

# VESS

## Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

### NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 • Issue 1 • Spring 2024



## President's Corner by Misty Humphries, MD



The 47th Annual VESS Winter Meeting at Sun Valley was a great meeting this year with increased expansion of programming targeted at vascular trainees and early career vascular surgeons. I am overwhelmed and excited to serve as the Society's 2024-2025 President. Writing this takes me back to many firsts in my life that happened at the winter meeting and the evolution of some of the strongest friendships in my professional career. It was the first place I presented my research, and then a year later, I coached one of my trainees to present our work. The scientific portion of the VESS meeting has always drawn work that pushes where we are as vascular surgeons and questions what the future of our field will look like.



*President's Corner continued page 5*

## VESS 2024 Winter Meeting Highlights

The VESS 2024 Annual Winter Meeting showcased what makes the VESS an amazing group to be a part of! There were wonderful scientific sessions, informative discussions on a variety of topics, lots of camaraderie, and as always lots of great skiing. Thursday kicked off with special sessions for Medical Students, Vascular Fellows, General Surgery Residents and a new program for Early Career Faculty. The scientific sessions offered great presentations on a variety of vascular topics with something new and interesting for everyone.

Special congratulations to our two winners of the Best Paper Competition (we had a tie for the first time ever!). **Dr. David Jiang** from the University of Chicago, for his paper on *Polygenic Score Informed Models Can Improve Screening For Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms* and **Dr. Marissa Jarosinski** from University of Pittsburgh for her talk on *Outpatient Anticoagulation Is Associated With Improved Acute Limb Ischemia Outcomes Following The Advent Of Direct Oral Anticoagulation*. The meeting wrapped up with **Dr. Mark Conrad's** Presidents Dinner and left everyone looking forward to the Spring Meeting at VAM and next years Winter Meeting in Breckenridge, CO.



**Roan Glocker, MD, Chair**  
VESS Winter Program Committee

*VESS 2024 Winter Meeting Highlights continued page 2*

# VESS 2024 Winter Meeting Highlights

## VASCULAR FELLOWS PROGRAM

VESS hosted another successful Vascular Fellows Program in 2024. We had 34 applications from senior residents and fellows from around the country and awarded 25 travel scholarships. 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 15 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 during the program. We’d like to thank our industry sponsors for their continued support of this important program.

**Adam Doyle, MD, Co-Chair**  
VESS Vascular Trainees Education Committee



## NEXT GENERATION STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The VESS hosted the 7th Annual Next Generation Student Mentor Program in Sun Valley, ID. The program was highly sought after by medical students interested in pursuing careers in vascular surgery. We received over 50 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 discussion. The panel discussions included topics like building a mentor/mentee relationship, a “Day in the Life” of a vascular surgeon, 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 conversation. 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. **MD-candidate Lily Adler** presented tips for success to the future vascular surgery



residents and fellows in the room. 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. **Dr. Wohlaue**r extends his gratitude to the Student Education Committee, Moderators, Panelists, and Next Generation scholars for making this one of the most memorable programs to date!

**Max Wohlaue, MD, Chair**  
VESS Medical Student Education Committee

# VESS 2024 Winter Meeting Highlights

## GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENT PROGRAM

We hosted the second General Surgery Resident Program at the winter VESS meeting this year in Sun Valley, ID. This program was attended by selected general surgery residents interested in vascular surgery from around the country. This year, we had more applicants than available slots and each attendee was provided a \$1000 travel stipend. Our program included new and previous speakers and panelists, who generously contributed their time and expertise to help our future vascular surgeons achieve their goals. We brought back popular discussions and presentations from last year, including talks on “What makes a competitive fellowship applicant” as well as “Mentorship, Scholarships, and Research Opportunities”. Our interactive panel discussions included a Fellows Panel, with 4 current and recently graduated fellows lending their experience to the group. We also brought back the popular “Great Debate: Academic vs. Private Practice”, which sparked thoughtful and dynamic conversation. One of the most well received topics this year was a new talk on Financial Literacy, which was informative and incredibly useful to our young surgeons. In the afternoon, the residents participated in hands-on simulations of endovascular procedures for AAA and lower extremity revascularization, before participating in the Vascular Technology Forum. Overall, this was an incredible experience with a motivated and invested group of general surgery residents, poised to become the next leaders in our field. I want to thank all of the members of the General Surgery Resident Program committee and our speakers/panelists for making this year’s program outstanding.

