I am honored to write to you as the 48th president of our great society. Like many of those who came before me, I first attended the PVSS because it provided an additional venue for abstract submission at a time when my main academic focus was to create a national presence in the world of vascular surgery. I quickly learned that this meeting offered much more than plenary sessions and industry sponsored symposia. I remember walking towards the first session in my traditional vascular meeting uniform (dark suit and tie) when I was stopped by Darrin Clouse who was wearing ski pants and a sweatshirt. He informed me that this was a casual meeting, and I should go change or risk being called out by the moderators. I quickly realized this was not my boss’s society. What an amazing experience for a young investigator to be able to present your work in a plenary session and that same day find yourself on the gondola with a member of EC and their children. I returned home and told my wife I planned to attend this meeting every year. Since then, I have missed few and have watched the PVSS develop into the VESS; the premier national society for vascular trainees and surgeons who are early in their careers. Each year, we have seen our presidents continue to support our members through funding research projects, travel scholarships and an ever-expanding program for trainees at the winter meeting. With my presidency, I plan to carry this torch forward in support of our mission.

It may have been cold on the slopes in Whistler, but the VESS Annual Winter Meeting was hot, hot, hot! We continued to offer strong educational content through the Medical Student, General Surgery Resident, and Fellows Courses and added a dedicated Education Research Session on Friday. The Scientific Program offered diverse clinical and basic science topics presented by trainees of all levels and demonstrated our growing national and international membership. Congratulations to Kaohinani Longwolf for winning The Best Paper Award with her presentation entitled “Exogenous Testosterone Replacement Therapy Is Associated With Increased Risk For Arterial Graft Infections”. And for those looking for a break from the weather, the Case Report Reception and “Should I Stay or Should I Go” Roundtable Session focused on job transitions offered small group settings for chatting and networking. Finally, it was a President’s Dinner to remember with a beautiful venue, great food, karaoke, and a live performance by Dr. Ravi Veeraswamy to cap his successful year as VESS President.

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President’s Corner continued on page 5

VESS 2023 Winter Meeting Highlights continued on page 2
VESS 2023 Winter Meeting Highlights

Vascular Fellows Program
VES S hosted another successful Vascular Trainees Program in 2023 led by Dr. Venita Chandra. We had over 40 applications from senior residents and fellows from around the country. Participants had the opportunity to present challenging endovascular and open cases, which were followed by spirited discussions. These were interspersed between excellent talks by over 14 invited speakers with topics ranging from Tips and Tricks to Successful Transitioning to Attending Life to Industry Relationships - Impact on Career and How to Develop/Maintain Them. The Program included the “Great Practice Debate” which exposed trainees to the top reasons to consider difference practice paradigms. Trainees were thrilled that we offered the ever popular Vascular Jeopardy twice during the program. We’d like to thank our industry sponsor, Cook Medical for their continued support of this important program.

Venita Chandra, MD, Co-chair,
Vascular Trainee Education Committee

Next Generation Student Mentor Program
The VESS hosted the 6th edition of the Next Generation Student Mentor Program this year. The program was highly sought after by medical students interested in pursuing careers in vascular surgery. We received over 60 applications from medical schools across the United States and its territories. The group of Next Generation scholars showed up ready to learn and contribute to the conversation. This year, we continued in the footsteps of Dr. Orr’s (Student Education Committee 2020-2022) open format with multiple panel discussions to allow for as much interaction with the students as possible. The panel discussions included topics like a “day in the life” of a vascular surgeon, building a mentor/mentee relationship, promoting wellness in medical school, the importance of inclusion and diversity within our specialty, what makes a competitive training program applicant. A wide representation of leaders (present and future) in the field of vascular surgery joined the discussion. A group of vascular program directors, residents, and fellows participated in an informative discussion to help these future applicants learn more about the application and interview process. This year, we added a journal club, discussing landmark papers of 2022. In the afternoon, the medical students participated in a hands-on session that included both open surgical practice and thoracic and abdominal endovascular simulators. Overall, this was an unforgettable experience with a dynamic and inspirational group of medical students, the future of our specialty. I extend my gratitude to the Student Education Committee, Moderators, Panelists, and Next Generation scholars for making this a program to remember. Throughout the program, the roles continued to switch back and forth in a marvelous way. I kept wondering to myself “who is the teacher and who is the student?”

