

Outstanding Programming and Face-to-Face Networking Reenergizes Council



The Young Hearts Council has continued its efforts to foster community and create opportunities through the continued efforts set forward from the strategic planning efforts from 2021-22. It has been a whirlwind of activities for the Young Hearts Council over the past two years. We have continued to have increasing content at the annual Scientific Sessions and, in 2023, published the most scientific statements of any subcommittee. We appreciate our Council leadership and subcommittee members for their hard work and dedication to the many initiatives.

A few important updates to keep on your radar:

November 15-18, 2024

Scientific Sessions with increased Young Hearts Content. The meeting will be held in Chicago, and we are pleased to report that our content at Sessions is the highest it has been in years! We have 16 seminars and three oral abstract sessions in addition to moderated and standard poster presentations. For the third year in a row, there is a special half-day pre-session Young Hearts symposium on Friday, November 15, from 12:30 to 5:15 p.m., which requires an additional charge/registration. In addition, there will be additional early career programming on November 15, which is great for fellows in training and early career faculty. We hope the day will provide additional networking opportunities.

New Science Subcommittee Formation

A new subcommittee, the Pediatric and Congenital Critical Care Cardiology subcommittee, has been formed. Recognizing a need to incorporate the critical care community within our council, the proposal was presented to the Council Operating Committee

in January 2024 and received overwhelming support. Our current subcommittees remain very active with numerous scientific statements in progress. The Young Hearts Council has always been one of the leading councils in the number of scientific statements published, and we are not slowing down anytime soon!

New Focused Funding Opportunities

Announced in the fall of 2023, the American Heart Association/Additional Ventures Collaborative Sciences Award provides funding to establish a multidisciplinary network to address the knowledge gaps in single ventricle heart disease. The American Heart Association has also partnered with the Pediatric Heart Network to fund up to three AHA-PHN scholars, providing grants to support early-stage investigators in the field of pediatric cardiovascular disease or adult congenital heart disease. In addition to the above programming, I would like for members to be aware of several upcoming funding opportunities, including the long-standing collaboration with the Congenital Heart Foundation and Enduring Hearts. Several other funding mechanisms include career development awards and institutional research enhancement awards. Please visit the [AHA Research Grant Funding Opportunities](#) site for more information and upcoming grant-related webinars.

Our science subcommittees will be working on additional programming, including fostering our international collaborations, improving cross-council collaboration, and generating educational materials for our patients and families. Please be on the lookout for more opportunities to be involved.

Our council remains focused on serving as the scientific home for all our members, providing resources for development at all career stages and paths. We continue to work to improve transparency, increase diversity, and promote a diverse cardiovascular research portfolio. The AHA continues to offer opportunities such as various grant mechanisms, abstract presentations, and networking. The new advances presented here are tremendous steps forward for our field.

It has been an honor to serve as your Council Chair for the past two years. Getting to know our community and helping advance the council's mission has been incredibly rewarding. Most importantly, it has been wonderful to see the incredible science and the many clinicians and researchers dedicated to improving the cardiovascular health of children and patients with congenital heart disease.

On behalf of the [Council on Lifelong Congenital Heart Disease and Heart Health in the Young](#), I encourage all new and existing members to work with us as we continue to grow and improve. I hand over my role to the very capable Dr. Antonio Cabrera, who will start his term as Chair of the Council on July 1, 2024. I'd also like to welcome Dr. Andrea Beaton, who will become our new Chair-elect. I know they will continue to lead the Council with the spirit of collaboration and innovation, taking us to new heights!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or other members of the Young Hearts Leadership committee, if you would like to learn about ways to become more involved. ■

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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