Editor's Memo

Making History in Miami at PHA's 6th International Conference

For the first time in its history the Pulmonary Hypertension Association's international conference will include a scientific program for physicians, researchers, and nurses. Featuring internationally known experts, the scientific program is entitled, *From Puzzle to Picture—Mechanisms of PH: Identification of the Next Therapeutic Targets*, June 24-25 in Miami, Florida.

Co-sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office of Rare Diseases (ORD), the program will include poster sessions, abstracts, and workshops as it consolidates recent basic and investigational advances to develop a consensus structure for further investigation. My colleagues and I on the Scientific Leadership Council are excited about the opportunity to meet in a forum that will bring together our peers from throughout the country in the spirit of scientific inquiry. After this meeting, physicians, researchers and nurses can take advantage of the patient-oriented conference, June 25-27 at which more than 50 medical and patient-led sessions will be held.

The establishment of the Scientific Sessions means that we have developed an exciting and much needed venue in which to carry on the dialogue with our peers, providing a connection for physicians and doctorate-level researchers with a special interest in PH to meet with key opinion leaders whose investigative work is paving the way for advances in identifying the mechanisms of PH, and hopefully appropriate therapeutic targets. The sessions will facilitate an improved exchange of information, setting the stage for new multicenter clinical trials spearheaded by the Scientific Leadership Council.

For physicians unable to attend the conference, however, we will be providing comprehensive coverage of the highlights of the meeting in the next issue of *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension*, including a Roundtable Discussion by members of the Editorial Advisory Board. The coverage will include topics such as the role of ion channels in pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), the role of serotonin in PAH, cellular biology of PAH, the genetics of PAH, the role of BMPR in PAH, whether genetic mechanisms can impact upon therapy and future directions in therapy.

As PHA has suggested in its literature in advance of the event, "Come to Miami for the Science. . . Stay for the Experience."

In This Issue

What You Need to Know About Portopulmonary Hypertension

The coexistence of pulmonary arterial hypertension as a consequence of hepatic dysfunction was first recognized more than 50 years ago. Within the last 15 to 20 years the unique clinical associations and characteristics of portopulmonary hypertension have reshaped concepts of diagnosis and treatment. Portopulmonary hypertension, however, remains a troublesome and complex disease.

Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension gratefully acknowledges the contribution of physicians who developed the superb content of this issue, including Ronald J. Oudiz, MD, Michael J. Krowka, MD, Michael Ramsay, MD, FRCA, and Russell Wiesner, MD. Their guidance and analysis provides us with timely and relevant information that will be helpful in determining appropriate strategies for portopulmonary hypertension.

Victor F. Tapson, MD
Editor-in-Chief

Michael D. McGoon, MD: Guiding Light for PHA Scientific Leadership Council and Proponent of New Research

Michael D. McGoon, MD

As the paradigm of treatment in pulmonary hypertension (PH) is poised to shift, the Scientific Leadership Council of the Pulmon-ary Hypertension Association (PHA) will drive advances in therapy. The Council plays an integral role in research efforts and has assumed the daunting task of spearheading new multicenter clinical trials as strategies to alter the course of disease move from the bench to the bedside. One of the catalysts behind that effort is Michael D. McGoon, MD, current chair of the Council, whose guidance and exemplary leadership has earned him wide recognition in the pulmonary hypertension community.

McGoon's energy and enthusiasm for advancing treatment of the disease quickly become apparent as he speaks about the job that lies ahead. "There's a paradigm shift in treatment, we're moving beyond vasodilators to a different focus where we will be exploring having an impact on disordered angiogenesis and cell proliferation. We need to find ways of getting independently funded studies, through PHA, and optimize our sources of funding through government support. I anticipate we will focus more on genetic factors, the remodeling of blood vessels, the overgrowth of blood vessels, and the type of information being transmitted from one cell to another," he said, providing a glimpse of some of the areas to be discussed during the Scientific Session of PHA in Miami, June 24-25.

For McGoon, the challenge underlying these discussions is part and parcel of his long-standing commitment to promoting research to find a cure for the disease. It began during his early years when he was a fel-

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