Scientific Sessions Bound

W e are very excited about Scientific Sessions 2013 in Dallas. One of the highlights of this year’s program will be the T. Duckett Jones Memorial Lecture, presented by Jonathan Carapetis, MD. In addition, four CVDY Early Career Investigator Award finalists will be honored, and a winner will be named at the annual CVDY Council Dinner (and Rashkind lecture) slated for Nov 19.

We recently concluded our biennial review and received high marks for many areas, including our Council’s strong record of publications. Our early career program received recognition for events at Sessions as well as the unique visiting professorship program. For the first time, we will have an early career lunch on Monday during Scientific Sessions. We also will offer the popular Saturday afternoon program. Please visit my.americanheart.org/cvdycouncil for the latest program information.

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In Memoriam:
Robyn Barst, MD, FAHA

T he membership of CVDY is greatly saddened by the passing of our colleague and former Chair, Robyn Barst, MD, FAHA, after her courageous battle with lung cancer. Barst was a preeminent leader, innovative scientist and empathic clinician with a renowned career focused in the area of pulmonary hypertension.

She took on the challenge of this complex and often frustrating condition on behalf of all of us, dealing effectively and compassionately not only with the patients themselves but also with their families and their referring physicians. Early in her career Robyn’s seminal work in the basic science laboratories at Columbia and N.Y. Medical College set the stage for her leadership in developing scientific insights that resulted in a new generation of effective therapies for this vexing problem.

During her clinical years at Columbia, the clinical trials she organized touched the lives of countless numbers of patients providing them with improved quality of life and hope for an opportunity at life itself. She was involved with the CVDY Leadership Committee for over a decade serving as Chair from 2000-2002. For many years, she served as Advocacy Chair, bringing the message of our Council’s mission to our national political leadership. Barst was professor emerita of Pediatrics and Medicine at Columbia and a graduate of the University of Rochester and of the UNC School of Medicine in 1969. He completed his pediatric residency and cardiology fellowship at Texas Children’s Hospital at Baylor in Houston where he practiced pediatric cardiology and electrophysiology.

Paul Crawford Gillette, MD, 70, passed away on Jan. 20, 2013, in Winston-Salem, N.C. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1969. He completed his pediatric residency and cardiology fellowship at Texas Children’s Hospital at Baylor in Houston where he practiced pediatric cardiology and electrophysiology. Gillette was an internationally respected children’s heart specialist who cared for thousands of patients over the span of a 40-year career. He was a pioneer in children’s electric heart disease and received the Pioneer in Pacing and Electrophysiology Award from the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) in 1998 and the Founder’s Award from the Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2009. He mentored many of the pediatric electrophysiology experts in the field today.

Gillette was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, Crawford P. and Eileen M. Gillette, and survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Vicki Zizler, two daughters, Noelte Gillette Cloven and Catherine Michelle Homer, four grandchildren, his sister Patricia Gillette, his loyal chocolate lab Cinnamon, and many devoted friends, colleagues and patients. He will be missed by many and remembered by all.

In Memoriam:
Paul Crawford Gillette, MD

• International Joint Sessions
• Cardiovascular Nursing
• Cardiac Anesthesiology
• Early Career/PVD Fellows in Training Workshop
• Case Theaters: Learning at the Movies
• More than 5,000 presentations from:– 1,000+ abstract presenters (oral and poster)
– 1,000+ invited faculty
– 1,000+ advanced panels (oral and poster)
– Late-Breaking Clinical Trials
– Late-Breaking Basic Science
– Meet the Thought Leaders: Conference
– Global Congresses On Physical Activity and Fitness from around the world in areas of epidemiology, basic and clinical sciences, prevention science, rehabilitation, public health and governmental policy
– Case Theaters: Learning at the Movies
– Early Career/PVD Fellows in Training Workshop
– AOPI Programming Tracks – Tracks cover: case-based, translational, clinical and population science

To focus your education on your specialty or expand your knowledge in other areas.

To register or to view the full program, please visit my.americanheart.org/cvdycouncil.
In Memoriam: Robyn Barst, MD

Barst was professor emerita of Pediatrics and Medicine at Columbia and a graduate of the University of Rochester and of the UNC School of Medicine. Her pediatric cardiology fellowship was completed at Columbia. She was the recipient of numerous grants, awards, and honors, and she was involved in several hundred publications, chapters, editorials as well as additional scientific abstracts and presentations.

Her role was fundamental to the development of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, and she served in important leadership roles for that organization. Barst’s contentious contributions to the care of patients with pulmonary hypertension will long be remembered. Her personal attention and compassion for the children and their families who suffer with this terrible disease will never be forgotten.

She is survived by her husband, Sam, a distinguished pediatric allergist and her daughters Nomi and Lindsey. The CDHY membership expresses its heartfelt condolences to them. At our annual dinner at Scientific Sessions 2013, CDHY will award Barst the Award for Meritorious Service. Our deepest regret is that this award is made posthumously.

In Memoriam: Paul Crawford Gillette, MD

Paul Crawford Gillette, MD, 70, passed away on Jan. 20, 2013. Gillette was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Dec. 1, 1942. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1969. He completed his pediatric residency and cardiology Fellowship at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston where he practiced pediatric cardiology and electrophysiology until 1984. He served as the division director at the Medical University of South Carolina from 1984 until 1996, when he moved to Fort Worth, Texas. He continued an active clinical practice in Denton, Texas. Gillette had recently retired after a long and illustrious career.

