

VESS

Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

NEWSLETTER

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President's Corner by Misty Humphries, MD



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As the warm days of summer unfold, I am thrilled we were able to spend time together at the highly successful VESS spring meeting in Chicago. **Jeniann Yi** and the spring program committee put together an excellent session with exceptional science, showcasing the remarkable work of young surgeons in our field. The enthusiasm and freshness of the presentations were truly inspiring. The continued dedication of VESS for young surgeons and the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the session has set a high standard for us, and we are already planning even more dynamic content for the winter meeting. I am sure many of you are collecting and analyzing data for the abstract deadline in September.

The VESS VSIG has also been active, with two webinars in the Spring, including a journal club directed at younger trainees establishing their foundation of vascular knowledge and an earlier one focused on away rotations. The student group also held an impromptu gathering at the VAM that was well attended and allowed many of the students to get to know faculty and society leaders.

Additionally, those planning to apply for research grants explicitly targeted at young investigators should begin preparing. This year, the resident deadline is in October, and the faculty deadline is in November.

President's Corner continued on page 2

2024 Spring Meeting Highlights by Jeniann Yi, MD

The VESS 2024 Spring Program was another success thanks to the many excellent submissions received and the work of our Spring Program Committee. This year, we had **22 presentations** in total encompassing a wide range of topics including aortic, cerebrovascular, quality improvement, peripheral arterial disease, dialysis access, health care disparities, education, venous disease, and practice management. It was a dynamic program, with a mix of full length and rapid fire presentations and lively discussions from a high level of audience participation as well as several invited discussants.



VESS 2024 Spring Meeting Highlights continued page 3

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your unwavering support and dedication. The future of vascular surgery is bright, and young surgeons will lead the way. Let us continue to work together to nurture their talents and ensure the continued excellence of our field.

Wishing you all a wonderful and productive summer.

Warm regards,

Misty Humphries, MD
VESS 2024-2025 President



VESS Vascular Surgery Interest Group

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society National Vascular Surgery Interest Group is approaching its second anniversary. This interest group began as a “think tank” during the VAM 2022 meeting. Since then, both students and supportive VESS faculty have helped develop this group into the success it is today. Our goal is to provide exposure to vascular surgery and educational material about the specialty, especially to students who do not have a strong vascular surgery presence at their medical institution. We aim to provide equal accessibility to learning and pursuing vascular surgery.

The VESS VSIG consists of four main subcommittees:

- **Discover:** Events designed for M1/M2s or students who are discovering and learning about vascular surgery. We aim to provide introductory and general information.
- **Specialize:** Events designed for M3/M4s or students who have committed to applying into vascular surgery. We aim to provide information on how to successfully match into vascular surgery residency.
- **Journal club:** Monthly meetings focused on educating students on particular vascular surgery topics and pivotal research papers.
- **Tech team:** Working in the background to provide support for our events and social media.

In the 2023-2024 year, we have held nine events, including our monthly journal club events, the “Diversity in Vascular Surgery” event, the “How to Succeed on Your Away Rotations” event, and our yearly “Vascular Surgery Match Panel” in partnership with Yale Medical School. Our live audiences range from 20 to 70 participants, and the events are available for students to rewatch on the VESS YouTube Channel.

The VESS VSIG continues to grow, with our student membership approaching 50 active members from all over the country. We encourage student involvement and engagement within the interest group. This year, we created an Advisory Committee consisting of 10 VESS VSIG members who mentor and guide students interested in creating and spearheading their own VESS VSIG event.

In the upcoming 2024-2025 year, we are looking forward to maintaining our quarterly specialize and discover events, holding monthly journal club meetings, and establishing a new subcommittee dedicated to collaborating with vascular surgery residents. Each year, we have a growing number of graduated VESS VSIG medical students who are now vascular surgery residents. We are confident that this partnership will offer a wealth of valuable information, resources, and mentorship opportunities. We are excited to share those details in the near future!

