

FOCUS Observational Sites Selected!

By Gary Roach, MD

FOCUS Site Selection Committee

The FOCUS Steering Committee has been working hard for the past few months! The first step in the FOCUS research plan is to perform trained observations at 3-5 cardiac surgery sites in order to gain insight into how and where human errors in the cardiac OR occur. We had a gratifying response to our call for interested sites. From the 30 plus applicants who filled out the site qualification form, have selected the top five sites at which the Johns Hopkins University team will make observations. The Site Selection Committee, chaired by Gary Roach (Kaiser, San Francisco), consisted of Jonathan Marks (Duke), Joyce Wahr (independent), Thoralf Sundt (cardiac surgeon, Mayo Clinic), Glenn Murphy (Evanston Northwestern Healthcare), Bruce Spiess (Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center). Each committee member agreed that their institution would not be considered as a site. Although all of the sites were well-qualified to be observational sites, the final sites were chosen to provide a spectrum of practices including geographical and institutional variability, with low and high volume sites and academic and private sites in the final group.

The final five sites will be contacted and reviewed by the JHU team, who will make the final choices. Observations will be done at no fewer than three sites, and may be done at up to five sites. There are five alternate sites as well, who may be required if difficulties are encountered at any of the first five. Observations are expected to begin in September, and will be completed by the end of the year. Expect an update from the FOCUS team at next year's Annual Meeting!

The Final Five:

- St. Johns Mercy, St. Louis Missouri, Christopher Kit Young, PI
- Lehigh Valley Hospital, Pennsylvania, Nannette Schwann, PI
- Baystate Medical Center, Gary Kanter, PI
- New York University, Marc Kanchuger, PI
- Medical University of South Carolina, James Abernathy, III, PI

Research Grants Announced at the Annual Meeting

By Hilary Grocott, MD and Joyce Wahr, MD

Research, both basic science and clinical, provides the foundation for clinical advances, and the SCA Foundation is dedicated to providing research grants to members of the SCA. At the SCA Annual Meeting held in June, we announced the research grant recipients for 2008. Each grant receives \$20,000 a year for two years.

"There were 10 applications received and the quality of applications was outstanding," said Dr. Hilary Grocott, chair of the SCA Research Committee, which manages the grant application process. A special thank you goes to the Research Committee members including: Ferenc Puskas, George Djaiani, Jacob Raphael, Kenichi Tanaka, Nader Nader, Sugantha Sundar, Thomas Floyd, and William Johnston. Foundation representatives included Joyce Wahr and Nancy Nussmeier.

Three Starter Grants were awarded:

- Nitrate Tolerance Compromises Propofol Protection of the Endothelium Against Inflammation: the role of PKC-B2 and NADPH oxidase interaction
Zhengyuan Xia, MD, PhD
University of Hong Kong
- Functional Analysis of Protease Activated Receptor-4 Polymorphisms Associated with Myocardial Injury
Jochen Daniel Muehlschlegel, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- Does the Noble Gas Helium Protect the Myocardium in State of Hypertension in vivo?
Ragnar Huhn, MD
University of Amsterdam

Also, one Mid-Career Grant was awarded:

- Cytoskeletal Alterations in a Porcine model of restrictive ventricular septal defect
Mark Gerhardt, MD, PhD
Ohio State University

A one-year grant extension was awarded to:

- The Effect of Microglial Activation on Neurologic Outcome after Deep Hypothermic Circulatory Arrest in Rats
Thomas Drabek, MD
University of Pittsburgh (Safar Center for Resuscitation)

Dr. Michael Roizen Pledges \$1M to Establish New Research Starter Grant

By Joyce Wahr, MD

Chair SCA Foundation

Michael Roizen, Past President of the SCA, has pledged \$1 million to establish the Roizen and Anesthesia Research Foundation Starter Grant. This new grant will be in addition to the current SCAF Research Grants and will provide at least one \$50,000 grant per year. The specific requirements of the grant are being worked out by the SCA Research Committee (Hilary Grocott, Chair) and will be announced later this year. This generous gift will enable the SCA to provide more substantive funding than was possible previously, and marks a new era in SCA research funding.

In making this transformative gift to the SCA Foundation, Dr. Roizen continues to be a visionary leader for the SCA. Throughout his leadership roles in the SCA, Dr. Roizen has been instrumental in establishing a culture of funding research by the SCA, believing that the SCA should provide a means for SCA members to become researchers equipped to earn further peer-reviewed funding and to advance our subspecialty. The establishment of the Roizen and Anesthesia Research Foundation Starter Grant represents one more way Dr. Roizen will impact patient health, and marks the beginning of a new level of research funding for the Society and Foundation. We thank Dr. Roizen for his vision and dedication.

In addition to establishing this new Starter Grant, Dr. Roizen has made a challenge grant to the SCA membership, and has pledged to match every dollar donated or pledged to the SCA Foundation this year, up to \$500,000. The SCA Past Presidents and former SCA Board members have stepped up and pledged \$200,000 to match Dr. Roizen. If you want to be part of this challenge right now, you can pledge and donate at <http://scahqgive.org/>