

## Highlights From PHA's 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Scientific Sessions 2012



This past summer, medical experts, patients, and their caregivers came together at the PHA's 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Scientific Sessions to learn about advances in the diagnosis and management of pulmonary hypertension. At the PHA conference, there is "something for everyone" and the scientific sessions are always highly attended as investigators provide their latest updates in the field of pulmonary vascular disease. This year, Todd Bull, MD, along with his scientific sessions committee, built these sessions around the theme of the genetics of pulmonary hypertension. As Guest Editor, Karen Fagan, MD, then tracked down

many of the scientific session conference speakers and asked them to summarize their lectures in this edition of *Advances*. Authors cover topics ranging from genetic mechanisms of disease to the future of basic science research in the current funding climate and under the NHLBI strategic plan for lung vascular research. In this issue, John Newman, MD, describes a phased approach at his institution for studying genetic mechanisms of PAH with a current focus on investigating other intracellular pathways that may influence the development of pulmonary hypertension. In conjunction with the science, Ghazwan Butrous, MD, provides a look at the global impact of pulmonary vascular disease with a call to action for

attention to this problem in developing countries.

For those who missed the conference, this issue of *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension* offers an opportunity to catch up on the latest science. In addition to these topics, current and past issues of *Advances* can also be found online on PHA's Online University along with other coverage of the amazing conference. Just go to [www.phassociation.org](http://www.phassociation.org) for a wealth of information for you and your patients.

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### Guest Editor's memo



As the PHA International Conference continues to grow with record-breaking attendance for patients, caregivers, and medical professionals, so have the Scientific Sessions. The 2012 Scientific Sessions marks the 7th time scientists and medical professionals have gathered at the International Conference to hear the latest scientific advances in the field. This year proved no exception under the leadership of Dr Todd Bull. The theme was "Genetics of Pulmonary Hypertension," with talks focused on continuing efforts to understand BMPR2 mutations in PAH, other genetic contributors important in development of PAH such as microRNAs, genes that cause HHT, and PAH as a systemic disease. The events were started by a resounding call to arms by Dr

Ghazwan Butrous, who spoke at the PHCR dinner the night before on "The Global Spectrum of Pulmonary Hypertension and its Forgotten Impact in the Developing World."

Continuing with the focus of developing the next generation of PAH physicians and scientists, the presentation of the best clinical and basic science abstracts by junior investigators is always a highlight, as is the update from the NHLBI focusing on PH-related research initiatives and opportunities. The day concluded with the largest poster session to date where researchers were able to present their current research and obtain feedback and encouragement.

Finally, the research room was extremely busy this year with more than 250 patients, caregivers, and other volunteer participants in a number of research proj-

ects. Response was so great that several investigators ran out of supplies before they ran out of willing participants! Perhaps we will see the results of this work at the next Scientific Sessions in 2014.

This issue of *Advances* provides summaries of many of the talks as well as a roundtable discussion about the recent meeting. Also are abstracts from the most promising young investigators in the PH field. For those who didn't attend, and for those who did, these articles and discussions are highlighting many of the areas where our understanding of PH is headed toward more effective treatments and eventually a cure.

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