VESS

NEWSLETTER

Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

Volume 13 • Issue 1 • Spring 2021



President's Corner by Jason T. Lee, MD

Hello VESS Friends and Colleagues,

I humbly write to you to express my gratitude for the opportunity to lead this amazing group of vascular surgeons. First and foremost, congratulations to **Matt Corriere** for taking us through this unprecedented year of Zoom meetings, pivoted vascular surgery events, and society-changing social issues, and for safely presiding over our first-ever virtual annual meeting last month. Also, thank you to my good friend **Jim Black** for always providing the mature voice of reason as we grappled with numerous VESS issues, position statements, and infrastructure maturation that will culminate in this society being even stronger in the future. VESS has always been grounded in scientific discovery and early leadership opportunities, and the enthusiasm over the science and



volunteerism of all VESS members was showcased by the quality of the scientific program in Sun Valley, ably led by **Natalia Glebova**. I thank herfor her work as she hands off the Winter Program 2022 duties to **Karan Garg**. Before we get to next year, our continued partnership with the SVS will be highlighted at the VAM in San Diego in August when our VESS Spring Program, organized by **Shang Loh**, will further showcase the best science from our membership. Our membership is as strong as ever, reaching a milestone of over 1000 active members and an ever-increasing number of candidate members, who are the pipeline of our future success. To borrow from my favorite team, this is truly "Strength in Numbers". Special kudos to **Katherine Gallagher, Joanie Lugo, Jordan Stern, Gabby Velazquez,** and **John Rectenwald** for making the Membership Committee, Fellows programming, and Medical Student programming top notch in this past year.

Continued on next page



2022 Annual Winter Meeting • January 27-30, 2022 • The Westin Snowmass, CO With the ongoing uncertainty of potential travel restrictions amid the pandemic the VESS has made the decision to host the 2022 Annual Winter Meeting in the USA. Please update your calendars and make plans to join us in Colorado. The 2023 Annual Winter Meeting at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler in British Columbia, Canada has been reschedule for February 23-26, 2023.

And so, on to this upcoming year for VESS. We hope to safely travel again, to re-convene and remind ourselves that vascular surgery is a social sport. The mentorship of bringing an interested student or resident or fellow to our spectacular meeting, the hallway (or ski run) introductions and conversations, the opportunity to collaborate with incredible surgeons and scientists, and the spark that is always renewed when we gather with our friends and colleagues and future leaders in vascular surgery is why I joined the VESS. I presented at my first VESS meeting in Aspen/Snowmass in 2008, with my membership originally sponsored by my loyal Stanford partner **John Harris**. Thirteen years later with much good fortune and because of so many role models in the VESS that I can call my friends, it is my absolute honor and privilege, as well as the highlight of my career, to serve as your President.

I hope to see you all for our Spring Meeting at the VAM in San Diego on August 18, 2021, and please start making your plans and getting your abstracts ready for our Annual Winter Meeting at the Westin Snowmass, January 27-30, 2022.



Jason T. Lee, MD Stanford University President 2021-2022 Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society http://vesurgery.org

2021 VESS Winter Meeting Highlights

In the ongoing struggle with travel restrictions the VESS was forced to convert the 2021 Annual Winter Meeting to a fully virtual format. The executive council and the program committee redoubled their efforts to ensure a well-rounded and scientifically sound program. The goal was to have a broad audience with maximal participation.

As with any virtual conference, the challenges were immense. The meeting format was kept similar to prior meetings, with morning and evening sessions interspersed with educational forums and breakout smaller groups. Presentations were pre-recorded and speakers were asked to be available live, to answer questions from the audience. A live thread was ongoing where the audience could pose their questions. The participation was tremendous and the live banter was well preserved in the virtual format.



Regarding the program, **128** abstracts were submitted this year of which, **45** abstracts were accepted. Of this select group, **27** were standard presentations; **13** were rapid fire and **5** participated in a case report round table session. Abstracts from the Spring meeting, which were unable to be presented due to the cancellation of the live meeting

were also invited to participate in the 2021 annual winter meeting. A total of **12** of those abstracts were on the program, with **7** being standard presentations and **5** being rapid fire. The range of topics was broad, from venous, hemodialysis as well as complex aortic repairs. One new topic, not unexpectedly, were abstracts related to COVID-19 that garnered a fair bit of attention from the audience.

Since it was not possible to hold the Technology Forum this year, companies were invited to host industry sponsored symposia. We are grateful to **Abbott Vascular**, **Boston Scientific**, **Convatec**, **Janssen Pharmaceuticals**, **Medtronic**, **Penumbra**, **Silk Road Medical** and **Terumo Aortic** for putting on their successful programs that were well attended. The fellows and students' programs were well attended. The Vascular Jeopardy was unfortunately missed, but will be a star feature for next year's live meeting (hopefully!).



Vascular Fellows Program

The 2021 Winter Meeting hosted a successful Virtual Vascular Fellows Program led by **Dr. Joanelle Lugo**. There were 12 invited speakers with topics ranging from *How to Negotiate Your Contract and Social Media & Description on Developing Ideas into Papers*. We had over 30 applications from senior residents and fellows from around the country and were able to invite them all to participate.

Participants had the opportunity to present challenging endovascular and open cases, which were followed by spirited discussions. We'd like to thank Cook Medical for their continued support of this program and thank Medtronic for their support in providing a session on Speaker Training at the end of the program.

Next Generation Student Mentor Program

The fourth edition of the VESS Next Generation Student Mentor Program went virtual as well. This year's program was highly sought after by medical students interested in pursuing careers in vascular surgery. We received over 70 applications from medical schools all around the country. While we were initially only able to invite 20 students to the live program we were able to invite everyone who applied to the virtual program. This year's faculty and presentations were outstanding and covered important topics related to becoming a vascular surgeon. Highlights of the program included Panel Discussions on "How to Become a Competitive Applicant" and "External Rotations, Subinternships, Tips for Interview and the Match" and a Program Directors Panel on the "Importance of Away Rotations in the COVID Era". New to the program this year, the student session wrapped up with a lively debate on how to treat a 58-Year old with a 6 cm AAA and a short infrarenal aortic neck. This included a spirited and informative debate on the subject between **Dr. Misty Humphries** (Open Repair) and **Dr. Jordan Stern** (Endovascular Repair) showcasing all the treatment options available the vascular surgeon in the treatment of aneurysm disease in our patients.

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



Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook at @VESurgery for society news, VESS articles of the week, highlighted cases, and member spotlights. Members can also tag us @VESurgery in your posts to be shared, or email potential content to vess@administrare.com for review by the Communications Committee. Don't forget to check out our LIVE Twitter feed, our YouTube channel, and other great online content at vesurgery.com as well!



2021-2022 Executive Council



Jason T. Lee, MD Stanford University



Ravi Veeraswamy, MD Medical University of South Carolina



Misty Humphries, MD University of California, Davis



Mark Conrad, MD Massachusetts General Hospital



RECORDER

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Emory University



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> SVS Executive Committee Murray Shames, MD

SVS Young Surgeons Advisory
Misty Humphries, MD

2021-2022 Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Matthew Smeds, Chair Misty Humphries, Ex-officio Website Subcommittee Jenniann Yi, Chair Linda Wang Meryl Simon Hyein Kim

Newsletter Subcommittee

Laura Drudi, Chair Bryan Ehlert Mihai Rosca Mel Sharafuddin

FUNDRAISING

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VASCULAR RESIDENT EDUCATION

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(Fellows Program)
Mounir Haurani, Co-Chair
(Technology Program)
Jonathan Thompson
Yana Etkin
Cara Lyle
Anad Brahmandam
Michael Soult
Christopher Smolock
Joanelle Lugo, Co-Chair
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Jordan Stern, Co-Chair
(Ex-officio)

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Reshma Brahmbhatt
Dave Kauvar
Arash Fereydooni
Robert Beaulieu
Max Wohlauer
Gregory Magee
Gabrila Velazquez (Ex-officio)
John Rectenwald (Ex-officio)

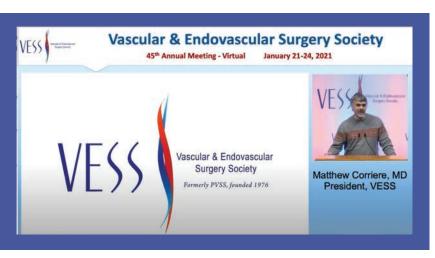
PROGRAM COMMITTEE (SPRING 2020 – 2021)