Thank you to VESS for the endless support of this interest group!





Spring Meeting Best Paper Award:

Annually, one presentation is selected by the VESS leadership and Spring Program Committee for the Spring Program Best Presentation Award. This year's winner was **Dr. Colleen Flanagan** and her collaborators at UCSF for their abstract *"Generative AI can accurately populate Vascular Quality Initiative procedural databases using narrative operative reports."* Congratulations to Dr. Flanagan again for her outstanding presentation on an innovative topic!

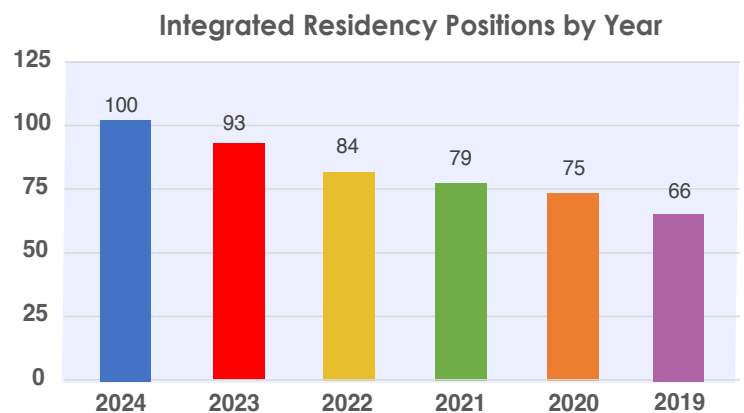
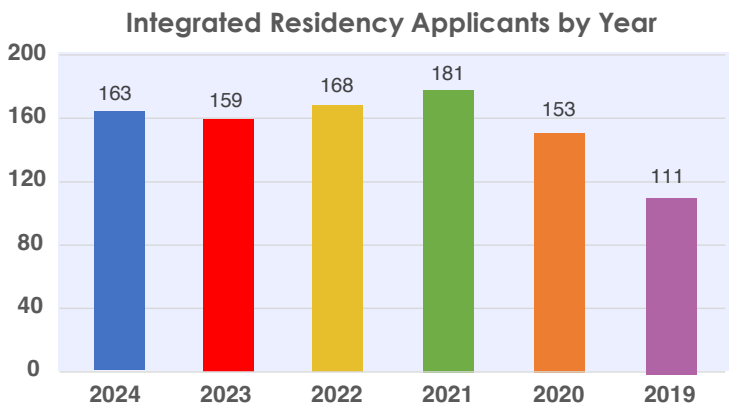


Dr. Colleen Flanagan

Vascular Surgery Residency Match 2024

Submitted by **Anders Davidson, MD**, Travis AFB / UC Davis West Sacramento, CA

The integrated vascular surgery residency match had another impressive year with only 1 vascular residency position going unfilled. The integrated residency positions in vascular surgery continue to grow year by year. For the 2024 match there were 100 positions offered, up from 93 in 2023 and 66 in 2019. There was a total of 103 MD applicants (78 matched), 19 DO applicants (9 matched), and 40 foreign medical graduate applicants (9 matched) who applied to integrated programs. The overall number of integrated applicants was relatively stable in 2024 (163), compared to last year (159), with the peak number of applications occurring in 2021 (181).



Vascular Surgery Fellowship Match 2024

In 2024, there were 131 vascular surgery fellowship positions offered, compared to 136 last year. There was a slight decrease of vascular surgery fellow applicants overall, with 155 applicants in 2024 compared to 178 last year. This year 3 positions went unfilled, for an overall rate of 98%. This was the first year out of the last 3 that the vascular surgery fellowship did not fill 100% of the positions. U.S. MD graduates were responsible for most of the matriculants, filling 89 of the matched positions.

VESS 2025 Annual Meeting Info/Winter Meeting Highlights

*Save
The Dates*

Be sure to mark your calendars for the VESS 49th Annual Winter Meeting to be held February 6-9, 2025 at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, CO.



Visit the VESS website for full meeting information including Registration & Hotel Reservations.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society is now accepting abstracts for their 49th Annual Meeting. Abstracts must be submitted online and submission must be completed by **Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.** (EDT). Submission Guidelines can be found under the meetings tab at: www.vesurgery.org.

WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Special Programming – Now accepting applications online.

VESS VASCULAR FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Vascular Fellows Program aims to educate graduating fellows with content pertinent to starting a career as a vascular surgeon. Each fellow accepted into the program will receive a \$1,000 travel stipend to help with the cost of attending the meeting.

VESS GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENT PROGRAM

The General Surgery Residents Vascular Interest Program, will provide network opportunities to all general surgery resident applicants that have an interest in pursuing a Vascular Surgery Fellowship. Each resident accepted into the program will receive a \$1,000 travel stipend to help with the cost of attending the meeting.

VESS EARLY CAREER FACULTY PROGRAM

The objective of the Early Career Faculty Program is to provide those in their first 1 to 5 years in practice, an interactive program to discuss the challenges and opportunities specific to early years in practice. Each faculty member accepted into the program will receive a \$1,000 travel stipend to help with the cost of attending the Meeting.

VESS NEXT GENERATION STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The Next Generation Student Mentor Program aims to provide medical students with a career interest in vascular surgery, a forum to see what we are all about, as well as opportunities for student to hone their vascular surgery open and endovascular skills with simulation! Each medical student accepted into the program will receive a \$1,500 travel stipend to help with the cost of attending the meeting.

VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY FORUM

The 2025 Vascular Technology Forum will showcase some of the best and newest devices that industry has to offer. The goal of this program is for industry to provide insights into current technology, and a look at what treating physicians may see as it relates to up-and-coming developments in the pipeline. Expert physicians will share their experiences with these devices and provide some 'tips and tricks'. There will also be an opportunity for intensive, hands-on experiences in a small group format that provides a more granular experience for the participating physician. Free to all registered attendees.



Lorela Weise, MD

*Integrated Vascular Surgery Resident, PGY4
Loyola University Medical Center
Division of Vascular Surgery*

The Vascular Surgery Resident and Fellow Clinical Learning Environment

The clinical learning environment is multifactorial, comprised of quality of education, team relationship, personal and financial well-being among other things, with the goal of promoting safety and quality of health care. The clinical learning environment of surgical training programs have evolved tremendously, notably with vast improvements in mistreatments, (i.e. being asked to leave an operating room for not knowing the answers; being chastised for clinical mistakes; and thought to be weak for sacrificing any residency experience for personal or family obligations). While some were concerned of sacrificing a vigorous and thorough training, others believe there is no change in preparedness and quality of care with the culture change. I discuss my experience and perception of the vascular surgery clinical learning environment.

Protected education time for educational conferences has been a cornerstone for prioritization of education over service. Although trainees are critical in delivering patient care, our rudimentary goal is education and should be considered when assigning patient care services. Additionally, while difficult rotations are necessary despite the stressors, recognizing rotations that lead to exhaustion and embracing an environment that prioritizes competence and caring can support the educational goal. In my experience, this means removing barriers to communication and allowing for adequate time for reflective learning. Fundamental to this are teams that are self-efficient.

One of the most influential factors in the clinical learning environment is our team, the dominant of which are faculty members. The naturally smaller vascular surgery training programs has created an apprenticeship model with invested faculty and trainings. Faculty I've worked with have been approachable and encourage trust and openness by recognizing the strain of a rotation and sharing of work-life balance. Behavior modeling by attendings can also influence positive leadership practices. Additionally, by recognizing the strengths and weakness of each trainee, avoiding comparisons and individualizing training, attendings have helped me ascertain how I complement and enhance the team. I've been most fortunate to work with faculty that respect our trainees, give positive feedback, give use the benefit of doubt, vouch and advocate for use, and address our concerns. The confidence and emotional intelligence we gain from training will ultimately lead to better patient outcomes.

