

FAQs for CVSN Website 2/8/18; REVISED 3/9/18

What are the priorities of the Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing (CVSN)?

- Write papers to disseminate knowledge that advances the science and practice of cardiovascular and stroke nursing as well as guide AHA educational programs.
- Expand and diversify CVSN national and international membership and retention.
- Foster and facilitate a culture of inclusion for CVSN Council members

What are the benefits of joining the CVSN Council?

The CVSN Council provides career-advancing opportunities to:

- Network with nurse colleagues across the country and around the world.
- Learn the latest cutting edge information related to best practices and guidelines.
- Collaborate with colleagues from many different disciplines as it relates to issues important to clinical practice and to research.
- Serve on committees, writing groups, and in leadership roles.
- Receive Council awards for excellence in clinical practice or writing clinical articles
- Receive early career investigator and lifetime achievement awards
- Receive awards for established careers caring for patients/families with stroke or for caring for elderly cardiovascular or stroke patients
- Present work at national/international meetings

For more information, see CVSN Council at professional.heart.org

How do I join the CVSN Council?

To join the council you must first join AHA. When you join AHA be sure to select the CVSN Council. To join AHA you may:

- Visit the Professional Membership page on Professional Heart Daily
- Call Member Support during our business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (ET) at (301) 223-2307 or (800) 787-8984
- Contact member support by sending an e-mail to ahaonline@lww.com
- Print and fax the membership form (pdf) to (800) 787-8985 (Inside U.S.) (301) 223-2327 (Outside U.S.)

How much does it cost to join the AHA?

There are several levels of [AHA membership](#). Costs and benefits differ at each level.

- General membership (\$85/year) includes basic benefits (choice of one council, networking opportunities, eligibility for council grants and awards, AHA Connections Newsletter).
- Early Career (\$81/year) includes basic benefits plus online access to all AHA scientific journals. Early career includes clinicians or investigators who have completed training within the last 4 years or PhDs in their first 4 years after faculty appointment.
- Student/Trainee (\$81/year) includes basic benefits plus online access to all AHA scientific journals. Includes training as undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral or clinical fellow.
- Premium Professional (\$270/year) includes basic benefits plus may affiliate with 2 councils, online access to all AHA scientific journals, access to CME credits, priority housing registration for Scientific Sessions and International Stroke Conference, discounted article publication charges, grant application fee waived, savings on conference registrations.

- Premium Professional Plus (\$465/year) includes Premium Professional benefits plus 25 complimentary hours of Science OnDemand capture products, access to Professional Membership Directory, access to online platform to engage and exchange ideas.

Do I have to be a scientist to join?

No. AHA and CVSN affords numerous benefits and opportunities for clinicians, educators, quality specialists and other role specializations. The AHA strives to accelerate the discovery, interpretation, and application of scientific knowledge to enhance cardiovascular health and treat cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Clinicians, educators and quality specialists are critical to the translation of and application of scientific knowledge in clinical and academic settings. CVSN opportunities for clinicians include:

- Networking with other clinicians around the U. S. and world at the State of the Science Stroke Nursing Symposium (Winter) and the Cardiovascular Clinical Nursing Symposium (Fall);
- Eligibility for CVSN awards including the Clinical Article of the Year Award, Excellence in Clinical Practice Award and Mathy Mezey Excellence in Aging Award;
- Eligibility to join a scientific statement or guidelines writing group;
- Eligibility to join either the State of the Science Stroke Nursing Symposium Planning Committee or the Cardiovascular Clinical Nursing Symposium Planning Committee;
- Eligibility to join AHA's Patient Support Group Network or the You're the Cure Advocacy Network.

How can I get involved in one of the Committees of the CVSN Council?

Work of the Council is completed through work of one of the 14 committees of the Council (i.e., Leadership, Stroke, Awards, Clinical Symposium Planning, Early Career, International, Nominating, Pediatric Nursing, Research Mentoring, SCILL (formerly program planning), Development, Complex Cardiovascular Patient and Family Care Committee and Membership and Communications. Make volunteer interests known by completing an AHA science volunteer form (professional.heart.org/professional/registration/volunteerForm.jsp), and send a message to one of the committee chairs and to the CVSN council chair. (See Council Chairs link on website).

How can I find out about the CVSN Council Awards?

Go to the CVSN website on professional.heart.org and click the link about awards within the Council Chair's welcome letter. You must be a member of the CVSN Council to receive one of the Council's awards.

When are CVSN award applications due?

The application window and due dates for awards changes slightly each year, but usually starts in April and ends in early to mid-June. Go the awards website on professional.heart.org to verify dates for each year.

How do I get involved if I am interested in pediatric prevention or congenital heart disease?

Nurses who care for children and adolescents with heart disease or stroke or who may have an interest in prevention of cardiovascular disease in children may join the Pediatric Nursing Committee. If you are interested in pediatric cardiovascular and stroke research, there is an annual Pediatric Nursing Luncheon held each year at the Scientific Sessions of the AHA. This is an opportunity to learn about pediatric research and to meet nursing colleagues with similar interests from other states and countries.