Max Wohlauer, MD, Chair,
Student Education Committee
General Surgery Resident Program
Our General Surgery Resident Program was yet another home run for VESS in Whistler, Canada!! The ongoing growing interest of General Surgery Residents in Vascular Surgery Fellowship has been the cornerstone of our program and its continued success. This year we had a record number of applications to sponsor 25 General Surgery Residents throughout the country, VESS continues to be committed in sponsoring diversity and inclusion and we were witness of it during all the educational programs and participating faculty. Our program was extremely interactive and our residents were very enthusiastic and involved. We talked about the growing need of Vascular Surgeons and our value, discussed Mentorship, Scholarship and Research Opportunities, we had a Program Directors perspective on what to look in programs and how to be more competitive. Our panels are always popular, listening to current fellows regarding their experiences on applications and finding the right fit and the great debate of deciding between Private and Academic Practice. To close our day we had a fun skills session and joined the Forum Tech for more learning and Networking! We are looking forward to VESS 2024 and meet more of our talented General Surgery Residents to experience our vibrant meeting.

Vascular Technology Forum
The 2023 Technology Forum was the culmination of another excellent Fellows and Resident Education Session. In addition to our fellows and residents, conference attendees were able to get their hands on live models. These ranged from demonstrating the efficacy of arterial lithotripsy courtesy of Shockwave Medical as well as the latest suction thrombectomy from Penumbra, Inc. This year Medtronic brought an updated aortic aneurysm repair simulator featuring the Heli-FX Endoanchor device, allowing trainees to experience ESAR. Silk-Road Medical brought an updated model which now allows for simulation of the TCAR procedure in an even more life-like experience. Once again Cook Medical provided an immersive experience using VR to demonstrate their peripheral intervention technology. Terumo Aortic as well as Medtronic and Cook also had their latest endograft devices on display for attendees to hold and examine ex-vivo. Overall, the event was well attended and received by our attendees and industry partners.
We recently completed our winter meeting of the VESS executive council, and I am pleased to report that the society is thriving! Our membership continues to grow, and this year we approved 193 new active and candidate applications which brings our membership to over 1570 Active, Associate, Candidate and Medical Student Members. Our meeting in Whistler was the largest on record with a total of 337 registered attendees including 83 vascular residents/fellows and 41 medical students. The quality of the science presented in the meeting remains outstanding. Indeed, we had 220 abstracts submitted for 63 presentations and I am looking forward to the VESS edition of Annals of Vascular Surgery; remember to submit your papers soon. In the words of past president Ravi Veeraswamy “my meeting was huge.” We are financially sound, and these assets will allow us to provide ample support to our dynamic and capable group of volunteers. Last year we spent almost $140,000 on scholarships, grants and travel awards and we plan to increase that number in 2023.

We will continue our outreach efforts and encourage our young colleagues, trainees, and students to join the VESS, get involved, and take advantage of all the great programs we have to offer. We recently created an ad hoc research consortium committee and plan to support their efforts to promote multi-institutional research projects among our members through infrastructure support and will work to create a research fellowship to provide a person to coordinate and manage data. In addition, we are nearing our 50th year as a society and as we prepare to celebrate that milestone, we plan to begin the VESS historical project where we will look to highlight the most influential papers from past meetings and celebrate the accomplishments of past research grant and travel award winners. The committees of VESS have been re-populated and are ready to work on the scientific programs, evaluate grants, fundraise, communicate, and put together our spring meeting. Finally, we are open to suggestions so please let me know of other ways that the VESS can serve your needs. It’s going to be a great year!

