



SCIENTIFIC 210
SESSIONS 116

Daily News

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | NOV. 12-16, 2016

Resuscitation Academy honored for efforts to improve cardiac arrest survival and advance resuscitation science

The American Heart Association on Saturday presented its Ian G. Jacobs Award for International Group Collaboration to Advance Resuscitation Science to the Resuscitation Academy.

The award — presented during the Resuscitation Science Symposium — honors Jacobs, PhD, FAHA, for his efforts to bring clinicians and researchers together from multiple disciplines worldwide to improve acute resuscitation care.

The Resuscitation Academy, which launched nine years ago to identify and disseminate best practices for treating cardiac arrest, is the U.S. base for the recently formed Global

Resuscitation Alliance. The alliance is a group of international health organizations and emergency medical systems, including the AHA, that aims to increase cardiac arrest survival rates by 50 percent.

Mickey S. Eisenberg, MD, PhD, co-author of the paper that inspired the creation of the Global Resuscitation Alliance, accepted the award on behalf of the Resuscitation Academy.

“We hope to develop a road map and a set of tools that can be used by emergency medical systems in both high-resource and low-re-



Mickey S. Eisenberg, MD, PhD

source countries,” said Eisenberg, director of medical quality improvement at King County EMS in Seattle. “We have the knowledge to increase cardiac arrest survival rates — we know how to do it. The main challenge is implementation.”

For the past five years, the healthcare community in Eisenberg’s region has achieved survival rates for bystander-witnessed cardiac arrest caused by ventricular fibrillation greater than 50 percent. This is in stark contrast to some areas of the country, where survival rates are in the single digits. Eisenberg said the first

step to address this disparity is measuring performance at the local level.

The Global Resuscitation Alliance aims to educate EMS leaders in developed and developing countries about best practices and provide tools to help improve survival in their communities.

The Resuscitation Academy has established 10 actions as foundational steps for the integrated systems-of-care approach recommended by the AHA. They include participating in a cardiac arrest registry, dispatching first responders more rapidly, standardizing the practice of dispatcher-assisted (telephone) CPR and providing high-quality CPR for all cardiac arrest patients. ▼