**Reshma Brahmbhatt, MD, Chair**  
VESS Vascular Trainees Education Committee

## EARLY CAREER SURGEON PROGRAM

This year, VESS introduced the Early Career Surgeons Program, directed towards our younger members who are in their first five years of practice. The content developed was focused on the unique struggles and challenges that the young surgeons face. Topics ranged from developing a practice, understanding personal finances, and partnering with industry. The talks were interactive and the session concluded with a case conference where the participants presented some of their “worst” cases from their early years in practice. The program was a resounding success and we look forward to this program next year. A special thank you to our industry partner, W.L. Gore, for supporting this program. Thanks to their support we were able to offer travel stipends to 25 early career surgeons to attend. We look forward to continuing this program which supports our mission to improve the quality and safety of vascular & endovascular surgical procedures and general vascular care through education, scholarship, advocacy and leadership.

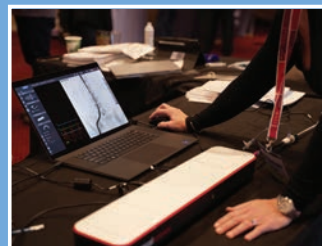
**Karan Garg, MD**



## VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY FORUM

The 2024 VESS Vascular Technology Forum had an unplanned unique twist this year—bad weather and flight delays created an even more intimate event than we have come to expect. We have enjoyed amazing attendance growth over the years, so while its disappointing to have so many miss out on the experience, the disproportionate faculty/industry to participant ratio led to great one on one discussions and the opportunity for a wonderful exchange of ideas for those able to attend. Ethicon provided a juxtaposition to the endovascular technology we more frequently showcase at the tech forum while Cook upped their usual strong showing by running their most advanced simulator to date—the recently unveiled fenestrated simulator! Rounding out the day, Penumbra provided their array of coils and aspiration catheters while Terumo and Silkroad brought their low profile TEVAR and well-established TCAR displays respectively. We are appreciative of our industry sponsors for helping make this event a reality—looking forward to next year’s return!

**Matthew Wooster, MD**



# 2024 Annual Meeting



# Trainee Corner

## Reflections from My Experience at the VESS Winter Conference



**Daniel Gage, MD**

PGY-3, Department of General Surgery  
The Ohio State University

It was not until my third-year clinical rotations that I found the field of vascular surgery. From the moment I started on service, I was fascinated by the cases I saw and the various surgical problems the field attempted to address. Shortly after my time on service, I sought advice from **Dr. Kristine Orion**, a VESS Member and someone who I now consider a mentor. She recommended that I apply to the VESS New Generation Student Mentor Travel Scholarship Program to support my additional exposure to vascular surgery and work with faculty who have an interest in helping students network to obtain additional information and learning opportunities in the field.

I was fortunate to be selected for the scholarship and excitedly made my way to Steamboat Springs, Colorado to attend the winter conference in late January 2020. This experience offered an organized and exciting, in-depth discussion about the field and surrounded me with other students who had similar interests. All the faculty were invested in us as students, and they attempted to answer all our questions in a thoughtful and honest manner. It was great to hear about the different pathways to vascular surgery, which eventually helped me discover which was best for me. The hands-on workshops were equally exciting and gave me the opportunity to see myself as a future vascular surgeon. The enthusiasm from the attending physicians, as well as other students and trainees, created a great learning environment, and the additional research presentations during the conference allowed me to see work being completed across the country, motivating me to seek ways to contribute myself.

My attendance at the VESS 2020 Annual Winter Meeting and involvement in the VESS New Generation Student Mentor Travel Scholarship Program acted as a springboard to a hopeful future career in vascular surgery, and I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to meet leaders in the field and gain inspiration to continue being a part of this professional community!

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*President's Corner continued from page 1*

But more than science, VESS is a place to build lifelong friendships and mentorship relationships. It was where I first learned to snowmobile with **Jason Lee** and every year since have gone out with Matt Smeds and his family snowmobiling adding to our group the families of **Dawn Coleman** and **Bernadette Aulivola**. It's where **Caitlin Hicks** and her husband have watched me go the wrong way on the slopes, so I now wear an Airtag making sure someone can keep track of me. Moreover, it is where I have watched new members bring the kids and have some time for both science and family.