Mark F. Conrad. MD, MMSc
St Elizabeth’s Medical Center
2023-2024 VESS President
2023-2024 Executive Council

**PRESIDENT**
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St. Elizabeth's Medical Center  
Boston, MA

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The Ohio State University  
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**COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**
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Med. Univ. of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC
### 2023-2024 Committees

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE (WINTER 2023-2024)**
- Roan Glocker, Chair
- Bjorn Suckow, Vice Chair
- Michael Soult
- Gregory Magee
- Alisa Hart
- Elizabeth Genovese
- Alamide Alabi
- Lindsey Korepta
- Nathan Liang

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE (SPRING 2022 – 2023)**
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- Jenianne Yi, Vice Chair
- Jordan Stern
- Dave Kauvar
- Jill Zink
- Gregory Salzler
- Faisal Aziz

**VESS REPRESENTATIVES**
- Representative to the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors
  - Niten Singh, MD
- Representative to the ACS Advisory Council for Surgical Specialties
  - Bernadette Aulivola, MD

**SVS Strategic Board of Directors**
- Bernadette Aulivola, MD

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- Laura Drudi
- Alan Conway
- Natalie Sridharan

**Newsletter Subcommittee**
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- Anders Davidson
- Chiamaka Uzoma

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- Jeffrey Siracuse
- Shang Loh

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- Matthew Smeds
- Scott Robinson
- Katherine Hekman
- Jonathan Bath
- Frank Davis
- Max Png
- Jean Marie Ruddy, Councilor

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- Melinda Schaller
- J. Westley Ohman
- Kathryn Fong
- Rym El Khoury
- Dawn Coleman, Secretary

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE**
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- Christopher Ramos
- Nkiruka Arinze
- Joanelle Lugo
- Kristine Orion, Councilor

**VASCULAR TRAINEE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
- Adam Doyle, Co-chair, General Surgery Resident Program
- Reshma Brahmbhatt, Co-chair, Vascular Fellows Program
- Adam Taniou
- M. Libby Weaver
- Edvard Skripochnik
- Samantha Cox
- Young Kim
- Kedar Lavingia
- Venita Chandra, Ex-officio
- Mounir Haurani, Ex-officio

**STUDENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
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- Antwana Sharee Wright
- Jaime Benarroch-Gampel
- Elizabeth Chou
- Yana Etkin
- S. Keisen Wang
- Nathan Draz
- Mihai Rosca
- Anand Brahmandam
- Genevieve Hayke
- Nathan Orr, Ex Officio
- Karan Garg, Councilor

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- SVS Strategic Board of Directors
  - Bernadette Aulivola, MD
Spotlight on VESS Grant Award Winner

Each year, the VESS awards a Travel Grant, an Early Career Investigator Award and a Resident Research Grant. Here, we catch up with our awardee to find out how she used their funds and what impact the award had on her career. We hope this inspires members to apply for VESS grants and continue the tradition of high achievement that the VESS is proud to support. For more information on how to apply, visit http://vesurgery.org/grants-awards.

Elizabeth Chou, MD
Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Smidt Heart Institute

How did you use the funding from the VESS Research Award?
The VESS Research Award, provided flexibility and external support for collaborations with other investigators and funding to generate preliminary data on costly experiments prior to full investment.

How did the VESS Research Award help you in your professional development? What professional achievements came from this Award?
The VESS Research Award provided an opportunity to compose my thoughts on paper and came at a time where I was very unsure about my plan to explore interests in basic and translational research. I had no prior background in basic research. In fact, during residency interviews, I said I had no interest or plans in doing basic research. During training, however, that changed because all the questions that kept bothering me and causing so much pain for our patients, all led to how much we still don’t know about the basic pathophysiology of vascular diseases. Applying for the award helped me formulate a question and a plan, and communicate it in a new language of basic and translational science. Submitting the grant and the bonus of receiving the reward served as a great boost not only financially, but psychologically—that I DID have a plan, I was able to communicate it to a group of people much smarter than me, my thoughts had merit, and my experience, as limited as it was, didn’t seem to be as big as an obstacle as it was in my head.

