Our Council on Hypertension (COH) continues to make significant progress in our efforts to address hypertension as a national health issue, both as a professional forum for scientific investigators and clinicians and from the viewpoint of effective treatment strategies for patients.

Recently, members of COH, Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease, and new members from ASH met for a joint Hypertension conference from Sept. 6-9 in Chicago, Illinois. This premier scientific meeting on hypertension not only focused on recent advances in basic, clinical, and population research on hypertension but also on the most effective means for detecting, evaluating, and treating high blood pressure across diverse populations. I would like to thank Karen Griffin, MD, FAHA, Jan Basile, MD, FASH, FAHA, Michael Bloch, MD, FASH, FAHA, and other members of the scientific programming committee for an outstanding job! Although our 2018 meeting was highly successful, we hope to have an even better meeting in 2019. Mark your calendars now for our 2019 Hypertension Scientific Sessions, Sept. 5-8, at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This is my last message as Chair of COH. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on our leadership committee as well as all members of COH for their support over the past few years. We made important progress in many areas including the merger of ASH members into the COH and increasing interaction with the Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease. Our council will be in good hands with the leadership of Dr. Griffin as chair and Curt Sigmund, PhD, FAHA, as our new chair-elect.

Joey Granger
PhD, FAHA

Connecting with the Chair

Greetings from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)!

I know many of you are talking about the increase in the NIH budget. Of course, any increase in budget is always good news and very much welcomed; however, it is always important to place it in context. In previous years, we have been operating under a continuing resolution, meaning that many programs and activities had to be curbed as a result. With the FY2018 budget, the NHLBI can continue to operate under the following FY2018 Funding and Operating guidelines (www.nhlbi.nih.gov/node-general/fy-2018-funding-and-operating-guidelines).

Although highlighted before, I would like to reemphasize changes regarding submission of applications for Program Projects (P01s) and Clinical Trials as there still appears to be some confusion about these changes. The major differences in the P01 submission are: PPGs will be limited to one competitive renewal; an Administrative Core will no longer be required but is optional; PO1 applications including an Early Stage Investigator (ESI) as a Project Leader may have a larger budget cap per year if at least four projects are included in the application. More details on the new application and review process can be found at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-405.html.

Please contact your Program Officer at least three months in advance for guidance and more detail about the submission process.

NHLBI has changed the policies and procedures for the acceptance, review, and funding of investigator initiated clinical trials. For information on how to submit single-site investigator-initiated clinical trials, please see grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-405.html. For information on how to submit multi-site investigator-initiated clinical trials, please see grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-301.html. Since there has also been some confusion as to what actually constitutes a clinical trial, the NIH definition of clinical trial can be found at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-015.html.

Plan now to attend 2019 Joint Hypertension Sessions

Christine Maric-Bilkan
PhD, FAHA

Professional Members save on conference registration!

professional.heart.org/meetings
American Society of Hypertension Report

By the time you read this column, ASH will have been dissolved and has now fully merged with the AHA Council on Hypertension. This and future columns will discuss the clinical perspective of council! All former ASH members have by now hopefully become members of the Council on Hypertension.

We have just concluded our 2018 AHA Council on Hypertension and AHA Council on Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease meeting in Chicago, Illinois, at the Hyatt Regency Sept. 6-9. Brent Egan, MD, most deservedly received the Marvin Moser Clinical Hypertension Award. We continued to have our clinical track alongside the basic science presentations making our overall experience more scientifically rewarding. The content, including the Advances in Hypertension on both Sept. 6-7, the Clinical Practice/ Clinical Science Program within the basic science tracks, and the primary care program presented on the weekend, was well received. Especially well received was the session on the 2017 ACC/AHA Guideline for the Treatment of Adults with Hypertension and how it differs from the European, Canadian, and other guidelines that have been or were just recently released. Hearing the concerns of the American Academy of Family Physicians and American College of Physicians who were not part of the 2017 guideline allowed an understanding of an alternative approach to blood pressure targets.

Previous ASH members who were designated with FASH have now received their FAHA (Fellowship of the AHA) designation. A path to FAHA designation for all council members is well established on the AHA web site at professional. heart.org/hypertensioncouncil. In addition, the AHA has taken over the application to become a Hypertension Center of Excellence. Practices can apply for one of two hypertension center accreditation designations: comprehensive hypertension centers, for hypertension treatment centers in academic medical centers or large multispecialty clinics, and hypertension practice centers, for private or group medical practices. You can learn more at heart.org/certification.

