

# VESS

## Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

### NEWSLETTER

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### President's Corner by Todd Berland, MD



We stand on the shoulders of giants—pioneers who transformed bold ideas into standard practice. From the first successful aneurysm repairs to the evolution of endovascular therapy, our field has never been static. It has been defined by innovation. With this, I'm proud and honored to be the 50th VESS President. Those of you who attend, know that this meeting is different than other meetings. The energy and youthfulness of our membership, combined with the agility of our Society and everlasting comradery are what make VESS truly special. Our structure empowers members not only to share ideas, but to act on them. Today, vascular surgery sits at a remarkable crossroads. We manage an aging population with increasing complexity—diabetes, renal failure, frailty, and multilevel disease. We navigate value-based care, workforce shortages, prior authorization burdens, and expanding multidisciplinary competition.

*President's Corner continued on page 2*

### 2026 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The 2026 VESS Winter Annual Meeting was a resounding success. It had the highest attendance and the highest number of submitted abstracts to date. Held in Olympic Valley, CA February 5-7, 2026, it brought together students, residents, fellows, associate providers, faculty and many friends from around the world. Scientific sessions across three days touched on novel therapeutics, cutting edge technology, scientific advancements, clinical trial results and up-to-date outcomes across the entire spectrum of vascular diseases. Thank you very much to all who presented their academic work in these sessions.

*2026 VESS Winter Annual Meeting continued page 2*

And yet, there has never been a more dynamic and exciting time to practice vascular surgery. We occupy a uniquely powerful space in medicine, moving seamlessly between open and endovascular techniques while managing vascular disease from carotid to pedal. Ours is a specialty defined not only by technical precision, but by longitudinal patient relationships and thoughtful clinical judgment. This breadth and adaptability distinguish us. But versatility alone is not enough. Our greatest strength is not found in devices or technology—it is found in our people. We must champion trainees as they navigate increasingly demanding training pathways, foster diversity in background and perspective, prioritize wellness and sustainability in a field known for its intensity, and ensure that the next generation of vascular surgeon's experiences not only the challenge of this profession, but also its deep fulfillment and joy.

**Todd Berland, MD**

New York University, New York  
VESS President 2026-2027



Ravi Rajani and Todd Berland

## 2026 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday began with individual programs for Medical Students, Vascular Fellows, General Surgery Residents and Early Career Faculty. Friday's meeting featured a special session on Review of the CREST-2 Trial Results presented by the lead investigator in the surgical arm of the study, **Dr. Wesley Moore**. This session was arranged by **Dr. Mel Sharafuddin** and **Dr. Lindsey Korepta**. Saturday's meeting included a round table discussion organized by **Dr. Natalie Sridharan** and **Dr. Nathan Aranson**, focused on advocacy within vascular surgery with invited speakers **Dr. Olamide Alabi**, **Dr. Katherine McMackin**, and **Dr. Joe Haurani**.



Additionally, dedicated sessions for interesting case reports were held Friday and Saturday afternoons, which were rounded out by personal challenging cases presented by VESS faculty members **Drs. Mark Conrad, Gabby Velasquez, Misty Humphries, Bernadette Aulivola, Niten Singh, and Matt Corriere**. Saturday night concluded with a 70s themed dance party to honor the 50th anniversary of the society.

The 2026 VESS Awards were presented on Saturday morning. The Best Paper Award went to **Grzegorz Jodlowski, MD** (Author) and **Saman Qadri** (Presenter) from Mayo Clinic. The Travel Award went to **Karim Salem** from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. The Resident Research Award went to **Keyuree Satam** from Stanford

University. And this year 2 VESS/BSCI Early Career Faculty Awards were give: **Katherine Holzem** from Washington University and **Christopher Audu** from the University of Utah.

Lastly, we thank outgoing president **Dr. Ravi Rajani** for his excellent leadership and dedicated service to the society. We welcome incoming president **Dr. Todd Berland** and look forward to his service this year. Lastly, we congratulate our new president-elect **Dr. Dawn Coleman**.

**Lindsey Korepta, MD,**

Winter Program Committee Chair

# 2026 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## VASCULAR TRAINEES PROGRAM

In 2026, VESS hosted another successful Vascular Trainees Program, led by **Dr. Mimmie Kwong, MD, MAS**. In preparation for the meeting, the organizing committee met several times over the course of the year to refine the program. There was a focused effort to enhance the overall curriculum structure based on feedback from last year's attendees. This year's talks focused on practical topics for the transition to attending-hood, including job selection, contract negotiation, financial knowledge, and navigating new workplace relationships.

The application process was competitive, with 50 trainees applying for a total of 25 travel scholarships. Trainees came from a wide variety of training programs across the country, including representatives from both integrated residency (0+5) and fellowship (5+2) training paradigms. Four attendees, each from different programs, had the opportunity to present challenging endovascular and open cases, followed by engaging discussions.

The program featured excellent talks from 11 invited speakers, representing diverse institutions. Talk titles included *"Tips and Tricks on Contract Negotiation,"* *"Mind the Gap: The Transition from Fellowship to Your New Job,"* *"Billing and Reimbursement 101,"* and *"Financial Planning: How to Set Yourself Up to Prepare for Retirement and the Unexpected."* Important but oft overlooked topics such as Social Media/Branding as well as Wellness/Ergonomics rounded out a fantastic program.

Vascular Jeopardy, a favorite activity, also made a return with fun prizes driving fierce competition. To improve participation in the industry-sponsored lunch symposium and tech forum, attendance was made mandatory, and travel stipends were distributed at the conclusion of the tech forum. Overall, feedback from attendees was very positive.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our industry sponsors—Cook, Terumo, and Penumbra—for their continued support of this valuable program.

**Mimmie Kwong, MD MAS, Co-Chair**

*VESS Vascular Trainees Education Committee*

## NEXT GENERATION STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The VESS hosted the Next Generation Student Mentor Program in February at the Everline Resort in Lake Tahoe during our Annual Winter Meeting. The program continued to generate strong interest both nationally and internationally. We had a competitive applicant pool for travel scholarships. This year, we welcomed a diverse group of medical students representing a range of training levels, institutions, and backgrounds.

The day focused on introducing students to the breadth of vascular surgery and providing practical guidance on pursuing a career in the specialty. Panel discussions addressed life as a vascular surgeon,



*Vascular Jeopardy Winners:  
David Ebertz (3rd Place);  
Naveed Rahman (1st Place);  
Michael Zhou (2nd Place)*

## 2026 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

mentorship, inclusivity, and strategies for building a competitive application, with faculty representing a variety of practice types and career stages.

Students also participated in a hands-on skills session, practicing open surgical techniques, knot tying, suturing, and endovascular procedures including EVAR and TEVAR. The program was highly interactive and well received, fostering meaningful mentorship and engagement among students and faculty.

We additionally recruited many students for participation in the VESS Vascular Surgery Interest Group for longitudinal involvement and recruiting at the grassroots level. Overall, we had a fantastic session and I can unequivocally say that the future of vascular surgery is incredibly bright.

### Zachary Wanken, MD

*Committee Chair – Next Generation Student Mentor Program*



## GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENT PROGRAM

We hosted the third General Surgery Resident Program at the winter VESS meeting this year in Lake Tahoe, CA. 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 travel stipend. Our program included 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 “*Financial Wellness for Residents*”. Our interactive panel discussions included a Fellows Panel, with 3 current and recently graduated fellows lending their experience to the group. We also brought back the popular “*Great Debate: Academic vs. Private Practice*” and also included surgeons in the VA system which sparked thoughtful and dynamic conversation. The morning was capped off with a skills competition that included timed end-to-end anastomosis and EVAR sizing. The winners of this year’s competition were **Ashley Wang** and **Mustafa Kader**. 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.



### David Laczynski, MD,

*VESS Vascular Trainees Education Committee*

# 2026 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## EARLY CAREER SURGEON PROGRAM

The 2026 Early Career Faculty Program was very successful, drawing an engaged audience of young surgeons from diverse practice backgrounds across the country who were eager to invest in their own personal and professional growth. The program centered on career development, leadership skills, and strategies for navigating the unique challenges of early academic and private practice alike. A highly interactive format encouraged open dialogue, and the candid conversations that emerged fostered a palpable sense of connection and shared purpose among attendees. One of the highlights of this year's program was the dynamic, case-based discussions that tackled real world interpersonal relationship challenges, complex clinical scenarios, and common early-career obstacles. These thoughtful exchanges not only provided practical insights but also underscored how many of these experiences are shared—ultimately strengthening relationships and building a supportive community among the next generation of vascular surgery leaders. This initiative was made possible through the generous support of our industry partners, W.L. Gore, Medtronic, and Shockwave, whose sponsorship enabled us to provide travel stipends for all 25 attendees. We look forward to continuing to grow this program in 2027, building on this year's momentum to further support and connect early career faculty.