How do I get involved if I am a Stroke Nurse?

There is a State of the Science Stroke Nursing Symposium Planning Committee and Stroke Nursing Committee of the CVSN which you can join. Responsibilities of the Stroke Nursing Committee include:

- Play an active role in all aspects of the prevention, acute management, critical care, and rehabilitation of stroke patients
- Shape the science pertaining to the care of persons at risk for or with a stroke
- Disseminate information about stroke care
- Address issues relevant to stroke nursing in patients with cerebrovascular disease and stroke
- Develop scientific statements and other professional education materials
- Develop patient education materials for the lay public and health care providers
- Participate in lobbying efforts for research funding directed toward stroke research

What does the CVSN Awards Committee do?

In collaboration with the CVSN Leadership Committee, the Awards Committee formulates policies for awards administered by the council. The committee also reviews award applications and makes decisions about award recipients.

What does the CVSN Development Committee do?

The CVSN Development Committee is responsible for raising funds to be used for CVSN award honorariums, AHA travel grants and/or educational programming activities.

What does the CVSN Early Career Committee do?

The CVSN Early Committee encourages and assists promising students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty as they seek to establish successful careers in nursing science. The committee serves as an advocate for young investigators. Through direct interaction with the Council leadership, the committee works to ensure networking opportunities, career development symposia and service opportunities are available to fit the needs of early career members.

What does the CVSN Nominations Committee do?

The CVSN Nominations Committee is responsible for preparing nominations for: CVSN Council officers; members of CVSN committees; the CVSN Distinguished Achievement Award; and national AHA awards. The committee also reviews CVSN Council member FAHA applications and prepares a slate of FAHA candidates to present to the CVSN Leadership Committee.

What does the CVSN Science and Clinical Education Lifelong Learning (SCILL) Committee do?

The SCILL Committee oversees and prepares curriculum and programs relevant to nursing over 365 days of the year. Programming refers to disseminating educational content through strategies such as online simulations, boot camps and webinars or at Scientific Sessions.

What does the CVSN Research Mentoring Committee do?

The CVSN Research Mentoring Committee facilitates networking and career development of nurse scientists. The committee works to promote high quality cardiovascular and stroke nursing science. The committee provides an opportunity for senior nurse scientists to contribute to the development of the next generation of nurse scientists.

What does the CVSN Complex Cardiovascular Care and Family Care Committee do?

The CVSN Complex Care Committee:

- Updates AHA on complex cardiovascular conditions in adults requiring advanced nursing knowledge and skills and proposes initiatives related to care;
- Proposes related sessions for AHA Scientific Sessions and conferences;
- Proposes, develops, and participates in scientific statements centered on complex cardiovascular conditions requiring advanced nursing knowledge and skills;
- Develops skill sets needed for nurses to facilitate high quality research and evidenced-based patient care related to complex cardiovascular conditions; and,
- Reviews, revises and produces patient education and family care materials.

What does the CVSN Membership and Communications Committee do?

The CVSN Membership and Communications Committee works to grow and retain a diverse council membership. The committee also works to facilitate communication of science via the council's web page and Council Connections newsletter. In addition, the committee submits three editorials per year to the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing highlighting the benefits of membership and participation in scientific sessions.

What does the CVSN International Committee do?

The CVSN International Committee works to develop relationships with international professional societies and federations. The committee also works to encourage the growth of international membership in the AHA and the CVSN Council. Finally, the committee works to identify areas of international need and recommend programs that will address those needs.

What does the CVSN Leadership Committee do?

The CVSN Leadership Committee conducts the affairs of the Scientific Council including: providing input into the AHA's science positions; anticipating areas of scientific relevance to the council's objectives and programs; identifying members to serve on writing groups; providing input into community education and patient education programs; exploring and providing opportunities for early career investigator's to interact and mentor with others in their field; providing nominations to SACC for AHA officers, board and national committee members; maintaining ongoing and open communications with the Council Operations Committee to ensure appropriate fiscal oversight and decision-making based on available funds; and providing oversight and guidance to the Council Membership Marketing Communications Committee and SCILL Committee.

How do I update my professional profile?

You may update your profile by visiting Professional Heart Daily

- Login with your username and password
- Click Dashboard box at the top right corner of the page
- From the Dashboard, click the "Profile Update" link on the right side of the page (under links)
- Once information updated, click the submit button at the bottom

What are learning communities?

Learning communities are part of AHA's Lifelong Learning initiative. Each community provides timely, frequent scientific information with the goal of contributing to the AHA's core mission of knowledge dissemination. Examples of resources for each community include:

- Links to relevant statements and guidelines

- Science news coverage of major AHA scientific sessions
- Regular clinical updates highlighting important research coming out of the 11 AHA journals or other major medical publications.

Learning communities particularly relevant to CVSN include: Behavioral Medicine; Epidemiology; Population and Big Data; Gerontology; Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies; Prevention, Health and Wellness; Quality of Care; Stroke and Neuroscience; and Women and Special Populations. Go to professional.heart.org to link to specific learning communities.