

# New Horizons for the Association of Black Cardiologists

**Keith C. Ferdinand, MD**

The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC) has partnered with the Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) to address disparities in cardiovascular care. As a component of the New Cardiovascular Horizons sessions sponsored by the CIS, the ABC held a stimulating and informative program addressing disparities in cardiovascular and diabetes health care, Friday, September 7, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

The program kicked off with Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand giving a brief description of the present status of health care in the New Orleans area. In a lecture titled "Hurricane Katrina and Healthcare, HOPE After the "Unnatural Disaster," Dr. Ferdinand noted that although much of New Orleans is thriving and appears on the road to full recovery, the health care infrastructure remains severely damaged with limited inpatient hospital beds within the city and scarce, but sorely needed, psychiatric facilities. Another moderator for the program, Dr. Donna Mendes, a leading peripheral vascular surgeon, addressed disparities in chronic limb ischemia and the need for increased limb salvage and decrease amputations, the rates of which are highest among black Americans.

Dr. Clyde Yancy gave a provocative update on "Chronic Heart Failure in African Americans 2007-08 and Beyond". Additional reflections on medical therapy for closing the gap in heart failure were offered by Dr. Malcolm Taylor. Hypertension is seen earlier in blacks with poor rates of control and disproportionately high rates of target organ damage. Dr. Shawna Nesbit addressed hypertension in her discussion of the "silent killer."



Additional components on dyslipidemia and diabetes in African Americans were offered by Dr. Ryan Neal. Coronary interventions are one of the main stays of patients with acute coronary syndromes and high-grade coronary lesions. Dr. Christopher Leggett addressed disparities specifically related to coronary interventions and provided relevant and practical suggestions on how all patients can equally afford the benefits of technology. Closing the symposium were comments from Dr. Claude Minor, Jr. on the Louisiana experience with limb salvage in the end-stage renal disease patient.

Overall this exciting program met the needs of both organizations, providing a forum to communicate to clinicians and researchers new directions in addressing the ongoing disparities in cardiovascular health and delivery of medical and interventional therapies.

**EXPERIENCED  
INVESTIGATORS NEEDED  
FOR TRA - CER**

The ABC is recruiting potential investigators for the TRA - CER Study, a Phase III clinical trial. This clinical research study of Thrombin Receptor Antagonist for Clinical Events Reduction is sponsored by Schering Plough.

TRA - CER is designed to determine whether SCH 530348, when added to the existing standard of care (eg, aspirin, clopidogrel) for preventing heart attack and stroke in patients with acute coronary syndrome, will yield additional benefit over the existing standard of care in preventing heart attack and stroke.

The study is also designed to assess risk of bleeding with SCH 530348 added to the standard of care versus the standard of care alone.

If you follow patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) and have participated in clinical trials, please contact the ABC Research Department at 404-201-6621 or email [memberservices@abcardio.org](mailto:memberservices@abcardio.org) for additional details.