We continue to be actively involved in the AHA Hypertension Leadership Committee. The AHA’s Scientific Publishing Committee and staff determined it was in the science community’s best interest to concentrate on supporting one journal focused on hypertension, Hypertension. Accordingly, the final issue for ASH members of the Journal of the American Society of Hypertension (JASH) will be in December 2018. Plans for the future of JASH are still being discussed with the publisher of that journal and Dan Levy, MD, FASH, the editor of JASH. Dr. Levy has done a tremendous job with that journal and has an impeccable international reputation. We are grateful for his leadership and remain hopeful that his editorial skills will continue to enrich our hypertension community.

We are now planning for the 2019 Joint Hypertension meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, Sept. 5-8 at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel.

Trainee Advocacy Committee Report

We had another successful annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois! Congratulations to all trainees, who once again enriched our council’s Scientific Sessions and contributed so much to lively discussions of superb science in hypertension and associated diseases. Together with our partners, the International Society of Hypertension New Investigator Committee (NIC), the Hypertension journal and the AHA’s Membership Managers, we not only celebrated six outstanding clinical and basic science presentations, but we also recognized the hard work of many other trainees and their poster presentations.

This was a very special year for the Trainee Advocacy Committee (TAC). As you may be already aware, the TAC was able to create the new Stephanie Watts Career Development Award, an award supporting young investigators working in hypertension and cardiovascular research who show exceptional promise but may be currently unfunded or have limited access to extramural funding.

Together with Data Sciences International, we hope that our inaugural awardee will be able to be successful. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our friends at DSI. Thank you for all the support you have been giving to our trainees and us for the past few years now.

As you can see, the TAC is very focused on paving the way to success and a fulfilled career trajectory for many trainees. I hope you had time to stop by our TAC booth and were able to take advantage of the many opportunities presented there. This is an expanding activity for us, and we would like to hear from you how we can improve it and what to do to make it even better.
**Advocacy Report**

Reminder: In order to stay on top of the most up-to-date policy issues important to the Council on Hypertension, please make sure that you are part of the You’re the Cure network (yourethecure.org).

New hypertension center certification aims to improve the outcomes of patients with complex or difficult-to-treat hypertension

Physician practices now have access to new resources to improve their standard of quality care for hypertension treatment based on the latest science. A new certification offered by the American Heart Association aims to improve the outcomes of patients with complex or difficult-to-treat hypertension while partnering with medical practices and implementing evidence-based hypertension treatment guidelines.

Practices can apply for one of two hypertension center accreditation designations: comprehensive hypertension centers, for hypertension treatment centers in academic medical centers or large multi-specialty clinics, and hypertension practice centers, for private or group medical practices.

Certification for hypertension centers was previously administered by the American Society of Hypertension, which announced in 2017 that it was dissolving as a singular enterprise and its organizational leaders and members would align with the mission and framework of the American Heart Association. These organizations have worked together to address dangers of hypertension by funding innovative research, advocating for stronger public health policies, and providing critical tools, education, and information to save and improve lives.

**Membership Report**

Encourage your colleagues to join the Council on Hypertension. Membership in our council provides valuable benefits and opportunities including:

- Up to $900 savings on our annual Scientific Sessions
- Up to $400 savings on each of seven other specialty conferences
- Savings for On Demand Sessions and Stroke programs
- Notification of research funding opportunities
- Accessing all 11 AHA/ASA scientific journals online
- Enjoying over 50 opportunities annually for networking
- Opportunity to become a Fellow of AHA
- Complimentary/discounted online education offerings for CME credit

Fellowship in the American Heart Association recognizes an individual’s outstanding scientific contributions in hypertension and his/her volunteer leadership and service to the American Heart Association. Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a Fellow of the Council on Hypertension? The process for nomination is simple! Information regarding the submission process is located in the Council on Hypertension section at professional.heart.org/fellowship, or you can contact me at jsasser@umc.edu. I will be happy to assist you with the process. The next deadline for nomination is Jan. 10.

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Why not submit your manuscript to Hypertension today!

In Case You Missed It…

• Hypertension Top Paper Award recipients were honored at the Joint Hypertension 2018 Scientific Sessions in Chicago. Visit Hypertension’s website (hyper.ahajournals.org/content/TopPapers) to read the award-winning articles.

• We continue to add to the journal’s library of clinical-pathological conference videos and articles. Visit our website (hyper.ahajournals.org/content/clinical–pathological-conferences) to view or read the most recent clinical cases.

References

1 2017 Journal Citation Reports® (Clarivate Analytics, 2018)
2 Average for previous 12 months

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