**FGTB Council: Vibrant and Growing**

My final column as FGTB Chair seems an appropriate time to reflect on the vibrancy and growth of the Council over the past two years.

- **Our Early Career Committee** has grown into a robust force. The committee organizes the Saturday Early Career Day breakfast sessions at Scientific Sessions, creates podcasts, writes reviews on key papers, selects the annual top 10 research advances for Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics, and is active in growing the FGTB Council. The committee also is initiating a mentoring program for early career members.
- **Membership has grown.** Primary membership has increased from 165 members in May 2010 to 353 members in February 2012. Total membership has grown from 646 members in July 2010 to 867 members in February 2012.
- **Over the past two years, AHA fellows in the FGTB Council have increased from 18 to 42 members. Visit my.americanheart.org/fgtbcouncil.**
- **This past year, FGTB launched a Professional Education and Publications Committee, which has developed two manuscript proposals on FGTB topics.**
- **FGTB tied for second place for AHA Council participation in the leadership gift campaign.** AHA was able to maintain a payline at 21 percent for trainees and early career investigators.
- **The FGTB leadership is committed to the AHA mission, as reflected by the 100 percent participation in the leadership gift campaign.**
- **The growth of the Council has been possible due to the active engagement of our membership and the dedicated efforts of the AHA staff, including Veronica Zamarro, Noreen Parks and Angeline Cohen.** Whether you are an early career or seasoned functional genomics translational biologist or clinician, we welcome your participation. Visit my.americanheart.org/fgtbcouncil.

**Early Career Day at Scientific Sessions**

Continuing an annual tradition, the FGTB Council will have a significant presence during Early Career Day at Scientific Sessions, 2012, in Los Angeles. Held on Nov 3, Early Career Day represents a wonderful opportunity for trainees and early career investigators to interact with senior AHA members and receive advice on how to establish careers in cardiovascular medicine and research. The FGTB Council is organizing a two-part afternoon breakout session.

The first part is a how-to-session covering such topics as research funding for young investigators, how to write a genomics-themed grant, basic concepts in functional genomics and translational biology, applying high-throughput technology to different research fields, going from association to causation and how to use publicly available web-based genomics resources.

The second part repays last year’s popular “Hottest of the Hot” session. Four investigators who participated in some of the FGTB top 10 research advances for 2011 (coryptogenomics, ahajournals.org/content/5/1/h43.extract) will present their cutting-edge work. The day will conclude with the Early Career Reception.

**FGTB Joint Session at ATVB Meeting in April**

The FGTB Council teamed up with the ATVB Council for a plenary session, “Genomics of ATVB Disorders,” April 18 in Chicago (www.youtube.com/watch?v=htTHf4FwDqg). The session featured talks by Sekar Kathiresan, MD, Broad Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital, on the contribution of various types of genetic variants to the risk of myocardial infarction, Willem Oostra, MD, PhD, University of Cambridge, on genomic studies of platelet function and thrombosis; and Kelly Fraser, PhD, University of California, San Diego, on the characterization of functional regulatory elements in the cardiovascular disease-associated chromosome 9p21 locus. The FGTB Council is enthusiastic about opportunities to collaborate with partner AHA Councils and other organizations to promote science and education.

**FGTB Launches Podcast Series, Led by Giulio Agnetti, PhD, FAHA**

Inspired by the FGTB Council’s successful State-of-the-Art Webinar Series coordinated by Anne Kwikst, PhD, FAHA, the Council is launching a podcast series. Spearheaded by Giulio Agnetti, PhD, FAHA, of the FGTB Early Career Committee, and John Ryan, MB, BCh, of the FGTB Membership & Communications Committee, the podcast series will offer audio interviews with junior and senior investigators in genomics, genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics research, and translational science. The goal is to post new podcasts every month. The podcasts will be free of charge on the FGTB Council’s page. Visit my.americanheart.org/fgtbcouncil. (For details.) You can listen to them at your convenience.

**Q&A with Giulio Agnetti**

Astrid Terasil, MD, PhD, FAHA

As I write this column as FGTB Chair, it is my pleasure to introduce and interview Giulio Agnetti, PhD, FAHA, my incoming Chair.

Q: How did you become interested in proteomics?

A: My background is actually in pharmaceutical chemistry. Education works a little differently in Italy so that you earn a “doctoral degree” by completing a four-to-six-year program, right after high school. Pharmaceutical chemistry students are required to prepare a dissertation based on experimental data. Therefore, it’s common practice to attend a lab for a period of one to two years toward the end of the program.

I became interested in how proteins, as I was fond of my applied biochemistry professor, Dr. Gabriele Halim, were being studied. Therefore, I decided to pick biochemistry, as I was fond of my applied biochemistry professor, Dr. Gabriele Halim, right after high school. Pharmaceutical chemistry students in Italy learn differently in that you earn a “doctoral degree” right after high school. I decided to make efforts to develop my own independent research interests in the field well in advance of the study initiation and to set their expectations too high and to conclude with new ideas in the field.

Having initially trained overseas, how has the AHA helped you to transition into being a researcher in the U.S.? I believe that this is an amazing tool to maintain an influx of much-needed new ideas in the field.

**Q: What advice would you give young physicians who are entering the field of proteomics?**

A: Technologies become increasingly cutting-edge, the need for the specialized expertise arises. Mass spectrometry has been a central technology in the development of proteomics, and it will probably gain more attention in the future with the advent of instruments that have both high throughput and increased resolving power. How-ever, this comes with a cost in terms of the exper-tise that is needed to operate these instruments, let alone design the experimental workflow. I would recommend physicians who are interested in approaching proteomics not to set their expectations too high and to contact scientists who have expertise in the field to get feedback before you make any moves. The FGTB Council is enthusiastic about opportunities to collaborate with partner AHA Councils and other organizations to promote science and education.

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