

# VESS

## Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society

### NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 • Issue 2 • Summer 2018

## VESS Spring Meeting Re-Cap

**Another successful VESS Spring Meeting was held on June 20, 2018 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA.** Our Spring meeting

was held in conjunction with the Society for Vascular Surgery VAM2018. The timeline of sessions was coordinated to minimize topic overlap with SVS Postgraduate courses running concurrently and attendance was great with 125 - 150 attendees throughout the day. We hope you all were able to participate.

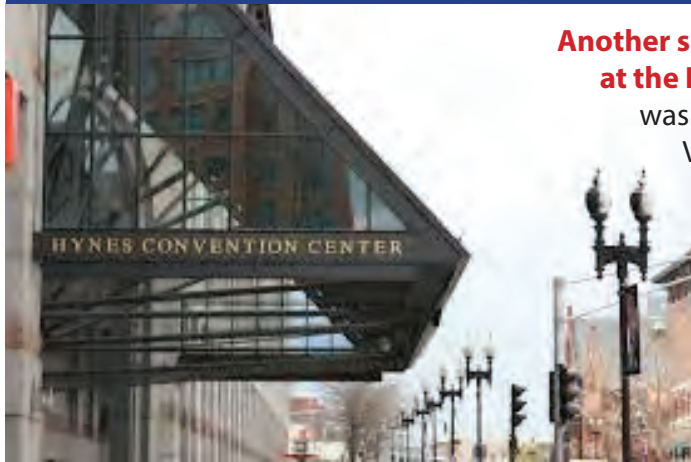
We congratulate the VESS Spring Program Committee led by **Dr. Matthew Smeds** (Chair), and including **Drs. Nikhil Kansal, Michael Curi, Shang Loh, Kathy Gallagher, Niten**

**Singh and Jeffrey Siracuse.** They worked with the SVS/VESS Joint Program Committee to select a spectacular line-up of papers for our session.

A total of 647 abstracts were submitted to VAM, of that, 343 selected VESS as an option for presentation. Thirty (30) abstracts were selected for the VESS Spring Program, and included nine presentations on aortic disease, six presentations on peripheral arterial disease, four presentations on cerebrovascular disease, three presentations on venous disease topics, two presentations on vascular complications, two papers on dialysis access, two papers on vascular surgery education/training, one presentation on vascular lab/imaging, and one paper on vascular trauma.

Once again, VESS Candidate Members were featured as invited discussants for each paper. Manuscripts were provided prior to meeting to allow time for review. The Candidate members gave concise overviews of the presented material in context with the literature and then framed the discussion with thoughtful and insightful questions for the authors. This long-standing VESS tradition of inviting young residents and fellows to be primary discussants during a national meeting is a unique opportunity that many have not experienced before.

There were over 50 institutions represented as author, co-author, or discussant for these presentations with participants from across the United States and several international locations. All projects will be considered for potential publication in the Journal of Vascular Surgery.



## VESS Spring Meeting Recap (Continued)

**Women & Diversity and the Young Vascular Surgeons' Reception** is co-sponsored by VESS & SVS. It is a networking opportunity for the leaders of VESS to meet and welcome attendees and introduce them to VESS and highlight the benefits of membership.



## VESS GRANTS AND AWARDS

### W. L. Gore Travel Award – 2019

**Application Deadline: Friday, September 12, 2018**

The primary purpose of the **VESS/W.L. Gore 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.



### Medtronic Vascular Resident Research Award – 2019

**Application Deadline: Friday, October 10, 2018**

One **\$12,500 grant** for basic/translational science, educational, clinical or health outcomes research will be awarded during the VESS Annual Meeting in 2018. 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.

The Medtronic logo consists of the word "Medtronic" in a blue, sans-serif font.

