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AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION PRESENTS ARTERIOSCLEROSIS/HEART FAILURE RESEARCH PRIZE

10th-consecutive year for Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.-supported program

ROCKVILLE, MD. December 21, 2004. For the tenth consecutive year, Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. (OAPI) supported the Arteriosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Prize, which was awarded at the November 9, 2004 award ceremony conducted as part of the American Heart Association Annual Meeting. The 2004 award recipient is Terry Lennie, PhD, Associate Professor of Nursing with the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

The Arteriosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Prize recognizes outstanding research by an independent nurse investigator and stimulates continuing research in areas related to patients with arteriosclerosis and/or heart failure. The prize is awarded for meritorious manuscripts based on independent investigations of basic or clinical research in areas related to arteriosclerosis and/or heart failure.

This is the tenth consecutive year that Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. has supported this program. “We are proud to work with the American Heart Association on such an important program, and we congratulate Dr. Lennie on this great accomplishment,” said Hiromi Yoshikawa, Chairman & CEO of Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. “We have a long history with the AHA, and on this tenth year of OAPI’s support of the Arteriosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Prize, we applaud the AHA on their many efforts and innovative programs to help research, education and advocacy in the cardiovascular and stroke arena.”

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Terry Lennie, PhD, Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, was awarded this year's Arteriosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Prize. Dr. Lennie's study, entitled "Dietary fats affect cytokine activity and subsequent event-free survival in heart failure", is the first study to demonstrate a relationship among dietary fats and proinflammatory cytokine activity in patients with heart failure. Dr. Lennie found that consumption of saturated fats and trans fats above recommended levels was associated with increased tumor necrosis factor (TNF), a pro inflammatory cytokine and marker of inflammation. In contrast, patients with diets high in omega-3 and polyunsaturated fatty acids had lower TNF levels. High levels of TNF were associated with a decrease in event-free survival. These results suggest that research to determine whether optimizing the composition of dietary fat in patients with HF decreases inflammation and improves event-free survival is warranted. Dr. Lennie's study met the criteria for the AHA Council of CV Nursing Atherosclerosis/Heart Failure Research Award sponsored by Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., in that it was rigorously executed, provides a unique contribution to the state of the science, and was scholarly written.

About American Heart Association and Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.

Since 1924 the American Heart Association has helped protect people of all ages and ethnicities from the ravages of heart disease and stroke. These diseases, the nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers, claim more than 930,000 American lives a year. The association invested more than \$407 million in fiscal year 2002–03 for research, professional and public education, advocacy and community service programs so people across America can live stronger, longer lives.

Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. is a successful, innovative and fast-growing health care company that commercializes Otsuka-discovered and other product opportunities in North America, with a strong focus on and commitment to neuroscience, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal treatments. OAPI is dedicated to improving patient's health and the quality of their lives. The company is part of the Otsuka Pharmaceuticals Group, a conglomerate comprised of 73 businesses and more than 23,000 employees worldwide. For additional information, please visit www.otsuka.com.

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