



LAY VOLUNTEERS IN SCIENCE

ISSUE 2

SPRING 2018

YOUR VOICE IS MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Strategically Focused Research Network
on
Vascular Diseases



John Mullenholz and Marvis Donalson's outstanding peer review contribution as Lay Reviewers led to a network of scientists aiming to enhance the biological understanding of vascular disorders. The Network will develop more effective ways to prevent and treat vascular disease with ultimate improvement in patient outcomes.

The awarded centers for Vascular Diseases

- Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
- Northwestern University
- University of Kentucky



Shelly Marshall & Jim Bischoff
Lay Reviewers
Phase I
PCORI-AHA DECIDE Center
Peer Review

PCORI-AHA DECIDE CENTER

In September 2017, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors approved allocating \$2.75 million toward a \$5 million funding opportunity in partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA) to improve the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation (AFib). This AFib initiative will support efforts to develop or adapt shared decision-making tools and test their effectiveness. Jim Bischoff and Shelly Marshall served as Lay Reviewers on Phase I of the peer review on March 14, 2018. Phase II of the review will take place in Chicago in May. During the final phase, applicants will be interviewed in person by the science and lay reviewers to advise on the selection of the awarded Center.

To learn more - [SFRN - Atrial Fibrillation](#)

NEW ONLINE TRAINING TOOL

[Adobe Connect](#) is a collaboration tool that includes video conferencing, application sharing, live polling, chat, whiteboards, and presentations.

Using Adobe Connect, you and other Lay Stakeholders can join a live, on-line meeting from anywhere in the world, as long as you have a browser, [Flash Player plug-in](#), and an Internet connection.

Many thanks to William Bryant and Deborah Pitts for allowing us to run the first pilot with them!

"Thank you for your thorough orientation yesterday and thank you for this follow-up. You make our jobs as lay reviewers much more pleasant and efficient." - Deborah Pitts

RESEARCH LEADERS ACADEMY

More than 320 AHA-funded scientists and research thought leaders convened in Denver, September 17-19, 2017 for the second AHA Research Leaders Academy. When asked if the Academy achieved its objectives of exploring and debating research issues, developing a network for established and emerging CVD and stroke research thought leaders, and advancing AHA Mission and encouraging AHA engagement, 97% of the survey respondents agreed. A common comment from the attendees was that it was a great opportunity to network, connect and build collaborations with other AHA researchers.

Congratulations to Deborah Pitts and Bernie Dennis who will serve as Lay Stakeholder Representatives for the 2018 Research Leaders Academy in Salt Lake City, Utah.

To learn more - [RLA 2017](#)

BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

★ Share information learned with the community and family members.

★ Gain an increased awareness and respect for the importance of the research enterprise.

"Thanks for the coaching. It gives me the confidence to speak up. I really enjoy this process and feel like I am making an impact." - Marvis Donalson

★ Demystify the research process.

★ Satisfaction of contributing to a cure for the prevention for heart disease and stroke.

★ Awareness that your real-world experience can influence the direction of science.

"Thanks! Truly enjoyable experience. The proposed research of all the finalists was truly meritorious, but we got it right on the award-winning investigators." - William J. "Bill" Bryant



RECOGNIZING OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEER LAY REVIEWERS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2018

MERIT AWARDS

Deborah Krueger Pitts William Bryant

STRATEGICALLY FOCUSED RESEARCH NETWORK- VASCULAR DISEASE

John Mullenholz Marvis Donalson

STRATEGICALLY FOCUSED RESEARCH NETWORK- Atrial Fibrillation – PCORI-AHA DECIDE Center Phase I

James Bischoff Shelly Marshall

COLLABORATIVE SCIENCES AWARD

Chandra Fechtelkotter Mark Ridder Andrew Buroker Marcie Wilson

INSTITUTE FOR PRECISION CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

UNCOVERING NEW PATTERNS

Marvis Donalson Rita Figi William (Bill) Roach

ACC/AHA CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE WRITING GROUPS

CHEST PAIN

Theresa Conejo RN

BRADYCARDIA

Bernie Dennis

PREVENTION OF CVD

Andrew Buroker



CALL FOR REVIEWERS



LAY REVIEWERS

Volunteers with a passion for research are welcome to contact Lay Stakeholder Initiative staff Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org or 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.

The volunteer stakeholder is an individual without formal training as a scientist or health professional but who has a strong interest in advancing the prevention and/or management of heart diseases and stroke.



UPCOMING PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS

INSTITUTE FOR PRECISION CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

- Democratizing Data
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Technology



UPCOMING EVENTS/RESOURCES

- Learn more about [AHA Science](#)