What advice would you have for young vascular surgeons who are starting out and applying for grants?
I remain in that category! I am learning and I ask for advice broadly and widely. There are many amazing mentors who are so generous with their time and expertise. I have found multiple mentors helpful, because each provides a different perspective—whether professional development, clinical, research or personal—they may be from a different specialty, or even have different interests, but all are invaluable. I often have to tell myself it’s ok to fail, and often times it’s not failing, but the feeling of failing that is the hardest to get over—whether that’s grants, experiments, unexpected patient outcomes, rejected publications… the list goes on. When I first started research in basic and translational science I felt like I was failing every day. It was very different than residency, where there seemed to be a direct correlation between input of effort and energy and output of “success” in knowing your patients, knowing and doing an operation, and using your knowledge and judgement to advise patients and influence their outcome. But in research that correlation didn’t seem to exist as plainly. Investment of months of effort would not work and be soul crushing. It wasn’t until I went to an informal research talk with Dr. Pat Donahoe when she mentioned that 99% of the work is optimization—that my mentality shifted. It wasn’t constant failure, it was constant learning, tweaking, optimizing, generating the data.
Although the learning curve was steep, the process forced me to develop a type of resilience and optimism that I think has been very helpful thus far in early career/attending life.

Looking back, how did the VESS Research Award influence your career? What do you see as the most valuable thing the VESS has to offer the young surgeon?

I have barely started my post-training career but am thankful to have mentors during training and now as an early faculty, who show me that careers and their paths come in many forms and often do not have linear paths. My own path has not been linear in timeline, location, or research, and I feel incredibly fortunate for it. I can't say that what I'm interested in today and what gives me fulfillment professionally will be the same today as it will be 20 years from now, and that's exciting! I credit the diversity of VESS membership and of the growing diversity of vascular surgeons in general for showing me that differences in perspective and experience, professionally or personally are a strength and drivers in pushing the clinical and research advancement of our field.
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 opportunities to develop leadership skills and obtain guidance for achieving specific career goals.

Early Career Surgeons will gain a trusted advisor and learn methods to enhance career advancement. They 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

Mentors will act as a guide to help develop the early career 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 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee will review all applications and create a match with a leader based on needs and experience and will notify each young surgeon of the arrangement.
2. 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
- One-on-one leader/young surgeon in-person meeting at a time convenient for the leader and young surgeon

Application Deadline: MAY 5, 2023
Applications can be found on the VESS website: https://vesurgery.org/resources/find-a-mentor/
### 2023 New Members

The VESS would like to welcome the new members elected at the 2023 Business Meeting.

#### ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Abdulhussein, Jalal
- Al_obeid, Zaid
- Arhuidese, Isbior
- Balogun, Yetunde
- Barnes, Jonathan
- Biggs, Joedd
- Blecha, Matthew
- Boll, Griffin
- Cardelli, Francesco
- Chang, Ronald
- Cheung, Steven
- Choi, Justin
- Chou, Elizabeth
- Conant, Mark
- Cornwall, James
- Davis, Frank
- Edwards, Jeffrey
- Frye, Lauren
- Gaffey, Ann
- George, Elizabeth
- Gomez-Sanchez, Clara
- Greenleaf, Erin
- Grieff, Anthony
- Hata, Kai
- He, Jane
- Hemingway, Jake
- Hessel, Kara
- Hwang, Jason
- Iyer, Prashanth
- Johnson, Adam
- Juneja, Amandeep
- Kanneganti, Manasa
- Khalifeh, Ali
- Kim, Young
- Kimball, Andrew
- Klarin, Derek
- Kottapalli, Sai
- Lalani, Alykhan
- Lubitz, Andrea
- Man, Jeanette
- McMackin, Katherine
- Moree, Lamar
- Nagy, Andrew
- Paisley, Michael
- Pantoja, Joe
- Poulsen, Neil
- Quatromoni, Jon
- Repella, Tana
- Rishi, Muhammad
- Ryer, Evan
- Safaya, Aditya
- Salhanick, Marc
- Schwartzman, Jacob
- Sen, Indrani
- Sgroi, Michael
- Soh, Ina
- Steenberge, Sean
- Stines, Ian
- Summers, Kelli
- Teter, Katherine