### VESS 2019 Early Career Faculty Research Award

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, November 7, 2018**

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



## CANDIDATE MEMBER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Win a  
**Free Registration  
to the 2019 VESS  
Annual Meeting!**

On behalf of the VESS we are asking for your help in recruiting the next generation of vascular surgeons and VESS leaders. We find that by getting the residents & fellows involved early in their careers helps to create a clear path to their futures. All we are asking is for you to spread the word and potentially sponsor those in your department that may not already be familiar with the Society or those who are familiar but have not yet joined. We have a very simple, online enrollment that only requires one letter (or email) of support from a current VESS member. And even better, there is no membership fee for Candidate Members. As an incentive for your help, we plan to hold a raffle at the end of the year for a free registration to the 2019 annual meeting. Your name will be added to the list for each new member you recruit. The more recruits, the better your odds at winning. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our administrative office. We appreciate your help and commitment to keeping this Society the premiere vascular Society for the young vascular surgeon.

## VESS 2019 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2018**

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society is now accepting abstracts for their 43rd Annual Meeting to be held January 31 - February 3, 2019 at the Snowbird Resort in Snowbird, Utah.

Abstracts must be submitted online and submission must be completed by **Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. (EDT)**. Submission Guidelines can be found under the meetings tab at: [www.vesurgery.org](http://www.vesurgery.org).

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

[www.vesurgery.org](http://www.vesurgery.org).

# Spotlight on VESS Grant Awardees

Each year, the VESS awards a travel grant, an early career faculty research grant and a resident research grant. Here, we catch up with previous awardees to find out how they used their funds and what impact the award had on their 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, see page 3 or visit <http://vesurgery.org/grants-awards>.



**Karen Woo, MD, MS, FACS**  
*Associate Professor of Surgery*  
*David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA*  
*Los Angeles, CA*  
**Winner of the 2012 VESS Travel Award**



## How did you use the Vess Travel Award?

The theme of my VESS travel award was **Dialysis Access Quality Improvement**, which is a combination of the two areas of research that I am most passionate about. I used my award to visit three vascular surgeons who are leaders in the field of dialysis vascular access: **Dr. David Cull** at the University of South Carolina in Greenville, **Dr. William Jennings** at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa and **Dr. Thomas Huber** at the University of Florida in Gainesville. In addition, I visited **Dr. Michael Allon**, a nephrologist at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, who has published extensively on the subject of vascular access and been a leader in nearly all of the landmark national studies of vascular access including the Hemodialysis Fistula Maturation study.

## You have a K08 with matching funds from svcs. What is the subject of your K08? How did you become interested in research? How have the VESS and SVS helped enable your success?

I first became interested in research when I was a General Surgery resident. **Dr. Alik Farber** was one of my attendings and he got me involved in a study of vascular access that resulted in two Journal of Vascular Surgery publications. I got hooked on asking a question, figuring out how to find the answer and finding out what the data has to show. The rest, as they say, is history.

The title of my K08 is "*Outcomes of Hemodialysis Vascular Access in the Elderly.*" I am using big data, including Medicare claims, Optum and Kaiser to examine factors that influence vascular access outcomes. My ultimate goal is to develop an algorithm for selecting the most appropriate vascular access for an individual patient.

The preliminary data I included in my K08 proposal included results from a RAND appropriateness study of vascular access that I performed with Dr. David Cull. The study was a direct result of my visit with Dr. Cull as part of my travel award. Dr. Cull, who was a complete stranger to me prior to my visit, proposed doing this study during my visit. Before meeting Dr. Cull, I had never heard of the RAND Appropriateness Method. We both applied for funding, pooled our funds, conducted the study, and are proud to say that the results will be incorporated into the new KDOQI guidelines which will be released this year. I would say that in this way, the VESS travel award directly contributed to me obtaining the K08.

The SVS has very generously awarded me the K08 supplemental award in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons. The funds have helped me tremendously and allowed me to accomplish even more than I could with the K08 alone.

## Who are your mentors? How has VESS helped you introduce your expertise to your peers?

My mentors are **Drs. Robert Hye, Alik Farber, Peter Lawrence** and all of the people I visited with my travel award. Before my travel award, I had never spoken to any of the people I visited. I reached out to them as a complete stranger, just three years out of training, and they all welcomed me to their institutions as if I was a visiting professor.

