mission, accelerate the discovery, interpretation and application of scientific knowledge to enhance and treat cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular disease.

### ACKNOWLEDGING

#### AHA/ACC SCIENTIFIC GUIDELINES WRITING COMMITTEES

##### Patient Representatives

###### Chest Pain

Theresa Conejo

###### Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

Lauren Evanovich

###### CVD Prevention

Andrew Buroker

###### Revascularization

Jang Jaswal & DiAne Townsel

###### 2020 Valvular Heart Disease

Christopher Toly

###### 2021 Stroke

###### Secondary Prevention Guideline

Debbie Hill



# CALL FOR REVIEWERS

## AHA Announces 2019-2020 Research Programs Involving Non-Scientists

Award Program	Evaluation and Scoring	Peer Review Recruitment Timeframe
<b>Merit Award</b>	Scoring will be based on exceptional scientists with high impact potential, established track records of success, who propose novel approaches to major research challenges in the areas of cardiovascular and neurovascular science.	Recruitment Filled
<b>Collaborative Sciences Award</b>	Scoring will be based on innovative, new collaborative approaches to research projects in cardiovascular and neurovascular science that propose novel pairings of investigators from at least two broad disciplines.	Nov – Dec 2019
<b>Established Investigator Award</b>	Scoring will be based on mid-career investigators showing unusual promise and established records of accomplishments.	Nov – Dec 2019
<b>Strategically Focused Research Networks:</b>	A Network is comprised of three to five institutions, or Centers, working on projects focusing on one strategic area.	
<b>Cardiometabolic Health with a Focus on Diabetes</b>	This Network will support a collaboration of basic, clinical and population researchers from different disciplines whose collective efforts will enhance the understanding of the etiology, biological pathways and modifiable risk factors associated with cardiometabolic disorders with a particular focus on Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM), that will lead to innovative and breakthrough discoveries for the prevention and treatment of diabetes and related cardiometabolic health disorders.	June – July 2019
<b>Health Technology and Innovation (apps, wearables, equipment, etc.)</b>	TBD	



### LAY REVIEWERS

Volunteers with a passion for research in the above areas are welcome to contact Lay Stakeholder Initiative staff [Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org) or [Angela.McCarty@heart.org](mailto: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.