The AHA Hypertension Scientific Sessions 2016 took place in Orlando, Florida at the scenic Disney Dolphin Resort. The conference was well attended by labs based in the Americas and Europe, as well as some representatives from farther east. A key change to the format of the conference was the expansion of concurrent sessions, allowing for an increase in the number of oral presentations by one third. Approximately 430 abstracts in total were presented.

Prior to the start of the conference, The Trainee Advocacy Committee of the Council on Hypertension in conjunction with the ISH New Investigator Committee offered a special half-day workshop on how to prepare for professional careers, targeted specifically towards students and early career investigators. Dr. Randall Ribaudo, co-founder and CEO of the career-development SciPhD, presented on how to translate scientific experience and accomplishments into critical skills that companies value. The workshop also provided attendees with an interactive training focused on networking, resume and interview preparation, and self-assessment.

One of the main talking points from the opening day was the discussion of the keynote lecture on the SPRINT trial presented by Dr. William Cushman. Drs. Ernesto Schiffrin, Suzanne Oparil, and Kenneth A. Jamerson discussed their views on intensive blood pressure treatment versus standard care, and later answered audience questions. The feasibility and relevance of automated blood pressure monitoring throughout the world was a key issue that was raised during the discussions. Overall, panellists and audience agreed that the trial results may prompt changes in the guidelines for the management of hypertension.

As always, investigators in all stages of their careers who have made noteworthy contributions to hypertension research were recognised through awards and special lectures. Key among them was Dr. David Robertson, who was presented with the Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on the neural regulation of heart rate and blood pressure. Dr. Meena Madhur was recognised with the Harry Goldblatt New Investigator award for her work on the role of cytokine interleukin 17 in hypertension. Drs. R. Ariel Gomez and Suzanne Oparil shared the Novartis Excellence Award for Hypertension Research.

There was once again a large presence of students and early career investigators at the council meeting, contributing in terms of exuberance and exciting original research. Of note, Dr. Mariane Berganolli, winner of the Hypertension Early Career Award, presented on the association between circulating endothelial colony-forming cells dysfunction and cardiovascular alterations in young adults born preterm. In a session on Immune Mechanisms in Hypertension, Dr. Antoine Caillon presented on the first experimental demonstration of the key role played by gamma delta T cells in the development of angiotensin II-induced hypertension.

The meeting closed with noteworthy changes to the council leadership committee and some important developments. Dr. Joey Granger will be the new Chairperson and Dr. Augusto Montezano will lead the Trainee Advocacy Committee.

Immediate Past Chair Dr. Christopher Wilcox talked about the proposed merger of the American Society of Hypertension with the current AHA Hypertension and Kidney councils for a unified yearly meeting. It will be interesting to see how this development impacts the programming and execution of the next meeting in San Francisco.

-Oneeb Mian
Since 2011 the ISH New Investigator Committee has partnered with the Trainee Advocacy Committee of the American Heart Association Hypertension Council in promoting new investigator activities at the AHA Hypertension Council Scientific Sessions. The annual trainee poster session is a notable product of this working relationship. Held in the evening of the opening day, the session is always very well attended, setting the tone for the remainder of the meeting.

I have had the privilege of participating in this session for several years, first as a trainee and more recently as a judge and can personally attest to the quality of this year’s session. This session was also noteworthy for a greater presence of clinical studies, including award winner Lyndsey DuBose (“Greater 24 hour blood pressure variability is associated with higher 24 hour systolic blood pressure and glucose independent of age and large elastic artery stiffness in normotensive adults”).

A special thanks to members of the ISH New Investigator Committee, the AHA Trainee Advocacy, and all faculty who volunteered their time to ensure a supportive and constructive environment for the next generation of researchers in hypertension.

A total of 22 posters were awarded across 4 categories (undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty) and are listed below.

**Undergraduate**

- **Eduardo Dias Jr.**
The role of the adrenoreceptors beta 3 on metabolic syndrome induced by fructose

**Graduate**

- **Kim Ramil C Montaniel**
Inhibition of miR-762 prevents and reverses Ang II induced aortic stiffening
- **Lyndsey E DuBose**
Greater 24 hour blood pressure variability is associated with higher 24 hour systolic blood pressure and glucose independent of age and large elastic artery stiffness in normotensive adults
- **Alissa A Frame**
Impaired central, renal, and blood pressure responses to alterations in fluid and electrolyte homeostasis in aged Sprague-Dawley rats
- **Sabrina R Gonzalez**
Renal localization of salt inducible kinase-1 and its regulation in Doca/salt hypertensive rats
- **Jin Wei**
Enhanced Nos1-beta in the macula densa contributes the diabetic hyperfiltration
- **Amanda Kennedy**
Chemokine-like receptor 1 mediates the vasoconstrictor actions of chemerin in vitro and in vivo
- **Filipe Conti**
Combined exercise training is better than isolated aerobic and resistance exercise training for an experimental model of metabolic syndrome and menopausal rats

**Postdoctoral**

- **Julio Gallego-Delgado**
The high blood pressure-malaria protection hypothesis
- **Robin C Shoemaker**
Mas receptor deficiency regulates obesity-hypertension and cardiac function in female and male mice
- **Seungbum Kim**
Butyrate, a microbial metabolite attenuates angiotensin II-induced hypertension and gut dysbiosis
- **Bryan K Becker**
Bilateral renal denervation attenuates hypertension in male rats deficient of functional endothelin B receptors but does not affect salt sensitivity
- **Gianluca L Perrucci**
Hypertension enhances the differentiation of cardiac fibroblasts into myofibroblasts after TGF-beta 1 treatment
• Cesar A Romero
Connecting tubule-glomerular feedback in renal hemodynamics and blood pressure after unilateral nephrectomy

• Jing Wu
Cullin3 regulated endothelial function by modulating eNOS activity

• Chetan N Patil
Hypertension in postmenopausal women: role of renin angiotensin system and eicosanoids

• Theo A Meister
Assisted reproductive technologies increase the vasoconstrictor responsiveness to Ang II by an epigenetic mechanism

• Francisco J Rios
Protective role of TRPM7 kinase against vascular dysfunction and fibrosis induced by aldosterone and salt

Junior Faculty

• Jose A Gomez
A new role of Sox6 in blood pressure through renin regulation

• Huxing Cui
Lateral hypothalamic leptin and melanocortin signaling in the regulation of sympathetic nerve activity and blood pressure

• Yanfei Qi
Spiny mice are protected from myocardial infarction induced cardiovascular pathophysiology

• Joshua S Speed
High salt intake desynchronizes the molecular clock in rats

-Dylan Burger

Follow ISH New Investigator Network activities on social media

www.twitter.com/ISHNIN

www.facebook.com/ISHNIN

You can also find us on YouTube and LinkedIn