Preface

The 62nd Annual Fall Conference and Scientific Session of the American Heart Association Council for High Blood Pressure Research in Association With the Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease

R. Clinton Webb

This supplemental issue of Hypertension contains selected articles based on presentations at the 62nd Annual Fall Conference and Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association Council for High Blood Pressure Research (CHBPR), held September 17 to 20, 2008, in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting was cosponsored by the Council on Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease (CKCD). The conference was a huge success, with attendees from around the world. The program committee and Drs Gabriel Navar, Chair of the CHBPR, and Jeff Sands, Chair of CKCD, are to be congratulated.

The council meeting was preceded by a workshop on “Novel Signaling Paradigms in Vascular and Renal Disease.” Drs Nancy Kanagy and Mathias Barton organized the workshop, and more than 250 individuals attended. The workshop ended with a presentation by Dr Paul Vanhouette titled, “The Past, Present and Future of Signaling in the Vascular Wall.” Dr Vanhouette’s talk also opened the fall conference. There were 727 registered attendees at the main council meeting, and 423 abstracts were selected for presentation as oral and poster communications. In addition to the free communications, presentations by award recipients contributed to an excellent meeting. The awards presented at the meeting recognized outstanding achievement in hypertension research.

The premier award of the CHBPR, given to investigators who have made outstanding discoveries in hypertension research, is the Novartis Award for Hypertension Research. The recipients of the 2008 Novartis Award were Drs Mordecai P. Blaustein, John W. Funder, and J. Carlos Romero (Figure 1). Dr Blaustein, Professor of Physiology and Medicine at the University of Maryland, was honored for his pioneering discoveries on the sodium-calcium exchanger and its role in the increased vascular tone characteristic of hypertension. Dr Funder, Professor of Medicine at Monash University and Senior Fellow at Prince Henry’s Institute of Medical Research, was honored for his seminal studies characterizing mineralocorticoid receptors in the kidney and other tissues. Dr Romero, Professor of Physiology and Medicine and Director of Hypertension Laboratories at the Mayo Clinic, was honored for his discoveries on the interactions of prostaglandins and the intrarenal renin-angiotensin systems in the control of renal function and for the innovative and pioneering development of imaging approaches allowing physiological assessment of regional blood flow in the kidney.

The Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by an endowment from Monarch Pharmaceuticals, was presented to Dr K. Bridget Brosnihan, recognizing her outstanding achievements in the field of hypertension and her service to the CHBPR (Figure 2). Dr Brosnihan is Professor and Codirector of the Molecular Medicine Program at Wake Forest University.

The Harriet Dustan Award, sponsored by Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins, was presented to Dr Suzanne Oparil, Director of the Vascular Biology and Hypertension Program and Professor of Medicine and Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Dr Oparil is the first recipient of this award, and her lecture was titled, “Estrogen...”
and the Female Arteries: The Secret to a Long Life” (Figure 3). This award recognizes women investigators who have made outstanding contributions in the field of hypertension. The award was established to honor the memory of Dr Harriet Dustan, an outstanding clinician and investigator who was a tireless worker on behalf of the CHBPR and the American Heart Association for more than 50 years.

Dr Gregory D. Fink presented the Arthur C. Corcoran Memorial Lecture on “Sympathetic Activity Vascular Capacitance and Long-Term Regulation of Arterial Pressure.” Dr

Figure 2. The Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award. Shown is Dr K. Bridget Brosnihan.

Figure 3. The Harriet Dustan Award. Shown is Dr Suzanne Oparil.

Figure 4. The Arthur C. Corcoran Memorial Lecturer. Shown is Dr Gregory D. Fink.

Figure 5. The Lewis K. Dahl Memorial Lecturer. Shown is Dr Edward Inscho.
Fink is a Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Michigan State University (Figure 4). Dr Edward W. Inscho, Professor of Physiology and Director of the MD/PhD Program at the Medical College of Georgia presented the Lewis K. Dahl Memorial Lecture on “Mysteries of Renal Autoregulatory Control” (Figure 5).

The Donald Seldin Lecture was presented by Dr Mark A. Knepper, Senior Investigator and Chief of the Laboratory of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (Figure 6). His lecture was titled, “The ‘New’ Systems Biology and the Action of Vasopressin in the Kidney.”

Distinguished Achievement Awards of the CHBPR and CKCD were presented to Drs Robert M. Carey (David A. Harrison II Distinguished Professor of Medicine, University of Virginia) and L. Lee Hamm (Huber Professor and Chair of Medicine, Executive Vice Deanwal Tulane University School of Medicine), respectively. These awards recognize an individual’s contributions to the affairs of a scientific council over a continuing period of time.

The 3 finalists selected for the Harry Goldblatt New Investigator Award were Dr Steven D. Crowley, from Duke Medical Center; Dr Hiroyuki Kobori, from Tulane University; and Dr Kamal Rahmouni, from the University of Iowa. This award recognizes a new independent investigator working in hypertension or cardiovascular research who has significantly contributed to our understanding of the causes of hypertension and related cardiovascular disease. Dr Crowley was selected as the winner for his presentation on “Angiotensin-I Receptors on Bone Marrow Cells Modulate Kidney Injury in Hypertension” (Figure 7).

From the meeting, there were 92 articles submitted for consideration, and all were subjected to rigorous peer review. Of these, 25 were accepted for publication and represent some of the important research presented at the meeting. Unfortunately, many meritorious articles could not be accepted. Only those that required minor or no revisions could be accepted for publication in this supplemental issue. Dr John Hall, the Editor-in-Chief, encourages the submission of articles from the meeting to be considered for publication in a regular issue of Hypertension.

The editors want to express their appreciation to those who reviewed the articles submitted for this special issue of Hypertension. They regret that only a small representative fraction of the many excellent articles submitted could be published in these proceedings.
It is with great appreciation that we acknowledge the many reviewers who have selflessly served the research community by reviewing articles for the Proceedings for the Council for High Blood Pressure Research in Hypertension for 2008.

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