

AFMR News

January 2007

Newsletter of the American Federation for Medical Research

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From the President

Happy New Year! As we enter another season of regional and national meetings, AFMR is pleased to once again be able to offer presentation opportunities and scholarships to so many young researchers throughout the country. This year, AFMR Scholar's Programs continue to help support travel and networking opportunities for fellows and junior faculty at the **Western Regional Meeting** in Carmel, the **Southern Regional Meeting** in New Orleans, and the **Midwest Combined Meeting** in Chicago.

The annual **AFMR National Meeting** will be held this April at **Experimental Biology 2007** in Washington, DC. We are taking advantage of this East Coast opportunity to bring back an **Eastern Regional Meeting**, something which has not occurred in several years and which our Eastern membership has missed. Like the other regional meetings, the emphasis for this Eastern meeting will be on providing opportunities for presentation and publication for trainees and for networking with other regional colleagues.

The EB 2007 meeting will also continue to showcase AFMR's very successful **Translational Research Symposia** (four symposia over three days, <http://www.afmr.org/eb.cgi>) and, new this year, a joint AFMR-NIH sponsored **Translational Research Development Workshop** to be held on Saturday evening, April 28th. With these wonderful opportunities, plus the presentation of the AFMR Outstanding Investigator, Junior Physician Investigator and Henry Christian Awards, I hope you will be able to join us in Washington for EB 2007.

Challenges of the New Research Environment

Over the past decade, AFMR has faced a number of challenges. Foremost, new membership has ebbed during this time for both apparent and not-so-apparent reasons: subspecialties have

(continued on page 4)



Jonathan Q. Purnell M.D.

Washington Highlights

AFMR's Public Policy Efforts have included:

Monitoring Implementation of CTSA's

- ◆ Crafted a letter sent to the Director of NIH, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, regarding the potentially detrimental effects CTSA's have on GCRC's on behalf of the American Federation of Medical Research (AFMR), the Association for Clinical Research Training, the Association for Patient-Oriented Research, and the General Clinical Research Centers Program Directors Association.
- ◆ Provided input on a letter, sent by Senator Kennedy, to Dr. Zerhouni that followed up on AFMR's concerns regarding implementation of CTSA's. Sen. Kennedy's interest in this issue was encouraged by AFMR's request for his office to further investigate the effect CTSA's may have on clinical research and the training of young investigators.
- ◆ Set up meetings for the Chairman of the AFMR Public Policy Committee, Meredith Hawkins. Dr. Hawkins met with staff in Senator Clinton's office, Senator Dodd's office and the HELP committee on topics such as medical research and CTSA's.
- ◆ Secured language in the FY07 HHS Appropriations Committee report: *"Support of Clinical Investigators"*

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Western Regional Meeting ~ January 31- February 3, 2007

Sunset Center ~ Carmel, California

Western Association of Physicians Symposium

Wednesday, January 31, 2:30 - 5:00

Interplay of Oxidative Stress, Inflammation, Dyslipidemia and Hypertension in the Pathogenesis of Cardiovascular Disease - Topics: Convergence of Lipid and Oxidation Hypotheses of Atherosclerosis, The Vicious Cycle of Hypertension, Oxidative Stress, and Inflammation, and Homocysteine, B Vitamins and Cardiovascular Disease.

Plenary Symposium

Thursday, February 1, 8:30 - 4:00

Infection, Immunity, and Impact on Global Health

Speakers include: Lawrence Corey, University of Washington, Jeffrey Duchin, University of Washington, Thomas Hawn, University of Washington, Regina Rabinovich, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Jane Schaller, University of British Columbia.

State-of-the-Art Talks

Friday and Saturday

Student Subspecialty Award Winner Poster Session

Thursday, February 1, 2007, 6:00 - 8:00

at the Monterey Beach Resort, 2600 Sand Dunes Drive, Monterey. All attendees for the Carmel Meetings are welcome and encouraged to attend.