While skiing has never been my passion, spending time with other early career vascular surgeons allowed me to connect and check the experiences and challenges I met when I started my career. Was it just me that had block time from midnight to 5 am? How many grants would I be rejected by before I would get one? Has anyone ever seen a case like this crazy case I was about to do in two weeks, for which I was not sure of a definitive plan? Connecting with my colleagues across the United States over these experiences has made me and everyone who attends the VESS meeting the strong surgeons we are today.

The 2024-2025 year is going to be even better for VESS. This winter meeting, we launched an Early Career Faculty experience led by **Karan Garg**, focused on what young surgeons need to know about the business of vascular surgery. This is in addition to the General Surgery Resident Program, the Vascular Fellows' Program and the Next Generation Student Mentor Program. 2024 will also mark the launch of the VESS Research Fellowship under the Leadership of **Liz Genovese**. This 2-year research fellowship will continue to help members and trainees develop groundbreaking research to transform vascular surgery for the years to come. We will get to see some of the work presented at the 48th Annual VESS meeting in Breckenridge, CO so start planning your trip for February 2025. I will see you all there.

# 2024 New Members

The VESS would like to welcome the new members elected at the 2024 Business Meeting

## ACTIVE MEMBERS

Alsop, Samantha	Healy, Laura	Low, Matt	Rothenberg, Kara
Auyang, Philip	Holscher, Courtenay	MacCallum, Katherine	Rountree, Kaitlyn
Bolin, Jeremy	Islam, Arsalla	Nadesakumaran,	Scaife, Mark
Breite, Matthew	Jammeh, Momodou	Kogulan	Scully, Rebecca
Cardella, Jonathan	Johnson, Cali	Naiem, Ahmed	Shanberg, David
Chou, Benjamin	Johnston, Lily	Nawalany, Michal	Siah, Michael
Chung, Yvonne	Kenyon, Bianca	Pallister, Zachary	Smith, Margaret
Cirillo-Penn, Nolan	Kiely, Kate	Patel, Shivik	Soden, Peter
Deery, Sarah	King, Ryan	Patel, Ronak	Strosberg, David
Downing, Brandon	Laczynski, David	Pyun, Alyssa	Talutis, Stephanie
El Khoury, Rym	Lala, Salim	Qaqish, Michael	Tehrani, Nader
Fobare, Amanda	Lall, Alex	Quaye, Kofi	Tran, Kenneth
Frontario, S. Christopher	Leckie, Katherin	Qvavadze, Teah	Turner, Jason
Gonzalez-Guardiola, Gerardo	Lee, Kyongjune	Reeve, Thomas	Weaver, M. Libby
Hansen, Spencer	Li, Chong	Roberts, Kallie	Witthford, MirandaYang, Andrew

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ahmed, Farhan  
Allen, Robert  
Cardenas, Marisela  
Eyer, Joseph  
Owen, Christine  
Rodriguez, Luis  
Safran, Brent

## CANDIDATE MEMBERS

Adkins, Zachary	Dairywala, Mohammed	Goodman, Emily	Mantilla, David	Shaughnessy, John
Ady, Justin	Dakour Aridi, Hanaa	Haddad, Paul	Martin, Andrew	Sreeram, Vivek
Alnahhal, Khaled	Dalmia, Varun	Heidt, Nicole	Mize, Brandi	Talbot, Benjamin
Alzakari, Nasr	Delbono, Luciano	Ingram, Michael	Nwachuku, Emmanuel	Tan, Li Ting
Balakrishnan, Pranav	DeLoach, Joe	Jarosinski, Marissa	O'Leary, James	Tanenbaum, Mira
Barber, Meghan	Dockery, Dominique	Javidan, Arshia	Otoya, Diana	Trivedi, Apurva
Bashian, Elizabeth	Dohring, Christian	Jiang, David	Painter, Scott	Van Asseldonk, Brandon
Blitzer, David	Dreksler, Hannah	Kanitra, John	Pinto-Rodriguez, Paul	Vicario-Feliciano,
Brooks, Dylan	Durbin, Samantha	Kanuika, Peter	Potti, Chinmayee	Raquel
Buchanan, Erin	Emery, Ryan	Keffer, Luke	Radomski, Shannon	Villanueva, Paulina
Calderon, Diana	Farid, Franklin	Kindell, Daniel	Raji, Hammed	Volteas, Panagiotis
Carleton, Jared	Feldman, Zach	Lathan, Ross	Ravindhran, Bharadhwaj	Wheeler, Travis
Cayton, Colby	Filiberto, Amanda	Leong, Kevin	Ravishankar, Pavitra	Whitaker, Litton
Chawla, Karan	Ford, Benjamin	Li, Ruojia	Rhudy, Anne Kelly	Wiske, Clay
Chen, Winsor	Fox, Avraham	Lin, Alex	Rice, Jayne	Wulff, Candace
Chitwood, Joseph	Frankel, William	Lingnurkar, Raj	Rico, Gabrielle	Yoo, Joseph
Choi, Cuepil	Fraser, Brittany	Luca, Micheal	Ryan, Brienne	Zamin, Syed
Corbitt, Kimberly	Gaines, Sara	MacArthur, Taleen	Salomon, Brett	
Cui, Christina	Giannakopoulos, Nikolaos	Magtanong, Emelyn	Schubert, Alec	
Dagher, Adelle	Gilmore, Brian	Malik, Jamal	Sebastian, Albertina	