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Lapp, Kevin
- Mudarris, Ayad
- Nunnery, John-Jordan
- Sheth, Sharvil
- Singh, Gurkirat
- Turner, Monica

#### CANDIDATE MEMBERS

- Abou-Assi, Sami
- Al-Ghaili, Ahlam
- Ali, Ali
- Bakshi, Saagar
- Barsim, Eslam
- Basu, Rohan
- Batarseh, Paola
- Bennett, Sasha
- Bhamidipati, Theja
- Birchler, Caleb
- Bjorklund, Rebekah
- Bloch, Randall
- Bonkotaek, Jack
- Breite, Matthew
- Buckley, Tyler
- Bush, Charles
- Campbell, Anthony
- Caron, Elsa
- Chau, Marvin
- Chauhan, Yusuf
- Chhaya, Vina
- Christie, Ryan
- Chung, Yvonne
- Chung, Dar
- Curillo-Penn, Nolan
- D’Andrea, Melissa
d-Paolo, John
- Dhara, Sanjeev
- DiBartolomeo, Alexander
- Dittman, James
- Droney, Andrew
- Ebertz, David
- Eddinger, Kevin
- Facchione, Dominic
- Feridooni, Tiam
- Fisher, Andrea
- Fleming, Tyler
- Fobare, Amanda
- Fowler, Brett
- Gage, Daniel
- Gedney, Ryan
- Gensicke, Nicole
- Gontarz, Brendan
- Graham, Alexis
- Green, Adrienne
- Hall, Ryan
- Hila, Regis
- Ho, Vy
- Howell, Caronae
- Hurst, Michael
- Janda, Layne
- Kabeil, Mahmood
- Kalbfell, Elle
- Kao, LeslieAnn
- Katz, Nathan
- Kiely, Kate
- Laczynski, David
- Lauria, Alexis
- Lee, Jani
- Lenth, Gerri
- Loanzon, Roberto
- Loh, Sarah
- Longwolf, Kaohinani
- Lott, Colton
- Low, Matt
- MacCallum, Katherine
- Madison, Mackenzie
- Mahoney, Reid
- Marrone, Alexandra
- Martinez, Camilo
- McDermott, Katherine
- McGuir, Don
- Minami, Hataka
- Morales, Laura
- Moreno, Oscar
- Murphy, Blake
- Nguyen, Cecilia
- Nimmich, Andrew
- Noty, Christopher
- Parikh, Umang
- Parker, Michael
- Patel, Raj
- Pecchioni, Louisa
- Phi, Lucas
- Potluri, Vamsi
- Pujari, Amit
- Qaqish, Michael
- Quaye, Kofi
- Rakestraw, Stephanie
- Ramirez, Joel
- Ratner, Molly
- Ray, Keval
- Reilly, Margaret
- Robbins, Justin
- Roberts, Kallie
- Rodriguez, Alejandra
- Rotelli, Brando
- Sadri, Babak
- Sahibzada, Omar
- Schwarz, Samuel
- Shah, Anil
- Shan, Deepak
- Shanberg, David
- Simioni, Andrea
- Singh, Nikita
- Smith, Nathan
- Smith, Margaret
- Sorentino, Thomas
- Stafforini, Nicolas
- Staton, Kyle
- Sundaram, Saranya
- Supina, Christina
- Talutis, Stephanie
- Thaxton, Carly
- Tsoukidas, Ioannis
- Tsukagoshi, Junji
- Vasan, Srinivasa
- Voit, Antanina
- Watson, Jacob
- Weiler, Eric
- Weissler, Elizabeth
- Welle, Nicholas
- White, Midori
- Zemela, Mark
- Zhang, Jingyuan
Plan to Join Us at the 2023 Spring Meeting & 2024 Winter Meeting

**2023 Spring Meeting June 12-14, 2023**  
Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, MD

**2024 Winter Meeting January 18-21, 2024**  
Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID