

Dr. Griffin Q&A

1. **As a dedicated member of the American Heart Association, could you give a little insight on what originally drew you into the association?**

"I am a physician scientist with a focus on hypertension-related target organ injury. The AHA's Council on Hypertension Annual Meeting was an ideal venue for attending sessions with cutting edge developments in the field presented by world leaders in hypertension research and also afforded the opportunity to interact and network with researchers in the field."

2. **Would you say there was a defining moment within your membership that you realized the American Heart Association is not just an organization to "join" but a place where you can continue to grow in?**

"After attending and presenting my work at the annual meeting, I was asked by members of the Council on Hypertension to join the Professional Education and Publication Committee. This committee provides ideas for educational materials and guidelines for individuals afflicted by hypertension and those caring for these patients. It was during my time as a member of this committee that I realized that this organization afforded its members access to far reaching opportunities to improve the lives of patients with cardiovascular diseases."

3. **As our AHA members familiarize themselves with the robust offerings of AHA membership, which benefits would you say you personally maximize on year over year?**

"Working with a very dedicated staff of the AHA and professional colleagues toward the common goal of the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease is very rewarding."

4. **If you could promote three key benefits of AHA membership what would they be?**

"Interacting and networking with world renown researchers, opportunities for growth within the organization, and being a part of something that can positively influence healthcare are just some of the reasons to join the AHA."

5. **The Council on Hypertension proudly sponsors numerous awards, honorary lectureships, and travel grants, each of which honors outstanding and notable researchers and clinicians, early career investigators or medical students. As our members prepare their submissions, due May 7th, what advice would you give them?**

"Whether you're a researcher or clinician, the Council on Hypertension recognizes those individuals that are outstanding in their field via a number of distinguished awards and lectureships spanning early career to lifetime achievements."

6. **AHA works hard to support all members and make their participation informative and advantageous. How do you feel AHA best supports Early Career Professionals?**

"The opportunity for oral abstract presentations, availability of early career research and travel awards, and presenting their work at poster sessions moderated by established"

investigators provide our early career members a variety of opportunities for recognition and mentorship. There are also several grant mechanisms to assist the early career investigator as they begin work in the lab as well as during their transition to independent investigator status."

- 7. Within your years as an active member of the American Heart Association has there been one moment that you are most proud of?**

"I would have to say being elected by the members of the Council on Hypertension to serve a 2-year term as the Chair of this very prestigious Council beginning 12/1/2018 is quite an honor and a position that I will use to advance our mission within the AHA."

- 8. As you are aware, the Hypertension Joint Scientific Sessions 2018 will take place in Chicago. Any city secrets or must-do's that you would like to share with our members?**

"Chicago is my home town and without a doubt a world class city nestled along 26-miles of breath taking Lake Michigan coastline. As for our attendees, Chicago has something to offer for everyone whether you fancy the fine arts, care to savor the taste of delectable cuisines, listen to the famous Chicago Symphony Orchestra, or wander around several world class museums - your only regret will be that you did not plan a longer stay."