2020 is off to a great start for VESS! The 44th Annual Winter Meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colorado was a great time and a resounding success, with a record number of abstract submissions and attendees.

As the national society focused on early career vascular surgeons, vascular surgery trainees, and medical students, we were proud to feature expanded programs geared toward these future leaders of Vascular Surgery that were co-developed based on your needs and suggestions.

The Annual Winter Meeting also featured hands-on experience through our Vascular Technology Forum, outstanding scientific presentations and discussions, unparalleled networking opportunities, presentation of the VESS Resident and Faculty Early Career Research Awards, a tour-de-force presidential address by Dr. Jim Black, and about as much fun as can be had at the President’s Dinner (save the complaints, which have been duly noted, regarding our Recorder’s uninvited attempt at Country and Western Singing, which was challenging to endure).

The youth of our membership and the agility of our Society make VESS special, enabling our members to contribute ideas and act on them. Along those lines, we will be hard at work over the coming year promoting the goals and interests of our membership, including initiatives supporting diversity, expanding student and trainee opportunities for leadership and service, and building on the success of existing programs and collaborations with other societies and specialties.

VESS members should be on the lookout for a survey this spring that will include a vote on proposed bylaws amendments as well as some basic questions to help us understand our society’s diversity. Please participate!

I hope to welcome you to the VESS spring meeting this coming June at the rapidly approaching Vascular Annual Meeting in Toronto. The spring
program committee has put together a fantastic scientific program, so make sure your passport is up to date and ready to go. VESS is excited to partner with the Society for Vascular Surgery in co-branding and supporting the General Surgery Resident/Medical Student Program Reception, the Trainee Lunch, and the Young Surgeons/Diversity Reception, so please take advantage of these networking and fellowship opportunities.

Finally, it’s not too early to start planning to attend the 2020 VESS Annual Winter Meeting. We are excited to visit a new venue, the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, Idaho! The meeting will be from January 21st-24th, 2020, so save the date!

Continued from previous page

2020 VESS Vascular Winter Meeting Highlights

Vascular Fellows Course

The 2020 Winter Meeting hosted another successful Vascular Fellows Program, with 30 senior residents and fellows from around the country participating. The topics discussed ranged from negotiating contracts to understanding changes in healthcare, as well as the role of social media in personal and specialty brand development.

Participants had the opportunity to present challenging endovascular and open cases, which were followed by spirited discussions. The highlight, as is every year, was Vascular Jeopardy. The trainees competed hard and demonstrated an impressive fund of knowledge, and all have bright futures ahead. We’d like to thank Cook Medical for their continued support of this program.

Technology Forum

The 2020 VESS Vascular Technology Forum highlighted exciting vascular device technology and provided a unique opportunity to members for an intensive, hands-on experience with the ‘latest and greatest’ in a small group format. Thank you to our industry sponsors that brought the following to our program:

- **Abbott Vascular** - Supera Stent Data
- **BD** – Hands-on with the WavelinQ™ EndoAVF System
- **Boston Scientific** - Coil Embolization: The Impact of Thrombogenicity and Example Applications
- **Medtronic** - Valiant Navion™ Deployment Techniques In A Variety Of Thoracic Anatomies: Real World Performance Of Innovative Design
- **Penumbra** – Penumbra’s Indigo Thrombectomy & Ruby Embolization product overview
- **Silk Road Medical** - An Overview of the TCAR Procedure
- **Terumo Aortic** - Terumo Aortic Vision of Personalized Vascular Therapy
- **Cook Medical** – Design with the Patient in Mind: An Evolving Perspective on Endovascular Repair
The third edition of the VESS Next Generation Student Mentor Program took place in Steamboat Springs and again the program was of great success. The program content was modified based on the feedback obtained from last year as well by surveying our prospective attendees. This allowed the program to more directly address any concerns or questions that the students might have regarding Vascular Surgery as a specialty. This year’s program was highly sought after and competitive for applicant medical students interested in pursuing careers in vascular surgery. We received over 50 applications from medical schools all around the country and, with the support of the societies leadership, were able to increase the number of travel scholarships awarded from 20 last year, to 30 this year.