**Anna Boniakowski, MD**

*VESS Early Career Faculty Education Committee*

## VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY FORUM

The 2026 Technology Forum was an exceptional showcase of cutting edge technology utilized in the field of vascular surgery. The session was open to all, and was packed with Fellows, Residents, and many of our young career Vascular Surgeons. Forum attendees were able to get their hands on wet models, endovascular simulators, and the devices being used in advanced surgical suites and interventional rooms around the country. We want to thank our industry partners who participated: Cook Medical, Humacyte Global, Johnson & Johnson MedTech, Penumbra, Shockwave Medical and Terumo Aortic. Overall, the event was well attended and enjoyed by our attendees and industry partners.



# 2026 VESS WELCOME RECEPTION



# 2026 VESS WELCOME RECEPTION



# VESS 50th Anniversary Celebration



## 2026 NEW MEMBERS

The VESS would like to welcome the new members elected at the 2026 Business Meeting

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

Andrews, Shalimar	Ebertz, David	Hubbard, Grant	Paterson, Jeanette
Bahroloomi, Donna	Eddinger, Kevin	Kania, Thomas	Pillado, Eric
Balderman, Joshua	Epstein, David	Kanitra, John	Pineda, Carlos
Blakeslee-Carter, Juliet	Farid, Franklin	Kindell, Daniel	Potti, Chinmayee
Boelitz, Kris	Feldman, Zach	Kistler, Amanda	Reitz, Katie
Boggs, Hans	Feridooni, Tiam	Koh, Ezra	Shah, Anil
Bush, Charles	Filiberto, Amanda	Lajos, Paul	Sorber, Rebecca
Cadavid, Felipe	Fraser, Simon	Lauria, Alexis	Sreeram, Vivek
Cambiaghi, Tommaso	Ganapathy, Anand	Layman, Peter	Steerman, Samuel
Carlson, Sarah	Gobble, Alexandra	Lazar, Andrew	Suggs, Julia
Cass, Bryan	Goldschmidt, Eric	Li, Chun	Teng, Xiaoyi
Chait, Jesse	Gopal, Mallika	Lin, Alex	Terranella, Samantha
Chen, Julia	Grafmuller, Leanne	Long, Yanyu	Thors, Axel
DeCarlo, Charles	Graham, Alexis	Markel, Kyle	Vuoncino, Matthew
Delgadillo, Daniel	Grewal, Mary	Nag, Uttara	Weissler, Elizabeth
DiBartolomeo, Alexander	Heidt, Nicole	OBrien, Ciaran	Wogsland, Aric
DiLosa, Kathryn	Holzem, Katherine	Oyenyi, James	Wolfers, Matthew
Dong, Siwei	Howell, Caronae	Parrott, Megan	Zimmermann, Amos

### CANDIDATE MEMBERS

Abadi, Arad	Durojaye, Omodele	Jackson, Landon	Presser, Elise	Suh, Dongjin
Abuown, Majdi	Eid, Mark	Jadi, Jihane	Pride, Laura	Tulimieri, Maxwell
Allan, John	Eisenberg, Michael	Krol, Olivia	Qadri, Saman	Urrechaga, Eva
Alshawi, Ali	Eze, Anthony	Lehane, Daniel	Quinn, Patrick	Vasquez, Charles
Anderson, Matthew	Farno, Erfan	Li, Shimena	Rahman, Moham-med	Wahidi, Ryan
Araim, Fawaz	Foster, Peter	Mazonas, Tom	Raiker, Ashna	Wang, Alan
Attia, Mickel	Ganapathy, Aravindh	McCarthy, Patrick	Rhoiney, David	Wang, Karissa
Bagnati, Christina	Garman, Adam	McDonnell, Eileen	Rice-Narusch, Wyatt	Warren, Marshall
Benfor, Bright	Gibson, Keenan	Mirza, Sahaam	Rizzo, Anthony	Wilkinson, Michael
Berding, Samuel	Grieme, Caleb	Moses, JB	Salem, Maged	Wood, Chelsey
Borenstein, Jacob	Han, Jesse	Mosher, Emily	Scribner, Katherine	Wyer, Abigail
Cabrera, Matthew	Han, John	Mustansir, Fatima	Sevilla, Sabrina	
Campat, Christian	Ho, Jessie	Obayi, Ikpechukwu	Shi, Meiyi	
Clausen, David	Hoff, John	Olivere, Lindsey	Smyth, Tristan	
Cralle, Lauren	Irons, Thomas	Pak, Grace	Soto, Cassandra	
DeRiso, Armelle	Irving, Dondre	Postol, Carolyn	Stadlin, Cameron	
Dogbe, Leana	Iskandar, Sandra	Powell, Mason		

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dono, Angel  
Nakayama, Wataru  
Pietraru, Alexander

## 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES



### PRESIDENT

**Todd Berland, MD**

New York University  
New York, NY



### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Dawn Coleman, MD**

Duke University Med Center  
Durham, NC



### SECRETARY

**Daniel Han, MD**

Mt. Sinai Hospital  
New York, NY



### TREASURER

**Jean Marie Ruddy, MD**

Med. Univ. of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC



### RECORDER

**Karan Garg, MD**

NYU Langone Health  
New York, NY



### COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

**Max Wohlauer, MD**

University of Colorado  
Aurora, CO



### COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

**Gabriela Velazquez, MD**

Wake Forest School of  
Medicine  
Winston-Salem, NC



### COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

**Bjoern Suckow, MD**

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical  
Center  
Lebanon, NH



### PAST PRESIDENT (2025)

**Misty Humphries, MD**

University of California, Davis  
Sacramento, CA



### PAST PRESIDENT (2026)

**Ravi Rajani, MD**

Emory University  
Atlanta, GA

# 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

## Program Committee (Spring 2025 – 2026)

**Gabriela Velazquez, Chair**  
**Elina Quiroga, Vice Chair**  
 Christine Shokrzadeh  
 Christopher Ramos  
 Mina Boutrous  
 Karim Salem  
 Anand Brahmandam  
 Caitlin Hicks  
 Kedar Lavingia  
 Gregory Magee

## Program Committee (Winter 2026-2027)

**Yana Etkin, Chair**  
**Adam Doyle, Vice Chair**  
 Donald Baril  
 Jaime Benarroch-Gampel  
 Katherine Hekman  
 Young Kim  
 Jake Hemingway  
 Mimmi Kwong  
 Christopher Ramos  
 Matthew Smeds  
 Libby Weaver  
 Lindsey Korepta, Ex-officio

## VESS Representatives

**Representative to the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors**  
 Niten Singh, MD

**Representative to the ACS Advisory Council for Surgical Specialties**  
 Kristine Orion, MD

**SVS Strategic Board of Directors**  
 Kelly Kempe, MD

## 2026-2027 VESS Committees

### Communications

**Dawn Coleman, Secretary**

### Website/Social Media Subcommittee

**Jarrad Rowse, Chair**

Alexis Lauria  
 Anastasia Magee  
 Tiffany Bellomo  
 David Stonko

### Newsletter Subcommittee

**Nathan Orr, Chair**

Xzabia Caliste  
 Rym El Khoury  
 Austin Clements

### Fundraising

**Nathan Liang, Chair**

James Cornwall  
 Kathryn Fong  
 Mel Sharafuddin  
 Christopher Smolock  
 Todd Berland  
 Dawn Coleman  
 Dan Han  
 Jean Marie Ruddy

### Bylaws

**Elizabeth George, Chair**

Roan Glocker  
 Genevieve Hayek

### Grants & Scholarships

**Courtenay Holscher, Chair**

Young Erben  
 Loay Kabbani  
 Samuel Leonard  
 Heepeel Chang  
 Laura Healy  
 Issam Koleilat  
 Christine Shokrzadeh

**Max Wohlauer, Councilor**

### Membership Development

**Ravi Ambani, Chair**

Jon Quatromoni  
 Matthew Smith  
 Tarik Ali  
 Anand Brahmandam  
 Amanda Kistler  
 Gregory Salzler