# VESS 2024 Awards

## TRAVEL AWARD



**Nathan Liang, MD**

University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA

## BOSTON SCIENTIFIC EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD



**Jocelyn Beach, MD**

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center  
Lebanon, NH

*Lesion-Specific Proteomic Analysis of  
Intimal and Medial Calcification In  
Peripheral Artery Disease*

## 2024 BEST PAPER AWARD #1



**David Jiang, MD**

University of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

*Polygenic Score Informed Models  
Can Improve Screening for  
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms*

## 2024 BEST PAPER AWARD #2



**Marissa Jarosinski, MD**

University Of Pittsburgh Medical Ctr.  
Pittsburgh, PA

*Outpatient Anticoagulation Is  
Associated With Improved Acute Limb  
Ischemia Outcomes Following the  
Advent of Direct Oral Anticoagulation*

## VESS/MEDTRONIC RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD



**Sabina Sorondo, MD**

Stanford University  
Stanford, CA

*Assessing Soluble Guanylate  
Cyclase Stimulators in PAD*

# 2024 Exhibitors & Sponsors

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*University of California, Davis  
Sacramento, CA*



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*Emory University  
Atlanta, GA*



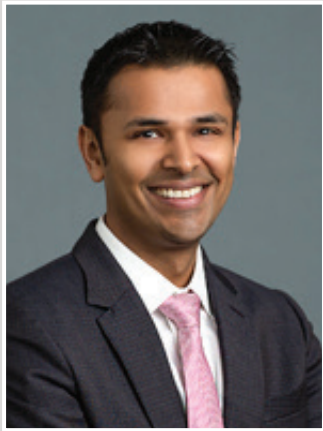
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## **Councilor-At-Large**

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*St. Elizabeth's Medical Center  
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## **Past President**

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- Gabriela Velazquez, Vice Chair
- Jill Zink
- Gregory Salzler
- Faisal Aziz
- Elina Quiroga
- Mounir Haurani

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- Nathan Liang
- Nathan Aranson
- Yana Etkin
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- Niten Singh, MD

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- Bernadette Aulivola, MD

SVS Strategic Board of Directors

- Bernadette Aulivola, MD

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- Shang Loh
- Elizabeth George

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- Jonathan Bath
- Frank Davis
- Andrew Barleben
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- Young Kim
- Kedar Lavingia
- Edgar Galinanes
- Mimmie Kwong

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- Danielle Sutzko
- Donald Baril
- Salim Lala
- David Laczynski

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- Anand Brahmandam
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- Max Wohlauer
- Adam Tanious
- Mounir Haurani
- Elizabeth Chou
- Kristine Orion
- Misty Humphries

# 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 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, 2025**

Applications can be found on the VESS website: <https://vesurgery.org/resources/find-a-mentor/>





Plan to Join Us  
at the 2024  
**Spring Meeting**

The Spring Program Outline  
can be found on the  
VESS Website



**2024 Vascular  
Annual  
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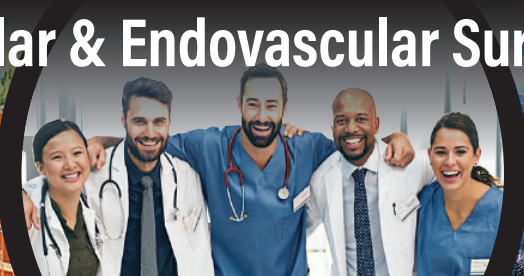
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2025 VESS Annual **Winter Meeting**

49th Annual Meeting

**Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society 2025**



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