

**AHA/ASA Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing Council: Liaison Report from the Clinical
Cardiovascular Nursing Symposium Planning Committee**

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For nearly 100 years, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) has been fighting heart disease and stroke, striving to save and improve lives. The mission of the AHA/ASA is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Every November, the AHA/ASA Scientific Sessions is held to provide the latest cutting-edge science and education for those in the fields of cardiovascular clinical, population, or basic science. Although AHA/ASA's Scientific Sessions is heavily focused on science and research, clinicians and educators are welcome to attend alongside scientists and researchers. It is a well-established fact that clinicians and educators are critical for translating scientific knowledge into practice.

The Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing (CVSN) Council plays an essential role in the overall mission of the AHA/ASA through helping to develop scientific statements and advisories, determining the nature and scope of professional education activities, providing scientific expertise and conducting research as well as promoting translation/application of new knowledge and evidence-based practices in clinical settings.¹ In 2009, a group of clinicians from CVSN were asked to form a committee to plan an educational program geared toward nurse clinicians (i.e., staff nurses, advance practice nurses) providing direct patient care, and nurse educators. The first Cardiovascular Nursing Clinical Symposium was held in 2010. Ten years later, the Symposium is still going strong. Initially, the Symposium began as a smaller "meeting-within-a meeting," with a separate fee to attend. As time went on, the Symposium became integrated into AHA/ASA Scientific Sessions with the separate fee no longer required.

The one-day Cardiovascular Nursing Clinical Symposium is designed to provide cutting-edge information for clinicians who care for patients with cardiovascular disease and stroke. The mission of the Symposium is to provide the most advanced, credible and significant healthcare advances in order to provide the most current evidence-based practices for optimal patient outcomes. The purpose of the Symposium is to disseminate research findings and provide examples of how to translate those findings into practice.

The Symposium Planning Committee includes a chair, a vice chair, the immediate past chair, and up to 7 additional members from various cardiovascular specialties. The chair of the Symposium also serves as a member of the CVSN Leadership Committee. All Symposium planning meetings are held by teleconference. On average, planning the Symposium requires 4 to 5 one-hour teleconference meetings. Planning committee members are encouraged to attend AHA's Scientific Sessions. All committee members are provided an opportunity to participate as moderators for the sessions at the Symposium and most committee members take advantage of this opportunity.

Speakers at the Symposium share innovative and proven best practices for patients with complex cardiovascular disease and stroke. The planning committee members suggest individuals who are able to speak on a wide variety of cardiovascular topics that cover different cardiovascular specialties. Each year relevant sessions on heart failure, stroke, electrocardiography, pharmacology, and other cardiovascular topics of interest are included. A highlight of the Symposium is the keynote talk, which focuses on a unique aspect of cardiovascular disease. Examples of past keynote talks have been: Precision Medicine, Pharmacogenomics, Global Burden of Heart Disease, and Transitional Care for High-Risk Patients. The process for selecting speakers and alternate speakers is the responsibility of the members of the Symposium planning committee. Finally, at least one panel discussion occurs during the Symposium. This November 2020, Cynthia Dougherty, ARNP, PhD, FAHA, FAAN, the current Chair of the CVSN Council, will deliver the keynote address, titled "Looking Beyond the Device: Setting the Stage for a New Normal After an ICD." In addition, there will be discussions on new cholesterol medications, novel heart failure innovations, the new United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) heart transplant guidelines, patient caregiving dyads in heart disease, and a panel discussion on cardiac monitoring. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a discussion on the Neuro-COVID patient.

The CVSN Council affords many benefits for nurse clinicians and educators. Clinicians are critical to the translation and application of scientific knowledge in clinical settings. Benefits of

membership in the CVSN Council include networking with others from the United States and internationally, eligibility for CVSN awards such as the Excellence in Clinical Practice Award, and eligibility to join a committee or writing group.¹ If you would like to become involved in the CVSN Clinical Symposium Planning committee, please join the AHA and the Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing. We look forward to seeing you (virtually) this year at the 2020 Scientific Sessions and the Clinical Cardiovascular Nursing Symposium!

References

1. American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing (CVSN). CVSN Council FAQs (PDF)
https://professional.heart.org/professional/MembershipCouncils/ScientificCouncils/UCM_320474_Council-on-Cardiovascular-and-Stroke-Nursing-CVSN.jsp. Accessed June 6, 2020