

LAY STAKEHOLDERS IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

WINTER ISSUE 14



So as a survivor, I get to say thank you for your wonderful work...As Chairman of the Lay Stakeholders in Science Task Force I get to say "Well Done!" Your impact sets a high bar for all of us to admire and follow.

Finally, have a wonderful holiday season, enjoy every minute, and know your volunteerism is hugely appreciated!

Bernie Dennis, Chairperson, Lay Stakeholders in Science & Research Task Force

MERIT AWARD

Lay Stakeholder Peer Reviewers: Jim Bischoff, Chandra Fachtelkotter

Jim and Chandra represented the lay community evaluating and scoring their assigned Merit Award applications. This award supports exceptional scientists with established track records of success, who propose novel approaches to major research challenges in the areas of cardiovascular disease and cerebrovascular disease that have the potential to produce unusually high impact. This competition will enable AHA to further develop and strengthen the community of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular researchers and bring innovative approaches to basic, clinical, population and translational studies through funding a variety of disciplines.

INSTITUTIONAL AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT TRAINING

Lay Stakeholder Peer Reviewers: Linda Niggli, Ella D'souza, Richard James, Darin Cecil

Linda, Ella, Richard and Darin represented the lay community evaluating and scoring their assigned applications for the institutional awards given to qualified research institutions that can offer a meaningful research experience to undergraduate college students while encouraging students from all disciplines to consider research careers.

TOP TASKS FOR THE TASK FORCE



Continue To Explore New Methods for Improving Quality

The assigned committee group will review the 2022–23 feedback from interviews with science volunteers. They will use the qualitative findings and themes to develop a plan for how lay stakeholders can continue to best contribute to science and research.

Communicating the Guidelines and Statements to Patients and Caregivers

The assigned committee group will work with AHA Patient Integration and Guidelines staff to determine the feasibility of expanding the lay stakeholder role as it relates to AHA Guidelines messaging for patients.

Continue to Broaden the Diversity of Vetted Science and Research Lay Stakeholders

The assigned group will assist with developing strategies for recruiting non-scientist volunteers, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

ACKNOWLEDGING SERVICE

A Huge Accomplishment For The Inclusion Of Patients In Science And Research!

This year marked a significant development: For the first time, lay stakeholders were incorporated into the Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA) editorial board, under the guidance of Bruce Ovbiagele, M.D., Editor-In-Chief. Lay Stakeholder in science and research task force member and contributor to JAHA's Patient Editorial Board, Elvira D'Souza authored the article, "[In Sickness and Health: Spousal Concordance of Hypertension and Shared Strategies for Management](#)." Ella composed the accompanying editorial presenting a patient or caregiver perspective.

Patient Editorial Board

Teri Ackerson, VA, USA
Elvira Dsouza, NJ, USA
Jang Jaswal, CA, USA
Sally Powers, MN, USA
Cheryl A. Tucker, RN, TX, USA

Our congratulations to all for a milestone achievement for patients and caregivers everywhere.

<https://www.ahajournals.org/jaha/editorial-board>



December 6, 2023, the JAHA published article was featured on the TODAY SHOW. <https://www.today.com/health/diet-fitness/couples-high-blood-pressure-rcna128208>

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