



# LAY STAKEHOLDERS IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

ISSUE 8

## SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 2019



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Aiding in strategies and action plans for non-scientist engagement, three Lay Stakeholders in the Science and Research - Bernie Dennis, Lauren Evanovich and James Young - represented the initiative for the first time at Scientific Sessions in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Norrina Allen guided the group over the course of conference, focusing the patient representatives on relevant oral abstract sessions, rapid fire orals, poster sessions, and moderated sessions in the area of population science.

The Lay Stakeholders were asked to identify five of their most interesting findings. The group selected: Women in Science, Advancement in Building Partnerships & Artificial Intelligence, Early Prevention & CV Health, Disparities in Care, and Focus on Evidence and Transparency.

Lauren Evanovich served on the Wrap-up Session Panel – Trending Topics in Population Science – presenting to an audience of more than 50 attendees. Dr. Allen’s hope is to expand lay stakeholders’ involvement in AHA scientific conferences in the future.

This pilot program was extremely successful for all involved. To quote one of the lay stakeholders *“the opportunity to focus on such a wide variety of topics and experts gave me a much better appreciation for the wonderful work of the AHA”* (Bernie Dennis).

Together with the Sessions Planning Committee I look forward to continuing this effort and expanding it at AHA Sessions in 2020. Ideas such as creating a pre-meeting aimed at educating the lay public on AHA research, providing free/reduced conference registration to lay stakeholders as well as including lay stakeholders on the panel of moderators for appropriate sessions would be opportunities to expand this program.



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## STRATEGICALLY FOCUSED RESEARCH REVIEW

### CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH WITH A FOCUS ON TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS

*"I really appreciate your note and the letter of appreciation... But it is I, who should be thanking you for this tremendous experience. As I said before – I did participate in this process on two previous occasions – via WebEx. Being there in person has a significant advantage. You really feel as if you are part of this entire process. To sit in the room with such brilliant and knowable professionals was so inspiring. You could not treat your lay reviewers with any more respect. During both phases – I could not have felt any more welcome and comfortable. I felt as if my input was truly valued. I thank you for this opportunity. I am excited about sharing this experience with our San Diego Board. I know that you know – we all work so hard to raise money for heart research – and to one of the few who gets to see exactly where that funding goes is such a gift. .... Susan Mahler, PhD*

#### HAVE YOU STRUGGLED TO UNDERSTAND RESEARCH PROJECTS DURING PEER REVIEW?

AHA's Task Force on Enhancing Research Communications is working for you and others. Chaired by Mary Ann Bauman, M.D., this Task Force was formed in the spring of 2019 with the purpose to help AHA-funded researchers communicate more effectively to lay audiences and to the media. The group continues to work and partner with related organizations, which will enable the creation of a series of interactive online learning modules. It is anticipated that user testing of the first set of modules will begin this summer so please check back for updates.

#### CREATING YOUR STYLE OF LEADERSHIP WEBINAR

Tuesday, March 17, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm ET

Guest Speaker: Bernie Dennis, Dennis Associates, LLC

To grow and develop as a leader, you need to define your leadership style. Explore how character, vision, voice, teamwork, and innovation drive the most effective leaders and how these five attributes layered on top of a person's strengths and circumstance define their leadership style. This session will provide you with a view of the skills necessary to lead a high performing organization or team.

Bernie Dennis is the owner/founder of Dennis Associates LLC, a Management Consulting Organization, focused on communications and leadership programs in the technology industry. Bernie is an executive coach and communications advisor. He has co-developed Oracle Corporation's Executive Leadership Program. He has collaborated with some of the nation's most admired thought leaders on the topic of leadership, including faculty at Carnegie Mellon University and George Mason University.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER. Registration will close on March 10, 2020 or when space is filled.

#### UPCOMING PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS & WRITING GROUPS

- ❖ Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) Guidelines Writing Group
- ❖ Institute of Precision Medicine: AHA and Amazon Web Services: Data Grants 5.0

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)