AFMR Scholar Award Reception for Fellows and Jr. Faculty Awardees

Friday, February 2, 2007, 6:00 - 9:00

Breakfast with the Investigators Sessions

Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings

New Investigator Workshops

Thursday and Friday

Southern Regional Meeting ~ February 8-10, 2007

Hotel InterContinental, New Orleans, Louisiana

Manuscript Preparation and Peer-Reviewed Publication

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00

This workshop will address multiple aspects of publication in scientific journals, including preparation of materials and the initial decision that the data are sufficient to justify publication. Issues will include length, focus, adherence to journal formats, and referencing. The editorial process from submission to publication will be described, as well as ethical issues in publication.

Evidence Based Medicine in 4 Hours or Less: An Introductory Workshop

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00

This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the fundamental steps of evidence based practice, including formulating well-built clinical questions, finding information efficiently, critically appraising the information, and applying the information to individual patient care applicable to a variety of clinical care settings. Participants will get a good idea what aspects of EBM they wish to pursue in their own continuing education.

Toolkit to Survive in Academic Medicine

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00

This workshop is designed for senior fellows and junior faculty who want to succeed in academic medicine. The workshop will outline clinician-scientist and clinician educator track in academic medicine and tips/tools to survive and succeed. Specific details of expectations for various tracks in research, service and teaching will be presented. Participants will have opportunity to discuss the challenges and barriers to succeed in academic medicine in panel discussion session. Participants will be paired with a mentor for tailored discussion of their curriculum vitae.

Changing Incentives to Improve the Quality of Care

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00

This special symposium will focus on how physician pay-for-performance (P4P) incentive programs at the Veteran's Administration and other health systems are impacting clinical and academic medicine. Participants will learn about model P4P programs including the structure of incentive programs and specific core quality measures aimed at improving care quality. A panel of experts from both VA and non-VA health systems will provide overviews of their systems followed by open dialogue with attendees about the benefits and downsides to such incentive programs.

Clinical Case Symposium

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 4:00

The Adult or Pediatric Clinical Case Symposium is devoted to the presentation and discussion of clinical case abstracts highlighting diagnostic and/or management issues. Clinical case descriptions, unique characteristics, treatment/interventions, and results/outcomes are all suitable for presentation at the Clinical Case Symposium. There will be two concurrent sessions: Adult and Pediatrics.

Joint Plenary Session

Saturday, February 10, 2007, 9:00 - 11:30

"Big Promise in Small Packages: Advances in Nanomedicine"

Central Society for Clinical Research & Midwestern Section AFMR Combined Annual Meeting ~ April 12-13, 2007

Hard Rock Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

Two plenary sessions, which cross subspecialty lines, will be moderated by Department Chairs from various Midwestern institutions. Each Department Chair has invited three outstanding research trainees and/or junior faculty from their institutions to present their research. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session designed to provide an interactive format for the presenters and attendees.

Added for 2007, an Oral Abstract Session will highlight the three best abstracts in each category. The submitters of the top three abstracts will have the opportunity to present their work orally in addition to receiving a travel grant.

The CSCR will once again present the Hickam Lecture and the MW AFMR will also host a Keynote Speaker. In addition to the plenary and oral abstract sessions, there will be a Welcome Reception and Poster Session on the evening of April 12 and a Luncheon Poster Session on the afternoon of April 13.

Fifty (50) grants in the amount of \$1,000 each will be made available to K08, K23 and K30 Awardees on a first-come, first-served basis. Outstanding Young Investigator and Cardiovascular Awards, along with the Trainee Travel Awards and the MWAFMR/Centocor Scholar's Program in Gastroenterology, Rheumatology, and Immunology, will once again be offered on Friday afternoon at the 2007 Combined Annual Meeting. The 2007 Combined Annual Meeting will take place immediately prior to the annual meeting of ASCI/AAP.