This year’s faculty was outstanding and covered important topics related to becoming a vascular surgeon, perspectives from young vascular trainees and career options within our specialty. After the faculty sessions, students participated in the surgical skills component of our program were they were able to perform endovascular procedures and practice their suturing skills using simulators and under the instruction of our faculty. It was a great day and our program continues to grow.

We look forward to next year’s program and meeting another group of inspiring students.

We would like to thank WL Gore and BD for their support of the hands-on program.
VESS 2020 Awards

**Best Paper Award** - This Award is given in recognition of an outstanding original paper presented by a fellow, resident or medical student at the Annual Meeting.

*2020 Winner: William Sheaffer, MD*
Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, AZ
“Practice Patterns of Vascular Surgery’s “1%”*

**VESS / Travel Award** – This Award is to provide the recipient with the opportunity to visit one (or more) vascular surgery centers of excellence. The visit is intended to stimulate academic inspiration and to foster the development of fraternal fellowship in vascular surgery.

*2020 Winner: Gregory Magee, MD*
Keck Medical Center of USC, Los Angeles, CA
**VESS / Medtronic Resident Research Award** – This Award is specifically designed to help residents in training initiate projects during protected academic development time that will lead to future academic potential toward extramural funding for basic or clinical research.

**2020 Winner: Christopher Audu, MD**
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
“cGAS-STING Regulates Macrophage Mediated Inflammation in Diabetic Wound Healing”

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**VESS Early Career Faculty Award**
This Award is specifically designed to help new vascular surgical investigators initiate projects that will lead to extramural funding for basic or clinical research.

**2020 Winner: Samuel Tyagi, MD**
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
"The Effect of Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors on BAPN-Induced Aortic Dissection"
1. **How did you hear about the VESS awards?**
   a. I presented at the VESS (then the PVSS) as a trainee and I just loved the Winter Meeting. This meeting was held in Steamboat, and I was overwhelmed with the fellowship, excitement, and enthusiasm present in the society. Where else could one learn about the newest techniques in vascular care, share their research findings, and have fun in the outdoors with friends and colleagues? I was hooked!
   b. I was very excited at the opportunity to partner with VESS to support my research development, and I applied for research support at both trainee and faculty levels.

2. **How did you use the $ from the award for your professional/academic advancement?**
   a. I used my VESS award funds to pay for analysts to execute the analyses I described in my proposal. These funds also helped me to partner with scientific experts who advised me in ways to improve the quality of my scientific work, so that I could compete for federally funded grants.

3. **Did the award help you obtain professional advancement or further funding?**
   a. Yes, on both accounts. My VESS award helped me to learn how to write grant proposals and prepared larger grants, including NIH grants. I learned how to prepare a competitive biosketch, and my VESS award was an important component of this part of my application.
   b. Ultimately, my VESS award helped me to secure many more grants, including: an NIH career development (K) award, a VA Merit Award, and other grants from PCORI, the American Heart Association, the FDA, and NIH. I’m been incredibly fortunate in my research career to have tremendous support, both in terms of valuable colleagues and vital start-up funds such as the award I received from VESS.

4. **What advice would you give to VESS members interested in applying for VESS awards?**
   a. I think that my career pathway shows that VESS awards can be a key springboard for future grants and awards. Applying for grants such as the VESS awards shows commitment to becoming a physician investigator, and is an important pathway to future grants. For me, it represented a first, and among the most important step towards a research career.
VESS would like to welcome new members elected at the 2020 Business Meeting

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The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society wishes to recognize and thank the following companies for their ongoing support of our Annual Meeting:

**PLATINUM LEVEL**

- COOK® MEDICAL
- Medtronic

**SILVER LEVEL**

- Boston Scientific

**GOLD LEVEL**

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**EXHIBITORS**

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- AngioAdvancements
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VESS Mentorship Program Overview

Mentorship is one of the most important tools for professional development and has been linked to greater productivity, career advancement, and professional satisfaction. The VESS Mentorship Program aims to promote career and leadership development for early career vascular surgeons. All active members of the VESS within 10 years of training or candidate members in their last year of training are encouraged to apply.

