



Fall, 2005

Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery

NEWSLETTER

2005 - 2006 COUNCIL

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President's Message

Anton N. Sidawy, M.D.

SCVS continues to adapt to meet the changing educational needs of the vascular surgery community. For over thirty years, our annual meeting has been the centerpiece of our educational activities. *The mission of the Society is to provide a forum for surgeons to update their skills in the fast-changing environment of vascular surgery, share current clinical research, and have the opportunity to learn about new techniques and technologies as presented by world-class experts and device manufacturers.*

This year again, under the leadership of Dr. Robert McLafferty and the Program Committee, we are preparing an excellent program incorporating suggestions made in the evaluation forms of prior meetings. Due to the hard work and efforts of our past presidents, executive councils, and program committees, the quality of the annual meeting has been on an upward trend, to a point that it now rivals any national vascular meeting. It is our aim in 2006 to provide programming that will meet the needs of vascular surgeons practicing in a variety of settings and range of experience.

This year we are introducing two additional presentation formats; short abstracts and video presentations, enabling a better match between content and presentation. The highly attended skills workshops will again be offered. We are again having a well-structured poster presentation session organized by Dr. Tom Bower; last year the poster session was rated as very successful in evaluations completed by attendees.

COMMUNITY VASCULAR SURGEONS

This Society was originally organized by community vascular surgeons to meet and exchange ideas that would better vascular surgical care. Over the years, the involvement and attendance of community vascular surgeons in the annual meeting have been diminishing. In an attempt to reverse this trend, we are targeting the needs of those surgeons by establishing an interest group headed up by Dr. Alan Dietzek. It is our hope that we can reenergize this sector of our membership and bring them back to participate in our meeting. Attendees are invited to bring X-rays of your tough/unique cases for analysis and discussion by experts in the field. Also, we are including sessions of particular interest to community vascular surgeons,

(continued on page 8)



Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery
34th Annual Symposium

March 8 - 11, 2006 • Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

ATTENTION SCVS MEMBERS:

Do we have your correct email address? Send your email address to scvs@prri.com and be the first to receive updates on the 2006 Annual Symposium.

Preliminary Highlights of the 34th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON VASCULAR SURGERY
of the *Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery*
March 8-11, 2005 / *Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM.....

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

The SCVS postgraduate courses are included in the registration fee for all physicians.

Keith Calligaro, MD, Postgraduate Education Director

CAROTID STENTING: CHALLENGING CASES AND TECHNICAL TIPS

Wednesday, March 8th, 11:00am – 12:30pm

Moderated by Keith Calligaro, MD, this session will feature specific case presentations from these eminent vascular surgeons:

Alan B. Lumsden, MD

Baylor College of Medicine

Kim J. Hodgson, MD

SIU School of Medicine

Michael B. Silva, MD

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

VENOUS OFFICE PRACTICE: WHY IT IS REPLACING ARTERIAL SURGERY!

Friday, March 10th 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Community practice surgeons interested in building or expanding their venous practice will benefit from these presentations:

Office Endovenous Procedures: How to Make it Look Easy

Paul McNeill, MD

Other Office Venous Procedures: Phlebectomy,

Sclerotherapy and More

Jose Almeida, MD

How to Build a Venous Practice - Tips for Success

Alan M. Dietzek, MD

SIG BREAKFASTS

Vascular surgeons are practicing in a variety of settings, with each bringing its own set of issues and challenges to the practitioner. Multiple, concurrent breakfast sessions will be held on Thursday and Friday mornings, each focusing on a different topic. In addition to the topics listed here, other topics being developed include: Wound Care & Maximizing Amputations, Marketing Your Practice and Case Reports.

Young Vascular Surgeons

Choose an academic career or a more clinical setting? Experienced physicians offer advice on pitfalls to avoid in seeking hospital privileges and credentialing, contract negotiation and concerns facing the young vascular surgeon.