Shang Loh, Chair Karen Woo Caitlin Hicks Bjoern Suckow Sharon Kiang Nathan Liang Jeffrey Siracuse

PROGRAM COMMITTEE (WINTER 2021-2022)

Karan Garg, Chair Jeanie Ruddy, Vice Chair Jaime Benarroch-Gampel Roan Glocker Manuel Garcia Toca Courtney Holscher Kedar Lavingia John Ohma Matthew Smeds

The VESS winter meeting is being posted on our YouTube channel! This will include the oral presentations from the plenary sessions and the presidential address from Matt Corriere, and is a great way to see the talks if you missed the meeting or wanted to re-watch the particularly good ones. The channel can be accessed directly via YouTube or via our website at www.vesurgery.org.



VESS 2021 Awards



TRAVEL AWARD Tze-Woei Tan, MD University of Arizona Tuscon, AZ



EARLY CAREER FACULTY AWARD Tammy Nguyen, MD University of Massachusetts Worcester, MA "Exploring How Adipocyte Signaling and the Diabetic Immune System Contributes to Non-Healing Ulcers"



RESEARCH AWARD Kenneth Tran, MD Stanford University Stanford, CA "Patient-specific Computational Fluid Dynamics Modeling for Assessing the Hemodynamic Performance of Complex Endovascular Aneurysm Repair"



BEST PAPER Christian Dohring MD Candidate Class 2023 University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry Rochester, NY "A Reappraisal of CT **Angiography Derived Duplex** Ultrasound Velocity Criteria With a Comparison To Digital Subtraction Angiography in Patients with Carotid Artery Stenosis."

VESS Virtual Career Fair Summary by Dr. Dawn Coleman

As we continue to navigate the challenges of 2020 together, VESS has continued to support its members with innovative programming.



Importantly, to recognize the challenges implicit to this year's recruitment season, VESS hosted a virtual 'career fair' December 21, 2020 with the support of the SVS. 23 rising graduates registered for the event, which highlighted program leadership from six diverse vascular surgery programs. VESS leadership moderated the event, which included a program review and Q&A in breakout rooms. The event was favorably received, and certainly could serve as a valuable virtual adjunct to cyclically throughout the year facilitate matching of qualified candidates with hiring programs!



"I wish I had the opportunity to participate in such a career fair as a trainee. One of the difficult parts of a career search can be realizing the variance of practice types, even within the subsets of academic, private practice, and "privademic" groups. There are limited venues available in which leaders of the field present and discuss this in an open yet condensed fashion. I was glad to participate and look forward to the next one."

Tahlia L. Weis, MD PhD FACS FSVS Vascular Surgeon Medical Director - IACVL Wausau Center Marshfield Clinic Health System

"Thank you to the VESS leadership for organizing this innovative experience. The Society proctors created an informal platform for us to virtually meet with a diverse group of academic and private employers. In an especially unique year, this opportunity and its participants stood out as helpful guides to the job market for graduating trainees."

Rhusheet Patel, MD Vascular Surgery Chief Resident, PGY5 UCLA Department of Surgery, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Spotlight on VESS Grant Award Winner

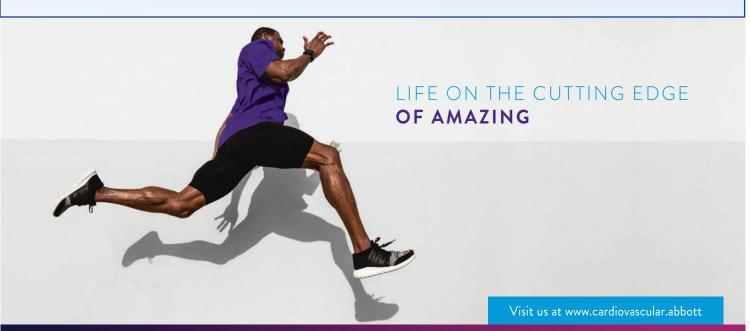


Justin Hurie, MD, MBA, FACS Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Wake Forest Baptist Health Wake Forest, Illinois



Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

I used the 2016 Gore Travel award to investigate the origins of the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society. Created in 1976, the VESS was created to serve as an academic society for fellowship trained young vascular surgeons. At that time, the larger national and regional meetings were dominated by senior surgeons, which made it difficult for younger surgeons to present their work. In order to appeal to a younger audience, the VESS has always been a family-friendly meeting with an emphasis on good research. The decision to host a family-friendly meeting begins with the choice of venue, scheduling of meeting times and an informal ambience. While initially focused on early and mid-career vascular surgeons, the VESS has continued to evolve and now actively recruits trainees as well as medical students who are the future of our profession. Forty-five years after its inception, the VESS continues to focus on the future of vascular surgery with great academic work done in a collegial atmosphere.



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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, 2021 by 5PM PST.

Questions?

Please contact <u>VESS@administrare.com</u> or call 978-927-7800.

2021 Exhibitors & Sponsors

We would like to thank our Industry Partners for their generous and continued support of the VESS and our Annual Meeting.

PLATINUM





GOLD













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EXHIBITORS











VESS Reflection Corner

My Life in Stitches

Almost exactly a year ago, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 global pandemic. My life among those all around me immediately shifted as we all stared down through the looking glass and began living a distorted reality of isolation, mask wearing, and obsessive compulsive washing of all large and minute objects. For some, we were torn from our home out of fear of transmitting a virus we knew almost nothing about, and some even lost their lives far too soon. Although there was global chaos I couldn't help but feel there was also an individual silence without even my mindless chatter as my conscious and subconscious didn't really know what to do in this unprecedented uncertainty.

The year 2020 was aptly named the year of vision and clarity. As the world shut down in March 2020, we all were forced to take a collective pause for a brief moment and turn inwards unable to return to life as we knew it. We were all forced off the perpetual running (or flailing in my case) on the hamster wheel of life to have a moment of introspection about how fragile life and our world really is.

With this collective pause, people globally began to discover and explore interests and hobbies they may have long forgotten or began to evolve and develop new skills. Masses flocked to cooking and bread making, which has always harboured warmth and hospitality and probably a sign of our unconscious mind already craving the social gatherings that we were being denied. I was among those masses, desperately trying to get my act together to make a banana bread. After 5 attempts I gave up my oven and culinary career. My Italian ancestors would not be impressed. But I focused my time on exploring other activities that would bring me inner peace rather than the angst and despair that came from another failed banana bread attempt. Shortly after, I was presented with my first knitting kit as I suppose family thought I should keep my hands busy and mind at ease given the failed cooking endeavours. I learned to cast and perform simple Gartner stitches with my newly bestowed knitting needles. As I became entranced stitching over and over, I found myself reflecting and contemplating how my life and most of our lives are like these stitches. Going from stitch to stitch, we don't particularly pay too much attention especially when you know exactly the movements you are taking and the weaves you are doing. My pre-pandemic life has been a never-ending trance moving mindlessly in a task, or periods of my life and only taking a pause when there was a significant transition. However, if we pause and observe we can take pride in the beauty of the incredible masterpiece we are weaving (in my case a simple scarf). Of course, we can have slip ups or misweaves, which we can ruminate over; however, in the grand tapestry that misweave is hardly noticeable.

I could say honestly and shamefully that I have spent most of my pre-pandemic life working hard, speedily, and erratically at times going from stitch to stitch knowing the exact moves I was making and trying to get those

stitches done as fast as possible. I bestowed so much unneeded energy on my misweaves, which ultimately slowed me down in the process. I am not sure if I truthfully enjoyed the process as much as I should have or taken the time to marvel at the masterpiece I was weaving. The pandemic forced me to pause and breathe. It forced me to reflect and observe on my creation and allowed me the time to listen to my own inner voice on how I wanted to proceed with the rest of my life. We don't' know when our yarn will run out or if our creation will end prematurely. And I would like to focus on the next stitches I will be weaving to be done mindfully and intentionally. I want to focus my time on enjoying the movements, even if mundane, and pausing to look back on that masterpiece, as my life in stitches.