Through a one-year young surgeon/leader match, the program will pair early career vascular surgeons with mentors who are more experienced colleagues, to provide young surgeons with opportunities to further develop leadership skills and obtain guidance for achieving specific career goals. This program also will foster engagement in the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society (VESS).

Young Surgeons
Young surgeons will gain a trusted advisor and learn methods to enhance career advancement. Through a partnership with their respective mentor, the young surgeon will learn to:
- Develop short-term and long-term growth goals and strategies to achieve those goals
- Identify leadership opportunities within the VESS
- Expand current networks within the specialty

Leader/Mentor
Mentors will act as a guide to help develop the young surgeon’s career, as well as enhance their personal growth and productivity. The mentor will:
- Provide honest and constructive feedback
- Assist the young surgeon on issues such as the establishment of short- and long-term goals, navigation of the advancement/partnership process, and guidance on research and/or teaching activities, etc.
- Offer advice on overall clinical and practice management concerns

How it Works
1. The VESS Women & Diversity Committee will review all applications and select a maximum of 12 young surgeons per year.
2. VESS will create a match with a leader based on needs and experience and will notify each young surgeon of the arrangement, as well as provide support and information on successful mentoring relationships.
3. Upon submission of mentoring goals and a mentorship plan, the young surgeon/leader pair will be provided with $100 to be used towards funding an in-person meeting of their choice.
4. VESS will monitor the year-long relationship through regular feedback and assessments from both parties to ensure the relationship thrives and is beneficial to both surgeons

Who Is Eligible?
- Applicants must be in the last year of a vascular surgery training program or have completed a training program and have no more than 10 years of practice experience at the time of their application submission.
- Applicants must be Active members or Candidate members of VESS

Time Commitment
- Leaders/young surgeons will be asked to set regular phone meetings, at least once every other month, to discuss young surgeon goals, objectives, and progress

Applications: Due May 3, 2020 by 5PM PST.
Questions? Please contact Venita Chandra at vchandra@stanford.edu or Angela Wetherbee at angela@administrare.com.
OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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University of Michigan

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
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Johns Hopkins Hospital

PAST PRESIDENT
Jonathan L. Eliason MD
University of Michigan
2020 – 2021 COMMITTEES

We would like to welcome and thank the following member volunteers for their commitment to the Society by serving on a Committee or as a Representative on our behalf. The success of VESS depends on the input and enthusiasm of its members. Each year we put out a Call for Volunteers so keep an eye out for your chance to get involved.

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- Kristine Orion
- Misty Humphries

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- Jordan Stern, Co-Chair (Technology Program)
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  - Jaime Benarroch-Gampel
  - Gabby Velazquez
  - Mounir Haurani
  - Jonathan Thompson
  - Yana Etkin
  - Karan Garg (Ex-officio)
  - Dawn Coleman (Ex-officio)

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- Tze-Woe Tan
- Michelle Williams
- William Yoon
- Reshma Brahmbhatt
- Dave Kauvar
- Nathan Orr
- Arash Fereydooni

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ACS Advisory Council for Surgical Specialties
- Peter Nelson, MD

Vascular Surgery Board of the ABS
- Bernadette Aulivola, MD

SVS Executive Committee
- Murray Shames, MD

SVS Young Surgeons Advisory
- Misty Humphries, MD

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- Yazan Duwayri
- Shipra Arya
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- Caitlin Hicks
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- Karan Garg, Vice Chair
- Jeanie Ruddy
- Max Wohlauer
- Jaime Benarroch-Gampel
- Roan Glocker
- Matthew Smeds
- Manuel Garcia Toca
- John Ohman
Plan to Join Us at the
2020 Spring Meeting
JUNE 17, 2020
Toronto Convention Center
Tortonta, Canada

Save the Dates for the
2021 Annual Winter Meeting
JANUARY 21-24, 2021
Sun Valley Resort
Sun Valley, ID