**Dawn Coleman, Secretary**

### Vascular Research Consortium

**Elizabeth Genovese, Chair**  
**Jordan Stern, Co-chair**

### Vascular Trainee Education Committee

**Bjorn Suckow, Councilor**

### Vascular Fellows Program

**Jenianne Yi, Co-chair**

Kevin Chang  
 K. Benjamin Lee  
 Zachary Pallister  
 Erin Greenleaf  
 Zachary Williams  
 Tara Zielke

### General Surgery Resident Program

**Natasha Hansraj, Co-chair**

David Schechtman  
 Kamran Jafree  
 Manasa Kanneganti  
 Jay Natarajan  
 Yasong Yu

### Early Career Surgeon Program

**Abe Mohapatra, Co-chair**

James Iannuzii  
 Zach Feldman  
 Brittany Fraser  
 Matthew Smith  
 Chun Li

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

**Joanelle Lugo, Chair**

Sharee Wright  
 Benjamin Chou  
 LaVerne Thompson  
 Elisa Caron  
 Dominique Dockery  
**Gabriela Velazquez, Councilor**

### Student Education Committee

**Laura Drudi, Chair**

Steven Cheung  
 Laura Healy  
 Patrick Stone  
 Kris Boelitz  
 Nicole Heidt  
 Reid Mahoney  
 Chinmayee Potti  
 Margaret Smith  
 Brian Wernick

**Max Wohlauer, Councilor**

# 2026 VESS AWARDS

## VESS TRAVEL AWARD



**Karim Salem, MD**  
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School,  
Charleston, SC

## VESS RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD



**Keyuree Satam, MD**  
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA  
*Leveraging iPSC Models to Study  
Endothelial Dysfunction in Vascular  
Ehlers Danlos Syndrome*

## VESS EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD



**Katherine Holzem, MD**  
Washington University School of  
Medicine, St. Louis, MO  
*Interrogating Outer Medial  
Microenvironments in Human Aortic  
Dissection and Peripheral Medial  
Calcification with Spatial Technologies*

## VESS/BSCI EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD



**Christopher Audu, MD**  
University of Utah Hospital,  
Salt Lake City, UT  
*Sirtuin-1 in Diabetic Vascular  
Endothelial-to-mesenchymal Cell  
Transition for Abdominal Aortic  
Aneurysm Progression*

## 2026 BEST PAPER AWARD



**Grzegorz Jodlowski (Author); Saman  
Qadri (Presenter)**  
Mayo Clinic – Rochester, MN  
*Bioengineered Scaffold Seeded with  
Adipose-derived Stem Cells for Arterial  
Reconstruction In a Swine Model: A  
Step Toward On-demand Regenerative  
Vascular Grafts*



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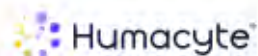
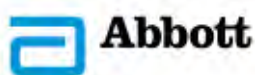
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## 2026 EXHIBITORS



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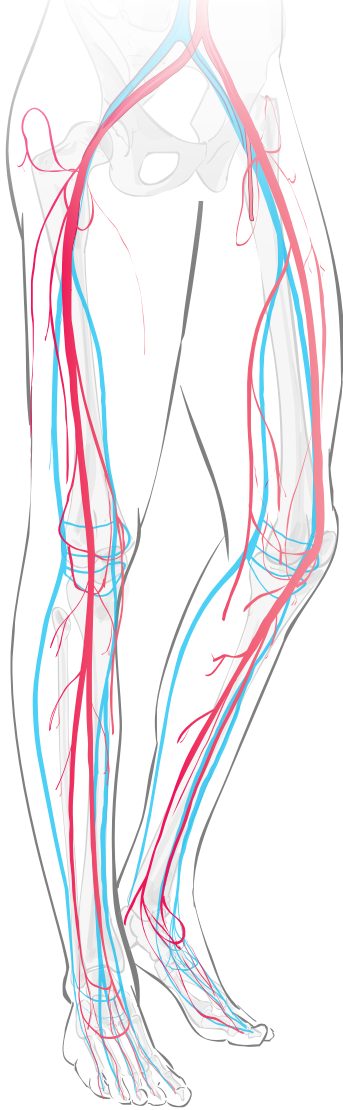
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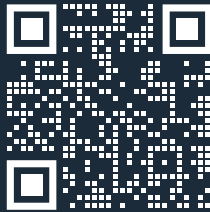
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