Thursday, April 12, 2007

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	CSCR Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	MWAFMR Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Poster Author Set-Up
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception and Poster Session
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	CSCR Sugar Club/Midwest Metabolism Dinner

Friday, April 13, 2007

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Registration open
7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Poster Author Set-Up
8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Opening remarks by the CSCR President and the MWAFMR President Presentation of Awards
8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Department Chair Session 1 Steven D. Shapiro, MD, Chair, Department of Medicine University of Pittsburgh Medical College
9:20 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Department Chair Session 2 Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD, Chair, Department of Medicine Washington University School of Medicine
10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	MWAFMR Keynote Speaker David A. Schwartz, MD MPH, Director National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program
1:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	Oral Abstract Session
2:05 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.	CSCR Hickam Lecture Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, President Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine Professor of Pediatrics, Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School
2:55 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.	CSCR Business Meeting
3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	MWAFMR Scholar's Program David A. Schwartz, MD MPH

From the President (continued from page one)

become stronger, meetings have proliferated, NIH funding has undergone wild swings, and mentors have retired or moved out of research and into administrative duties. These are some of the more obvious explanations but are also the realities of the changing research environment. Through strong leadership that helped stabilize finances we now have the opportunity to shape the future direction of AFMR. A recent membership survey helped identify what was important to our members, and what we as a society could offer to help our members in their professional development and careers. Your responses have been very informative. First, we have a very strong core of committed constituency, albeit one that is getting older, and we need to recruit and retain new trainees and junior faculty. Second, demand is high for opportunities for training in career development, grantsmanship, and manuscript writing, especially at the regional meetings. Third, advocacy for the clinical investigator in Congress remains a strong priority. And fourth, recognition of the leadership opportunities in AFMR, which have tremendous advantages in career advancement and networking, is low. Based on these responses, we have begun a number of new initiatives, a few of which I have highlighted below.

AFMR Action Items

We realized that investment in young researchers through various scholarship offerings, and providing more mentoring opportunities were the best way to encourage young clinicians to join AFMR. As a result, AFMR has instituted a new program of **Research Day Awards**, which have been offered at a number of institutions around the US to provide monetary awards for outstanding research by medical students and trainees, and which will again be offered in 2007. Also, in 2006 we created a **Summer Internship Program** (<http://www.afmr.org/2006-summer-clinical-research-training-awardees.cgi>) that provides stipends to medical students working on summer research projects with AFMR members. This was tremendously popular and will also be continued in 2007.

The **AFMR website** also has undergone significant updating, with several pages added which focus on areas most important to young researchers. The site has also been redesigned for easy navigation and access to the various meetings and award opportunities. On the publications side, the AFMR is partnering with the K30 directors on a new educational review series for the *Journal of Investigative Medicine*. *JIM* has grown in both quality and quantity of papers and reviews over the past few years, and is attracting interest in both the medical field and the pharmaceutical industry. Last year *JIM* went online with an archive of past issues, all searchable and available to all AFMR members.

At the Western and Southern regional meetings, AFMR has been pleased to sponsor **New Investigator Workshops**, aimed at providing practical advice to young investigators on grant writing and other important topics in career development. Another improvement for 2007 will be a new and transparent election process for AFMR leadership, which is designed to open the floor to all AFMR members and bring new blood into the leadership chain. Look for a call for nominations this spring.

Focus on AFMR's Core Mission

The result of these combined efforts is a stable membership which has once again begun to grow. We at the AFMR realize that there are many societies which compete for members, and hope that our continued commitment to the young physician researcher, be they basic or clinical scientists, and focus on the core components of our mission to facilitate scholarship, career development, and leadership opportunities for young scientists and their mentors will continue to bring AFMR back to full strength.

I urge you to spread the word about AFMR and encourage not only your colleagues to join, but to reach out and recruit medical students, residents and Fellows. Please join me we enter this new year in continuing the efforts to grow and improve AFMR. Jonathan Q. Purnell, M.D.
Portland, Oregon

AFMR Awards

The American Federation for Medical Research Foundation was established in 1989 to foster medical research and support programs aimed at developing the careers of physician scientists. The Foundation collaborates with other organizations to fund special research award programs, promote initiatives that enrich the education of research trainees, and honor outstanding achievements in the biomedical research community. The following awards will be given in 2007.

Applications are available on the AFMR website: www.afmr.org.