For all of you reading my own insights in my misweaves, I hope that my own short sights resonates, and you all take the time to pause, breathe, look at your own masterful creations. Mindfully continue to weave your own Gartner stiches without too much concern over your own missteps and not too much concern over your future stitches. They will undoubtedly Laura Marie Drudi, MD, CM, MSc be weaved in time. Everything will turn out as it should, into your own masterpiece.



Centre Hospitalier de l'Universite de Montreal, Montreal, Canada

2021 New Members

The VESS would like to welcome the new members elected at the 2021 Business Meeting

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Ahmed, Nida Almenoff, Maxwell Bae, Esther Bath, Jonathan Beaulieu, Robert Boniakowski, Anna Boutrous, Mina Cajas-Monson, Luis Chadid Santamaria, Tatiana Chang, James Charitable, John Chau, Anthony Chen, Samuel Columbo, Jesse Colvard, Benjamin Cook, Jason Crawford, Joel Crowl, Gabriel Duke, Julie

Ferris, Mead Fontenot, Danielle Fuller, Tim Hansraj, Natasha Hardouin, Scott Hart, Alissa Huddleston, Mary Kathryn lannuzzi, James Janko, Matthew Jha, Manvendu Jones, Brian Korepta, Lindsey Lee, Dong Lewis, Carlton Li, Xiaoyi Lim, Sungho McCallum, John Milner, Craig Mohapatra, Abhisekh Nguyen, Tammy

Ohlsson, Anna Oriel, Brad Oriowo, Babatunde Pierre-Louis, Willythssa Pontikis, George Qaja, Erion Ray, Hunter Saguan, Nicholas Shokrzadeh, Christine Siada, Sammy Skripochnik, Edvard Stephenson, Elliot Sticco, Andrew Strickland, Adam Takyi, Valerie Ulloa, Jesus Waldrop, Heather Wang, Linda Watson, J. Devin Yi, Christopher Zakaria, Mohamed

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Maglaya, Patrick Louie Yanulis, George



CANDIDATE MEMBERS

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Alfson, Daniel Blackstock, Christopher Boggs, Hans Carnevale, Matthew Chang, Heepeel Chang, Matthew Chausse, Steve Choi, Justin Chun, Tristen DeCarlo, Charles DeKornfeld, George Desai, Kshitij Doenges, Jack Dossabhoy, Shernaz Fadoul, Mikael Fedorova, Ekaterina Feldman, Zach Felsted, Amy Fraser, Simon Frye, Lauren

Ganapathy, Anand Gates, Kate Gianis, Thomas Gopal, Mallika Gordon, Lauren Greenleaf, Erin Guerra, Andres Harding, Joel Hart, Theodore Henry, Christopher Hessel, Kara Hidayat, Niko Hoell, Nicholas Hoffmann, Carson Hwang, Jason Johnson, Adam Johnson, William Johnston, Lily Karimi, Sepehr Kenyon, Bianca

Kessler, Evan Khalifeh, Ali Kim, Young Kistler, Amanda Kochubey, Mariya Kottapalli, Sa Lalani, Alykhan Lee, Mary Lee, Jonathan Leonard, Samuel Manzur, Miquel Martinez-Singh, Krishna McFall, Ross McLaughlin, Dylan Nagy, Andrew Obeid, Tammam Pandya, Yash Patel, Avkash Patel, Ronak

Phillips, Amanda

Poling, James Ponukumati, Aravind Poole, Shawn Potter, Helen Powell, Benjamin Price, Austin Pyun, Alyssa Raulli, Stephen Repella, Tana Roshdy, Mazen Rountree, Kaitlyn Rouse, Michael Saad Eddin, Zein Saatzer, Mark Safir, Scott Salhanick, Marc Sanders, Katherine Schroeder, Andrew Sedeea, Alhasan Sen, Indrani

Sharma, Gaurav Sharma, Sriganesh Sheehan, Brian Smith, Justin Soo Hoo, Andrew Strosberg, David Suggs, Julia Tanga, Christopher Toribio, Miguel Tran, Kenneth Treto, Kevin Trinh, Shauna Uribe, Celso Vinyard, Ashlee Wernick, Brian Wolfers, Matthew

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