Women's Issues

Although over 50% of graduating medical students are women, very few are entering vascular surgery—why? What changes in private practice and hospital settings could improve recruitment of new talent and improve retention of women practicing our specialty? These issues are important to program directors and surgical department chiefs as well as the women seeking to practice vascular surgery.

Case Analysis

Present your tough and/or unique cases for detailed discussion with the experts! These small, informal sessions offer the opportunity to discuss diagnoses and outcomes, specific techniques and unexpected events when treating vascular disease. Attendees, the attending surgeon and the expert moderator will gather around a light box to study film and then analyze, ask questions and offer commentary. Several tables will run concurrently during each session.

GORE FELLOWS PROGRAM

W.L. Gore and Associates, Inc., offers an exciting program ***exclusively for clinical vascular fellows***. Registration for the Gore Fellows Program includes complimentary meeting registration for the SCVS annual meeting. The program agenda is posted on the SCVS website. To register, contact Elaine Silashki at 800-437-8181, ext. 43244, or esilashk@wlgore.com.

**CLINICAL SKILLS
HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS**

Proctored hands-on workshops provide demonstrations and “test drive” opportunities for physicians to learn about the latest devices and techniques used in the treatment of vascular disease. Sign-up slots offering personalized teaching will be available.

ABOUT THE HOTEL.....

The Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas is a luxurious, tranquil oasis situated right on The Strip. Occupying the top floors of the Mandalay Bay, each guest room has a magnificent view of either The Strip or the nearby Wilson Cliffs and Red Rock Canyon area. With its own drive and entrance, gourmet restaurant and private outdoor pool, the Four Seasons is a self-contained haven.



For those ready for more excitement, Four Seasons guests may access the Mandalay Beach pool via a private gate, or the Mandalay Bay Hotel main lobby and casinos via elevator.

SCVS is pleased to offer its attendees the Four Seasons experience at an exceptional value.

But there is only one true luxury resort — in some people's eyes, the luxury resort — in town, located, on the top five floors of Mandalay Bay, though in many ways, the Four Seasons is light-years away. A separate driveway and portico entrance, plus an entire registration area, sets you up immediately. This is one fancy hotel in town where you are not greeted, even at a distance, with the clash and clang of slots, and the general hubbub that is the soundtrack to Vegas.

Excerpted from Frommers Las Vegas 2005

Attendees are encouraged to make hotel reservations as early as possible. The Four Seasons Hotel will be completely full during the dates of the Annual Symposium—and it is possible the SCVS block of rooms will fill before the official cutoff date.



ABOUT THE GOLF TOURNAMENT.....

**Rhodes Ranch Golf Club
Thursday, March 9, 2006**

Rhodes Ranch Golf Club is conveniently located about 15 minutes SW of the Vegas Strip. Centerpiece of a master-planned development, the



course was designed by Ted Robinson and opened in 1997. The courses has mounding fairways, relentless bunkers, sweeping streams and a myriad of reflective water hazards that present a serious challenge to golfers brave enough to play from the back tees. The layout provides a unique blend of challenge and playability to golfers of all skill levels. Highlighted by a group of par threes, which Robinson calls the best that he has ever designed, this 6,909 yard course will envelop you in its lush tropical surroundings while providing you with a world-class golf experience.

Opened for play in November of 1997, Rhodes Ranch has quickly matured into one of the best conditioned and most playable courses in the Vegas valley. The multitude of water features, varying elevations, stunning city views and gently rolling fairways spread out over the 162 acre property provide a wonderful setting for a day of golf.

Host to many distinguished tournaments including the Oldsmobile Scramble Net Division National Finals and Southwest PGA Section Fred Smith Championships, Rhodes Ranch Country Club promises to reward golfers, but also dares them to think twice before talking advantage of several tempting and spectacular drives. The courses has mounding fairways, relentless bunkers, sweeping streams and a myriad of reflective water hazards that present a serious challenge to golfers brave enough to play from the back tees.

Specifics for the SCVS Tournament

Transfers, greens/cart fees, practice balls, boxed lunch, tax and gratuities included in the fee of \$125.00 per person.

Sign-up for your specific tee-time upon your arrival at the SCVS Registration Desk. Coach will depart the Four Seasons main entrance at 11:45AM SHARP, Thursday, March 9th. Staggered tee-times begin at 12:30PM, with foursomes going out every 8 minutes. Return transfer will depart Rhodes Ranch at 6PM.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New Active Members

- Beth A. Ballinger, M.D.**
Iowa City, Iowa
- Mark G. Davies, M.D.**
Rochester, New York
- Curtis A. Erickson, M.D.**
Tucson, Arizona
- Victor Z. Erzurum, M.D.**
Shaker Heights, Ohio
- Mark K. Eskandari, M.D.**
Chicago, Illinois
- Tam T. Huynh, M.D.**
Houston, Texas
- Theresa M. Impeduglia, M.D.**
Englewood, New Jersey
- James B. Knox, M.D.**
Falmouth, Massachusetts
- Jeffrey W. Kronson, M.D.**
Whittier, California
- Stephen R. Lauterbach, M.D.**
Burbank, California
- Eddy H. Luh, M.D.**
Las Vegas, Nevada
- John A. Manicone, M.D.**
Belleville, New Jersey
- Luke K. Marone, M.D.**
Wexford, Pennsylvania
- Manish Mehta, M.D.**
Albany, New York
- Robert S. Podolsky, M.D.**
Reston, Virginia

- Vincent L. Rowe, M.D.**
Los Angeles, California
- Khashayar Salartash, M.D.**
Linwood, New Jersey
- David D. R. Shin, M.D.**
Houston, Texas
- L. Richard Sprouse, II, M.D.**
Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Victor J. Weiss, M.D.**
Jackson, Mississippi
- Fred A. Wolodiger, M.D.**
Englewood, New Jersey
- Jonathan Woody, M.D.**
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- William J. Zingarelli, M.D.**
Lawton, Oklahoma

New Candidate Members

- Chong A Lee, MD**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Bernardo Mendoza, MD**
Norfolk, Virginia
- Matthew Todd Miller, MD**
Toledo, Ohio
- Mark R Robbins, MD**
Toledo, Ohio
- John Keith Thompson, DO**
Cincinnati, Ohio
- Gabor A Winkler, MD**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Membership information is available on the SCVS website (scvs.vascularweb.org) and by contacting the SCVS Administrative Office, (978) 927-8330.

ATTENTION: Community Vascular Surgeons

The Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery is looking for your difficult and/or unusual cases. Share your challenges and successes with your colleagues.

Submit your cases for presentation during the Case Analysis Breakfast being held during the 34th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Details are available on the SCVS website (scvs.vascularweb.org) on the Annual Meeting Page.

2005-2006 COMMITTEES

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Peter H. Lin, M.D., Chair
M. Ashraf Mansour, M.D.
Audra A. Noel, M.D.

Membership Committee

Timothy M. Sullivan, M.D., Chair
John Blebea, M.D.
Donna M. Mendes, M.D.

Nominating Committee

Anton N. Sidawy, M.D., Chair
O. William Brown, M.D.
Enrico Ascher, M.D.
Kim J. Hodgson, M.D.
Peter F. Lawrence, M.D.

Postgraduate Education Committee

Keith D. Calligaro, M.D., Chair
Ex-Officios
Anton N. Sidawy, M.D.,
Robert B. McLafferty, M.D.

Program Committee

Robert B. McLafferty, M.D., Chair
Richard F. Neville, M.D.
William J. Quinones-Baldrich, M.D.
Ex-Officios:
Alan B. Lumsden, M.D.
George H. Meier, III, M.D.
Samuel R. Money, M.D.
Anton N. Sidawy, M.D.

Student / Resident Award Committee

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Peter F. Lawrence, M.D.
Samuel R. Money, M.D.
Robert B. McLafferty, M.D.
Anton N. Sidawy, M.D.

Ad hoc Community Vascular Surgeons Committee

Alan M. Dietzek, M.D.

Ad hoc Young Vascular Surgeons Committee

Anil P. Hingorani, M.D., Chair
Peter H. Lin, M.D.
Robert B. McLafferty, M.D.
David G. Neschis, M.D.
Audra A. Noel, M.D.

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Kim J. Hodgson, M.D.

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ICAVL

J. Dennis Baker, M.D.
M. Ashraf Mansour, M.D.

Society for Vascular Surgery

Peter F. Lawrence, M.D.

Vascular Disease Foundation

Anton N. Sidawy, M.D.

Vascular Surgery Board

Kim J. Hodgson, M.D.

Highlights from the 2005 Annual Meeting

More than 240 physicians and guests attended the 33rd Annual Symposium held from March 9-12, 2005 at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. Traditionally, one of the most exciting forums for the exchange of ideas and experiences in vascular surgery, this year's meeting attracted participants from all over the world.

The Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Anil P. Hingorani assembled an outstanding variety of state-of-the-art papers and incorporated breakfast sessions, breakout workshops, how-to videos, poster presentations, symposia, and postgraduate courses to enhance the educational experience. Thirty papers and 56 posters were presented over four days of programming.

Additional Highlights included:

- ♦ **Distinguished Lecturer, Wesley S. Moore, MD**, presented an update on "*How Has Technology Influenced My Clinical Practice?*"
- ♦ **Presidential Address by Peter F. Lawrence, MD**, focused on "*How Dogs Learn Tricks: Implications for Vascular Surgeons.*"
- ♦ The **2005 Peter B. Samuels Award Recipient** was **Indranil Sinha**, from the University of Michigan, for his work entitled, "*A Biological Basis For Anatomic Variation In Descending Thoracic Aneurysms.*"
- ♦ The **Allastair Karmody Poster Presentation Award** was given to: **Konstantinos T. Delis, M.D.** for his poster, "*Hemodynamic Improvement Parallels Clinical Benefit After Iliofemoral Venous Stenting For Complicated Post-Thrombotic Outflow Obstruction.*"
- ♦ Postgraduate Course – "*Medical Legal Issues*", chaired by Dr. O. William Brown focused on the basic principles of medical malpractice, policing our physician colleagues, how the plaintiff attorney decides which suit to file, and defendant behavior.
- ♦ Postgraduate Course – "*Carotid Angioplasty*", chaired by Dr. O. William Brown, focused on cerebral angiography, stenting, complications following carotid angioplasty and stenting, credentialing, and the present status of Medicare payment for these procedures.
- ♦ **Breakout Workshops** on the following topics were offered at three separate times during the program:
Zenith AAA and TAA (thoracic) Stent Grafts / *Cook, Inc.*;
TRIVEX and TCI Systems: A Complete Technique for Treating Vericose Veins/*Smith & Nephew, Inc.*;
Carotid Angiography and Carotid Stenting: Simulation Workshop/*Cordis Endovascular*;
Innovations for Life/*C.R. Bard*; Procedure Simulation Training: Carotid Arteriography, Renal & Iliac Artery Interventions/*Medical Simulation Corporation*;
The Closure Procedure: An In Depth Review of Endovenous Radiofrequency Ablation/*VNUS Medical Technologies*;
Screening Program/*American Vascular Association*.
- ♦ **Poster Sessions** divided by topic: Carotid, Endovascular AAA, Venous, Endovascular, PVD, Open AAA & Imaging, Basic Science, and Other.

SCVS gratefully acknowledges the following companies for their support of the 33rd Annual Meeting:

W. L. Gore
Boston Scientific
C. R. Bard
Cook Inc.
Medtronic
Cordis Endovascular
Genentech
Smith & Nephew
Vascutek
VNUS

VISIT THE WEBSITE

You can view the SCVS Newsletter, gather up-to-date annual meeting information, download membership information and applications, read about Society activities, and pay your membership dues on-line at:

scvs.vascularweb.org

Expert Witnesses Must Be Held Accountable

O. William Brown, M.D., J.D.

The outcome of most medical malpractice suits often hinges upon whether or not the plaintiff's attorney can establish the standard of care and then prove to the jury that the defendant has breached the standard. The standard of care may be established in one of several ways. First, the defendant may admit that he breached the standard of care. As one might expect, this is the least likely manner by which a breach of the standard of care is established. Secondly, the plaintiff's attorney can in some instances induce the defendant's expert to establish that the defendant breached the standard of care. A third method of establishing the standard of care is by the use of the legal doctrine "res ipsa loquitur", or "it speaks for itself". An example of this occurs when a sponge is left in a patient. There is no need to "prove" that the standard of care requires the surgeon to remove all sponges. Another method is when the standard of care is so obvious that even a layperson would recognize it. An example of this theory is the use of total body irradiation in a female who is one month pregnant. Finally, the most common method of establishing the standard of care, and a subsequent breach of that standard, is the use of an "expert witness". Accordingly, in most cases, if there is no expert witness to testify, there is no malpractice suit.

Recently, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) have established written guidelines for those who choose to participate as vascular surgery experts in medical malpractice cases. The establishment of these guidelines was, in part, initiated by the *Austin v. American Association of Neurological Surgeons* case (253 F.3d 967). In this case, Dr. Austin was accused of providing less than accurate testimony in multiple medical malpractice suits. The defendant Society agreed with the accusations and suspended Dr. Austin from its membership. As one would expect, this severely limited Dr. Austin's ability to earn a living as a plaintiff's expert. Accordingly, Dr. Austin filed suit against the Society. Judge Posner, who heard the case, wrote in her opinion that;

There is a great deal of skepticism about expert evidence. It is well known that expert witnesses are often paid very handsome fees, and common sense suggests that a financial stake can influence an expert's testimony, especially when the testimony is technical and esoteric and hence difficult to refute in terms of intelligible to judges and jurors.

The Judge went on to state that not only is it the right, but it is also the responsibility of specialty societies to police the testimony of its members.

Although admirable on the surface, the guidelines, in and of themselves, established by the ACS and the SVS, fall far short of adequately policing the "gang" of vascular surgeons who have chosen to make their living in the courtroom rather than in the operating

room. It is foolish to believe that these "professional" plaintiff's experts will abide by any of the criteria established by the two Societies. These surgeons, as suggested by Judge Posner, are driven by financial incentives rather than sound medical principles and fundamental professional ethics. Some vascular surgeons purportedly earn between \$500,000.00 and \$750,000.00 a year providing "whatever testimony is required". These surgeons most often testify outside their own state and against community hospital based vascular surgeons.

All too often, the defendants in these cases do not reveal and make public the name of the expert who is testifying against them. I believe that the rationale behind this behavior is similar to that of women who do not report cases of rape. In such cases, the victims reportedly are often embarrassed, and feel that they may be held responsible for the attack. Similarly, vascular surgeons may feel embarrassment regarding the suit as well as concern that they may be unfairly judged by their peers, who sometimes equate a lawsuit with negligence. Plaintiff's "experts" count on this mentality.

Similarly, vascular surgeons may feel embarrassment regarding the suit as well as concern that they may be unfairly judged by their peers, who sometimes equate a lawsuit with negligence. Plaintiff's "experts" count on this mentality.