Henry Christian Awards - These awards began in 1990 to honor the founder of AFMR, Dr. Henry Christian. In 2007, the awards will be given to the presenters and first authors of outstanding abstracts submitted in each abstract category for the Experimental Biology 2007 meeting in Washington, DC (April 28 – May 2, 2007). Candidates must be physicians who are post-MD trainees, including residents, clinical fellows, physicians pursuing graduate degrees, and other post-doctoral fellows. The awards are supported by a grant from Merck. Awardees receive a Certificate of Excellence and a \$1,000 honorarium.

Outstanding Investigator Awards - An Outstanding Investigator Award is presented annually to an outstanding investigator age 45 or younger in recognition of excellence in biomedical research. To be considered, individuals must be nominated by two individuals using the OIA nomination form (available on the AFMR website at www.afmr.org). The Award recipient must be available to present his/her work at the AFMR National Awards Program at the Experimental Biology 2007 meeting in Washington, DC (April 28 – May 2, 2007). The winner receives an Outstanding Investigator Award and a prize of \$5,000.

Junior Physician-Investigator Awards - These awards were created to honor young investigators whose research projects complement an overall program of research, teaching and clinical medicine. To be considered, a candidate must be a physician who has held a full-time medical school faculty appointment for five years or less. Candidates must have submitted abstracts to the Experimental Biology 2007 meeting and will be judged on both the quality of the abstract submitted and their career accomplishments. Applicants must submit a letter of support from their mentor, division chief, or department chair along with the attached application. A plaque and \$2,500 will be presented to two winners in 2007.

General Eligibility - To qualify for consideration of an award, applicants must be AFMR members in good standing. If you are not currently an AFMR member, you must submit a membership application along with the award application.

Washington Highlights *(continued from page one)*

The Committee believes that NIH should give the highest priority to programs and policies that support the work of clinical investigators who translate laboratory findings to improved patient care. While the Committee supports the goals of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA), the initiative appears focused largely on the training of new clinical investigators and may result in a diminution of resources currently available to active clinical researchers. The Committee is concerned, for example, about whether the clinical services currently provided by General Clinical Research Centers will remain available to funded clinical investigators, particularly those in institutions that do not compete successfully for a CTSA. The Committee encourages the Director to monitor this closely and take steps to assure that the necessary clinical research infrastructure support is maintained for NIH-funded clinical investigators.

The Committee is particularly supportive of the component of the CTSA award that will make support available to researchers for pilot studies to collect preliminary data and offer researchers the opportunity to progress to research project grant support. The Committee requests a report by March 1, 2007 on the extent to which CTSA award funding or other NIH roadmap grants are being dedicated to this type of support for investigators.”

Advocating Improvement of Peer Review of Clinical Research

- ♦ Secured language in the FY07 HHS Appropriations Committee report regarding Peer Review through ongoing efforts and conversation with legislative staff.

“Peer Review of Patient-Focused Research”

The Committee remains extremely concerned about analyses by the Center for Scientific Review confirming that grant applications focused

on patient-oriented research are less likely to receive funding than laboratory research grant proposals. The Committee encourages the Director to take steps to eliminate this disparity. The Committee is pleased that the NIH roadmap is focused on efforts to improve the training of clinical investigators. However, these efforts can only partially succeed if these researchers are at a disadvantage in the peer review process. In addition, the Committee is concerned that the peer review system may be failing to recognize the merit of applications that could lead to medical breakthroughs. The Committee encourages the Director to appoint a committee of clinical investigators with experience as NIH grant reviewers to recommend specific steps that should be taken to eliminate the disparity in the review of laboratory and clinical research applications. The Committee requests a report by March 1, 2007 on steps that are being taken to address problems highlighted in a 2002 General Accounting Office report including the lack of reliable methods for identifying and tracking patient-oriented research applications or reviewers.”

Monitoring Budget and Advocating Increases in NIH Funding

- Produced multiple grassroots alerts, requesting AFMR members to contact Congress regarding NIH Funding
- Continued to monitor NIH funding:

Congress failed to pass a FY07 HHS Appropriations bill at the end of this year and was forced to pass a continuing resolution (CR), which will extend funding for most federal agencies through February 15. Shortly after the last CR passed, the incoming chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Rep. David Obey (D-WI) and Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) announced their intention to enact a year-long CR, minus all earmarks, when the 110th Congress convenes in early January.