Trainees are an influential proponent of change in the clinical learning environment, as evidenced by the growing number of programs unionizing. Most recently, the wellness initiative has illuminated the benefits of resident comradery and time outside the hospital. It has pushed for personal growth and an increase in work-life integration. Monetary support for group events, redundancy and flexibility in trainees' schedules to comfortably allow for sick days, and support to attend family obligations has been crucial for satisfaction in training programs. Contemporary concerns from trainees has been financial wellbeing in light of record inflation rates, significant educational debt, and geographic variations in cost of living. Additionally, the push for increasing support for new parents in training has led to a statement release by the American Board of Surgery for additional 4 weeks of family leave, that can also be utilized for family emergencies or trainee illness.

The clinical learning culture we are exposed to becomes the culture we carry on. The attitudes of those we want to emulate becomes our attitude, character traits, and tendencies, effecting how we interact with our staff, medical students, colleagues, and trainees. As leaders in our community, we all have the potential to positively influence the clinical learning environment.

VESS 2025 Grants and Awards

VESS TRAVEL AWARD

Application Deadline: Friday, September 6, 2024

The primary purpose of the VESS Travel Award (\$5,000) 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. Achievement of these objectives will enhance the vascular surgery career of a VESS member recipient. This award is not intended to support specific research interests but rather to assist the award recipient in a unique opportunity for travel and professional exchange.



VESS / MEDTRONIC VASCULAR RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD

Application Deadline: Friday, October 4, 2024

One **\$12,500** grant for basic/translational science, educational, clinical or health outcomes research will be awarded during the VESS Annual Meeting in 2021. The VESS/Medtronic Resident Research 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.



VESS / BOSTON SCIENTIFIC EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Application Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2024

One **\$22,500** grant for basic/translational science, educational, clinical or health outcomes research will be awarded during the VESS Annual Meeting. The VESS/BSCI Early Career Investigator Award is specifically designed to help new vascular surgical investigators initiate projects that will lead to extramural funding for basic or clinical research.

Eligibility and Guidelines for all awards can be found on the VESS Website under the Grants/Awards tab.

Spotlight on Previous 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>.



2021 Early Career Faculty Award Winner

Tammy Nguyen, MD

*Assistant Professor of Surgery
Medical Director of Lower Extremity Wound Clinic
Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, MA*



- 1. How did you use the funding from the Early Career Faculty Award?**
The VESS Early Career Faculty Award was the first grant that I received as faculty. The award helped fund necessary preliminary data for me to build my lab and develop a new 3D bone marrow organoid culture system.
- 2. How did the Early Career Faculty Award help you in your professional development?**
What professional achievements came from this Award? The VESS Early Career Faculty Award provided me a venue to share my research at the VESS Annual Winter Meeting. This exposure allowed me to meet other VESS members and find mentorship opportunities.
- 3. What advice would you have for young vascular surgeons who are starting out and applying for grants?**
Apply for as many grants as possible. Push yourself to improve how you communicate your scientific work. Expect setbacks along the way; success often follows multiple failures. The important thing is to learn from each experience and carry your successes forward.
- 4. Looking back, how did the VESS Early Career Faculty Award influence your career?**
The VESS Early Career Faculty Award provided me with funding to support my new lab and society resources to help me obtain mentorship and professional development opportunities.
- 5. What do you see as the most valuable thing the VESS has to offer the young surgeon?**
VESS is a vibrant community of vascular surgeons deeply committed to advancing research and innovation across diverse avenues within the field.



SAVE THE DATES!



VESS 49th Annual
Winter Meeting

February 6-9, 2025
Beaver Run Resort
Breckenridge, Colorado