The VESS travel award changed the trajectory of my academic career. The award increased my credibility with other funders and with colleagues. Most importantly, the award enabled me to build relationships with leaders in vascular access who I otherwise would not have met at that time in my career. Each of these relationships has led to something that has had a significant impact on my academic career far beyond the travel award itself. Drs. Jennings, Huber and Allon all served as panelists on the RAND appropriateness study. Dr. Allon is on the mentor team for my K08. Dr. Huber has given me the opportunity to write a chapter in Rutherford and serve on the Kidney Health Initiative.

**VESS has changed quite a bit over the years, but retains a collaborative and collegial environment for young vascular surgeons to share their work and trainees to present to their peers. As such what is a major reason that you became active in VESS and what would you say to our members for them to make the most out of the opportunities VESS provides members?**

What I enjoy the most about the VESS is the small community feeling of the membership with the goal of supporting young surgeons in whatever type of practice they have chosen. The travel award was the first extramural award I ever received, although I had applied for many others. I will always be grateful to the VESS for believing in me when others had not. In the area of grants, persistence is key. The only failed grant application is the one that was not submitted.

The VESS has many opportunities for young surgeons that go beyond the grants and awards. The two meetings that VESS has a year are both friendly forums for members to present their research and develop relationships with peers. The VESS has a number of committees for members to get involved in and contribute to the community. Since the VESS is a smaller organization, it is easier to make new programs happen. When I was the chair of the VESS Women and Diversity Committee, I started a mentoring program for young surgeons. The VESS leadership was very supportive of the idea and starting the program was effortless.

## **(In your opinion) what important problem facing vascular patients would you be most proud of fixing/making better?**

Of course, I want to improve the experience that hemodialysis patients have with their vascular access. I believe nearly every aspect of vascular access needs to be improved, starting with education. This leads to empowering patients and their families to be involved in the decision-making process. That, in turn, is closely related to individualizing the vascular access plan to each patient's unique characteristics. In order to help providers make evidence-based recommendations, we need more quality data regarding vascular access outcomes, particularly over the long-term. Finally, all of the providers involved in a dialysis patient's care have to work together as a team to provide the best possible care with the highest quality of life and patient satisfaction. If I could make the smallest impact in any of these areas, I would be delighted.

# Get Familiar with Your Vascular Surgery Board

by **Bernadette Aulivola, MD**, *VESS Representative to the VSB*



Have you ever wondered what is going on behind the scenes at the **Vascular Surgery Board**? Here's your chance to find out what exciting new developments are happening! First, just last year, the Vascular Surgery Board expanded in size to allow for representation from each of the Regional Societies. Prior to 2017, the VSB included members elected by the APDVS, SVS, SCVS and VESS. Last year, **the VSB expanded to include members from each regional society**, increasing in size by 5 members.

Second, the VSB decided to make an effort to improve involvement of diplomates in Board activities and sent out an open **Call for Volunteers to Serve on Exam Writing Committees** for the Vascular Surgery In-Training Exam (VS-ITE), Qualifying Exam (QE), and Certifying Exam (CE). Thanks to all of you VESS members who contributed! Keep an eye out for future opportunities to get involved!

Perhaps the most talked about development of the VSB has to do with upcoming changes planned for the recertification process. Based on survey responses from VSB diplomates, in an effort to make the recertification process more educational and current, the VSB recently announced its move to a process of **Continuous Certification**. Starting in 2019, diplomates with expiring certificates will be enrolled into a continuous certification process, which will replace the current 10-year exam. The new process will include a 40-question open book exam which can be taken from any computer. It will be offered annually, but only required every 2 years for each diplomate. The exam will be offered during a 2 week window each year, during which time the diplomate will have the opportunity to take the exam on their own time. The exam will change each year and will be written based on 10 current reference articles which will be provided to the diplomate ahead of time. A passing score of 80% must be achieved and the diplomate will have 2 attempts to pass and a 1-year grace period if they do not pass. Once the diplomate enters into Continuous Certification process, the **CME requirements will decrease from 150 credits to 125 credits every 5 years and there will no longer exist a requirement for self-assessment credits**. The VSB believes that this process will assure that Board Certification in Vascular Surgery will mean that you are kept up to date on current advances in the field. For those of you with certificates expiring after 2019- rest assured that your current certificate is good until its expiration date and you will enter into the Continuous Certification process on its expiration. Feel free to ask your regional or national society representative if you have any questions about these Board updates!