NEW THIS YEAR *at* Experimental Biology 2007

AFMR Translational Medical Research Development Workshop*

Saturday, April 28, 2007 – 4 – 6:45 pm - Room 154A

A workshop focused on current government, industry and foundation initiatives, as well as practical approaches to foster translational research and researchers.

Speakers at this research and career development symposia will include: Barbara Alving, NIH; Dr. William Galey, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Dr. Richard Murray, Merck & Co., Inc.; Deborah Zucker, M.D., Ph.D., Chair, Tufts New England Medical Center.

SYMPOSIUM I

Sunday, April 29, 2007 – 10:30 am to 12:30 pm – Room 146B

“PPAR : a Novel Molecular Target in Lung Disease”

Mike Hart, M.D., Chair

Emory University and Atlanta VA Medical Center

SYMPOSIUM II

Tuesday, May 1, 2007 – 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm – Room 146C

“Role of Adipose Tissue Macrophages in Obesity-Induced Insulin Resistance”

Meredith Hawkins, M.D., Chair

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

SYMPOSIUM III

Wednesday, May 2, 2007 – 8:00 am to 10:00 am – Room 145A

“Biomarkers of Acute Kidney Injury- Early Diagnosis, Pathogenesis and Recovery”

**Chirag Parikh, M.D., PhD, Chair
Yale University and VAMC**

SYMPOSIUM IV

Wednesday, May 2, 2007 – 10:30 am to 12:30 pm – Room 147B

“Calcific Aortic Valve Disease: A Disease Process Comes of Age?”

Kevin D. O’Brien, M.D., Chair, University of Washington

**The workshop is supported by a grant from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of NCRR or NIH.*



Calling All Candidates for AFMR National Council

The AFMR Nominating Committee is looking for qualified candidates to serve the AFMR at the national level, as a member of the AFMR National Council. If interested, please visit the AFMR website at www.afmr.org and download the Candidate Profile Form.

NEW AFMR MEMBERS

Shema Ahmad, M.D.
Jackson, Mississippi

John Anderson, M.D.
Dallas, Texas

Corey Ball, M.D.
Lubbock, Texas

Tandeep Bhatti, M.D.
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Michel A. Boivin, M.D.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Henda Bouali, M.D.
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Birmingham, Alabama

Maria O. Cardenas, M.D.
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Lubbock, Texas

Everado Cobos, M.D.
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Sarah Davis, M.D.
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PASS ALONG THE AFMR MEMBER ADVANTAGE



THE AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

The mission of AFMR is to promote understanding of recent advances in biomedical science for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease; to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among physicians and other investigators who are concerned with the treatment of disease; and to improve health by fostering research in all medical disciplines through public policy initiatives and educational programs.

AFMR Members receive:

- ✓ A complimentary subscription to the *Journal of Investigative Medicine*
- ✓ Access to award programs designed specifically to support both practicing and developing Clinical Researchers:

The Henry Christian Awards
The AFMR Outstanding Investigator Award
The AFMR Junior Physician-Investigator Award
Regional Scholars' Programs

- ✓ Abstract submission opportunities for national and regional meetings
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- ✓ Advocacy programs for Physician Scientists and legislative updates via email

AFMR:

Promoting Medical Research & Researchers

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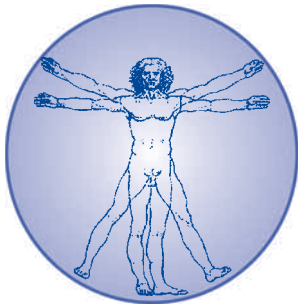


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Manuscripts containing new material are accepted for consideration for publication with the provision that they are submitted solely to the *Journal of Investigative Medicine* and that no part of the material has been submitted to any other publication. For complete Author Information on *Journal* submission, please visit the AFMR website, www.afmr.org or visit the publisher's website at www.bcdecker.com

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AFMR News

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