Gillette had an internationally respected children’s heart specialist who cared for thousands of patients over the span of a 40-year career. He was a pioneer in children’s electrical heart disease and received the Pioneer in Pacing and Electrophysiology Award from the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) in 1998 and the Founder’s Award from the Section on Cardiology and Pediatric and Congenital Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2009. He monitored many of the pediatric electrophysiology experts in the field today.

Gillette was truly a giant in our field. I had the great good fortune of getting to know him well when I accepted the position of pediatric cardiology chief at MUSC in 1997. He held the same position from 1984 until 1996, when he left to build another program at Cook Children’s Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Vicki Zeigler, PhD, RN, maintained a home in Charleston, S.C. for a number of years, and he participated as a faculty member in our first EP conferences there.

He was familiar with many of his academic accomplishments, but he came to know and value him personally during that time. However, it was after his death that I finally came to know what he meant to so many people. In late fall of 2012, he was elected for one of the first two Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Pediatric and Congenital Electrophysiology Society (PACEs), along with Grace Wolff, MD. Well-deserved honors.

I coordinated the awards ceremonies that were held at our annual PACES and HRS meet- ings. There were times in Denver following his death. We were fortunate to have moving tributes by John Kugler, MD, Tim Garson, MD, MPH, Peter Karpowich, MD, Mike Silka, MD, and Zeigler, which gave me deeper understanding of Paul Gillette as a mentor, friend and family member, and provided some lovely thoughts, which I will paraphrase here.

Tim Garson, MD, MPH
Director, Center for Health Policy
University Professor, University of Virginia

Our deepest regret is that this award is made posthumously. I would like to share some of Paul’s thoughts about his career and his impact on the society. Paul was a fast study, he was confident and he did not fear failing, which he rarely did. This made him an exemplary leader and teacher.

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In the first generation of pediatric electrophysiology, Gillette was the academic leader and spokesperson. Working with Garson, Gillette wrote the multiple textbooks that served to define our field. For those who struggle to write a few papers, imagine the effort required to author multiple textbooks regarding a completely novel field.

Finally, Gillette was generous with his success, that he truly enjoyed teaching others and he was equally willing to promote the careers of others. He enjoyed what he did, as he enjoyed life, he was a positive influence. He had a natural application to those who didn’t realize what they could do. He was a fast study, he was confident and he did not fear failing, which he rarely did.

One of my lasting memories of Paul Gillette is that he was almost always in a good mood. His consistent feature was his smile and positive attitude. As a first-year Fellow, I remember he was exceptional in his willingness to include us in what he was doing and make us feel part of the program.

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Peter Hesslein, MD, Seattle

“Paul was the man who could get more out of the Fellows than anyone. He knew progress came from doing things right and always looking at the details, a concept he instilled in all of us. He brought EP into the modern realm. He always had a smile and words of encouragement… he wanted his Fellows to think and project into the future.”

Larry Latson, MD, Cleveland (Interventional Cath)

“Paul became interested in pediatric cardiology when he was in medical school in Charleston, S.C., in the late 1960s when Arno Hohn, MD, allowed him to assist with a cardiac catheterization in a baby. He went on to Texas Children’s Hospital for residency and Fellowship where he met Dan McNamara, MD, whom he revered. Paul went to him with his initial ideas about arrhythmias in children and his desire to record electrical activity within their hearts, which McNamara supported and encouraged. He had a huge impact on Paul’s life and career.

When Paul came to MUSC in 1984, it was to build a world-renowned pediatric cardiology program, which he did. He initiated a Fellowship program and patients came from around the globe for his expertise. Paul always seemed to have a following. He had this uncanny ability to see things in people that we could not see in ourselves, including me.

He encouraged us, gave us faith in our abilities and made us strong in our clinical skills. He taught us to deeply care for and about our patients, both physically and psychologically, and to treat their families with respect. Although he saved hundreds of lives, the few that he lost affected him the most. He led by example. Paul built confidence in others by cultivating each individual’s strengths and talents, making him a true mentor and not just a teacher.”

Vicki Zeigler, PhD, RN

Wife and Professor of Nursing

“I have so many memories of Paul during my early Fellowship year: I rode to the hospital with him most mornings; we made the first pot of coffee for the office (he taught me to put in 1.5 bags of coffee per pot); he championed the need for Fellows to do research and this really helped David Driscoll and me; as a Fellow when he would think about a new Porsche, he would drive it by my house; our love for Porsches grew together; he did not get too angry when I once put a phone book in his carry-on suitcase before he left the hospital for a trip, and until he got to the hotel he wondered why his bag was so heavy!”

Bill Pinsky, MD

“I had the incredible good fortune to learn pediatric electrophysiology from PCG, and he taught me so much more than the science. PCG had the keenest mind, the largest heart, the most delicate hands (it was a treat to watch him move a catheter) and the strongest guts. He was terrific at baseline but there was no one else who one would rather have in a crisis than him. We had many crises in the early days of ablation and to have PCG standing there with his broad back, feet planted wide, calmly communicating orders was something I have always hoped I could emulate some day (maybe the day will still come…)!

Bill Balaji, MD

Gillette lived a full life. His passion for life included diverse interests, such as his love for Porsches, sailing, NASCAR or any other car racing, and his family. Paul had significant health issues over the past 20 years, but he never let them keep him from working or enjoying his life. He always remained optimistic and ready to go to the next level.

Paul Crawford Gillette was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, Crawford P. and Eileen M. Gillette, and survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Vicki Zeigler, two daughters, Noelle Gillette Cloven and Catherine Michelle Horner, four grandchildren, his sister Patricia Weaver, his loyal chocolate lab Cinnamon, and many devoted friends, colleagues and patients.

He will be missed by many and remembered by all.”

By J. Philip Saul, MD