- **Chair:** Vivian Gahtan (SVS)
- **Vice-Chair:** Ash Mansour (APDVS)
- **VSB Members**
  - Erica Mitchell (SVS)
  - Dan Clair (SVS)
  - Ron Dalman (SVS)
  - Gib Upchurch (SCVS)
  - Bernadette Aulivola (VESS)
  - Mal Sheahan (APDVS)
  - Vince Rowe (WVS)
  - Keith Osaki (NESVS)
  - Tom Huber (SAVS)
  - Marc Mitchell (EVS)
  - Kellie Brown (MVSS)
  - Craig Kent (ASA)
  - Spence Taylor (SSA)
- **Ex-Officio AED:** Bruce Perler
- **Project Manager:** Nicole Gifford

## VESS Next Generation Student Program

With the success of the inaugural **2018 Next Generation Students Program**, plans are already underway to include it in the 2019 lineup. It will once again focus on providing medical students with a career interest in vascular surgery, a forum to see what we are all about. There will be dedicated programming aimed at their needs, overlap programming with the Fellows' Program so that they can engage current trainees, and ample time for them to meet VESS members who might offer them mentorship. VESS, in collaboration with the Foundation for Vascular Innovation (FVI) and industry sponsorship will be providing \$1,000 scholarships to 10–20 medical students representing medical and osteopathic schools around the country. These awards will help support travel expenses and lodging to enable these students to attend the meeting. A request for applications will be going out to medical schools, but if you know any bright medical students at your home institution, make sure they apply.

## VESS @ Social Media!

Be sure to like us on Facebook [VESurgery](#). And Follow us on Twitter at [@vesurgery](#). Interact with Society leadership and other members through these avenues. If you have information you think should be posted by VESS, send potential content to the Society by tagging [@VESurgery](#) on your post or tweet or email potential content to [vess@administrare.com](mailto: vess@administrare.com) for review by the Communications Committee.



## Meeting of Interest!

NOV. 5-8 2018  
register today  
WYNN LAS VEGAS

THE GLOBAL EDUCATION COURSE FOR VASCULAR MEDICINE AND INTERVENTION

V I V A 18

VIVAPHYSICIANS.ORG

A promotional poster for the VIVAPhysicians 2018 meeting. The poster features a dark blue vertical bar on the left with the dates 'NOV. 5-8 2018' and a 'register today' button. The main text reads 'THE GLOBAL EDUCATION COURSE FOR VASCULAR MEDICINE AND INTERVENTION'. Below this is the acronym 'VIVAPhysicians' where each letter is inside a red circle, and '18' is inside a white circle with a black border. At the bottom, the website 'VIVAPHYSICIANS.ORG' is displayed in large red letters. The background of the poster shows a network of blue and red vessels.

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Beverly, MA 01915



## SAVE THE DATES!

Be sure to mark you calendars for the **VESS 43rd Annual Meeting to be held January 31 - February 3, 2019 at the Snowbird Resort in Snowbird, Utah.**

The Winter Program Committee is already hard at work putting together a great program. In addition, the scientific presentations based on member abstract submissions (see deadline information below), this year's program will again feature the **Resident and Fellow's Program, the Technology Forum**, and topical small group breakout sessions. Also, with the successful inaugural **Next Generation Program** focused on medical student career



development. Add in great skiing, the opportunity to catch up with friends, the chance to identify or become an important mentor, and interact with industry partners, and it again promises to be one of the best meetings of the year. And, if you stay through Sunday, you'll get to watch the New England Patriots win another Super Bowl!

Visit the VESS website for more information on Registration & Hotel Reservations!