However, it is these "professional" plaintiff's experts who should be embarrassed. They must be exposed to the light of day and not be allowed to exist under the cover of anonymity. I encourage all vascular surgeons to openly discuss the cases in which they are involved — not the facts, but rather the experts who are testifying against them. I also encourage vascular surgeons to collect, through their local or regional vascular societies, the depositions of these "experts". "Professional" plaintiff's experts often contradict themselves in an effort to provide "necessary testimony" in different cases. Depositions are not privileged documents, and therefore should be reviewed for such contradictions. In addition, I would favor publishing the names of individuals who provide inaccurate expert testimony along with excerpts from their depositions. It is an embarrassment to me that there are members of the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery who have chosen to provide less than reputable testimony in several cases in the State of Michigan. Experts must be willing and able to defend their testimony to their fellow Society members. If not, then those "experts" should no longer be afforded the privilege of being a member of our Societies.

Highlights of the SCVS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

March 11, 2005 / Coral Gables, Florida

President's Report

The SCVS leadership has been fully engaged in revising the Annual Meeting and are committed to maintaining an attractive and robust meeting for vascular surgeons of all varieties. Dr. Lawrence thanked Dr. Kim Hodgson for producing an excellent meeting and for introducing the Society to the Gore's Fellow Program. He also extended his appreciation to other members of the Council for their efforts to expand the Society's role in training and developing new skills and techniques for the clinical vascular surgeon.

Report of the Secretary

The SCVS has 651 Active Members, 24 Honorary Members, 1 Inactive Member, 246 Senior Members and 66 Candidate Members for a total membership of 991.

The Society's leadership has been looking for ways to improve the educational experience for residents and fellows as well as practicing vascular surgeons. The Society has revised the scheduling for the afternoon sessions to provide breakout workshops and symposia that include a simulator training provided by Cordis Endovascular and Boston Scientific/Medical Simulation. The membership is encouraged to provide feedback on this year's educational programming and any suggestions or recommendations for next year's planning.

SCVS granted \$5,000 to the American Board of Vascular Surgery to help fund a survey of vascular surgeons. The ABVS petitioned the LCSB, the liaison specialty Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties, to reverse its earlier denial of the ABVS certificate for an independent Board for Vascular Surgery.

SCVS has also endorsed the multi-specialty society clinical competence statement on training and credentialing for carotid stenting that was published in the January edition of the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* and previously published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

Report of the Treasurer

The SCVS's Treasury had expanded over the last year and no dues increase is indicated. The financials for the year ending September 30, 2004 included revenues of \$401,307 and total expenses of \$350,890 producing a net surplus of \$50,417. The majority of the revenues for the 2004 year were the result of outstanding fundraising for the 2004 Annual Meeting. Total assets for the SCVS had risen to \$114,932 from \$64,516 for the same period last year.

In response to a question from the membership, Dr. Meier reported that the Society was working to build a reserve of 1x the operating expenses for the Society and believed that it was reachable in the near term. He also noted that the Society would like to have a target goal in excess of 1x operating ratio, perhaps by as much as 1.5x in order to protect against unusual risks associated with Annual Meeting and associated costs (hotel, meeting cancellation, etc.)

Report of the Recorder

Changes to the Recorder's role occurred since *Journal of Vascular Surgery* now accepts manuscripts electronically. The Council has made the Recorder responsible for the breakout workshops and symposia sponsored by industry. The 2003-2004 manuscripts were accepted at a 50% rate, below the historical rate for SCVS and will be an area for ongoing review.

Reports of Committees

Program Committee

The Program Committee had received 182 abstracts (30 more than last year) and selected 30 abstracts for oral presentation and 56 for poster presentation.

Report of the Postgraduate Program Chair

The Medical Malpractice Program featuring three trial attorneys was extremely well-received. In addition, the Carotid Stenting Program was also very successful.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Dr. Bower noted that the changes to Article 4, Section 2, Items 1 and 2 as well as Section 3, Elections and Article 4 enabled the Society to modify its Nominating Committee process to allow broader member nominations and to facilitate a slate of candidates other than those presented by the Nominating Committee. Members noted that it would be desirable to have the By-Laws provide for electronic mail and nomination for candidates who were not present and votes by members who were not present at the Annual Meeting. Members noted that the selection of Officers should be predicated on contribution and participation in the Society. The Committee will be working to better define roles and responsibilities of Officers.

Reports of Representatives

Vascular Surgery Board of the ABS

The VSB is involved in reviewing results of previous Board Examination, reviewing old questions and writing new ones. The American Board of Vascular Surgery had asked the VSB to take a formal position on the primary certificate question before the American Board Medical Specialties. The VSB made a formal statement that it was an apolitical organization that would not take positions on any issues that were outside of its testing mandate.

ACS Advisory Council for Vascular Surgery

The ACS is interested in the vascular surgery effort to improve communication to medical students and residents about the benefits of vascular surgery as a career.

American Board of Vascular Surgery

The ABVS appeal of its decision before the LCSB had been turned down and, as a result, the American Board of Vascular Surgery will need to wait one more year prior to its next application. The primary certificate question before the ABMS is due to be acted on at its March 13th meeting.

Society for Vascular Surgery

The SVS is revising the working relationships of the Society and Lifeline Foundation and the American Vascular Association. The two Foundations are merged and are dividing the roles and responsibilities.

Vascular Disease Foundation

The Vascular Disease Foundation, a non-profit Foundation, serves as a resource for public education on vascular disease and related patient education issues. The SCVS is one of over a dozen partners in the VDF and along with other organizations such as the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, have organized a coalition for peripheral arterial disease and are working closely with the NIH to provide a PAD educational grant.

President's Message (continued from page one)

organized by Dr. Keith Calligaro, namely a practical session on carotid angioplasty and stenting and another on how to incorporate venous disease management in the vascular surgeon's practice to improve the bottom line.

WOMEN IN VASCULAR SURGERY

Dr. Joann Lohr will again moderate the Women's Issues interest group targeting the professional needs of women vascular surgeons. Although over 50% of graduating medical students are women, very few are entering our field. Why are so few women choosing vascular surgery? What changes in private practice and hospital settings could improve recruitment of new talent and improve retention of women practicing our specialty? These issues are important to program directors and surgical department chiefs as well as the women seeking to practice vascular surgery.

YOUNG VASCULAR SURGEONS

Realizing the importance of young vascular surgeons to the future of our specialty, we have created the Young Vascular Surgeons interest group, chaired by Dr. Anil Hingorani. This group will explore the needs of young vascular surgeons and identify ways to improve their involvement in the functions of our society.

VASCULAR FELLOWS

We will again have the Vascular Fellows' meeting preceding the main program. We will also be incorporating the fellows in the

functions of the main meeting by assigning them presentations to discuss. I ask the Fellows and their Program Directors to plan to attend this meeting; it is going to be extremely valuable to the Fellows as they are planning to enter practice.

Although the program for the 2006 Annual Symposium is packed with interesting and clinically relevant topics and presentations, we are leaving enough time for attendees to enjoy Las Vegas with their families and for the golfers among us to enjoy their favorite past-time, a hallmark of our meeting since the Society's inception. As you know, Las Vegas has become a very popular destination for conventions and meetings; it is a fun place for the whole family. The venue, the Four Seasons' Hotel, is quite elegant; we had one of our most successful meetings when we last went there four years ago. The Program Committee received a record 220 abstracts to choose from this year; we are predicting a program with an usually high number of outstanding presentations. This is an excellent way to start this meeting. I encourage you to mark your calendar now for SCVS 2006, March 8-11 at the Four Seasons, Las Vegas. I look forward to seeing you there and meeting your families!

This Society was originally organized by community vascular surgeons to meet and exchange ideas that would better vascular surgical care. Over the years, their involvement and attendance have been diminishing. In an attempt to reverse this trend, we are targeting the needs of those surgeons.....



Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery
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