

# VESS

## Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

### NEWSLETTER

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## President's Corner

by James Black, MD



Thank you to the members and colleagues of VESS for the honor of serving you as President of the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society for 2019-2020. The VESS was the first society I joined out of fellowship in 2004, and without a doubt, the relationships and colleagues I met under its banner have been critical to my development as a surgeon. While the VESS has grown in members and reach, the core mission to elevate vascular surgery and mentor the young trainee and surgeon is unchanged. It's in our fabric and it is who we are. As your President, I look forward to identifying the obstacles and impediments to our goal of providing the best care for our patients, solving those gaps, and celebrating our shared vision for vascular surgery at our phenomenal meetings.

Our Winter Meeting is the embodiment of that stated goal. In the 43rd Winter Meeting of VESS, Snowbird provided a beautiful backdrop to the sessions. Attendance, once again, was very strong. The offerings of the academic sessions was broad and beautifully composed by the Winter Program Committee, headed by Justin Hurie. The Next Generation Student

Mentor Program was fully attended, and in great demand with applications well in excess of the available venue. **Gabriela Velazquez-Ramirez** and **Dawn Coleman** led the student program par excellence. **Karan Garg** led the Vascular Fellows Course, and the practical workshops and forums speaks volumes to the eagerness of the VESS to supply the skills to succeed in their transition to young faculty and attendings. Dawn Coleman, never short of roles and reach, also led a lively Technology Forum to engage industry with our thoughtful members, and to help introduce and guide new therapies and technology into our treatment strategies.

Coming up soon is the VESS Spring Meeting on the Wednesday June 12th, before the VAM in National Harbor, Maryland. **Matthew Smeds** and the VESS Spring Program Committee, working with the VAM program committee have assembled a great lineup of talks and discussants. Per our VESS custom, trainees and young surgeons take the mic, some for the first time to engage some of the best abstracts and presenters in the vascular surgery landscape. So come learn, watch, mentor, and contribute to this great day!

As a final thought, consider what you want or have wanted from VESS. There is no reason why VESS can't provide those thoughts with a practical solution. VESS members are the best at tackling new ideas, challenging old ones, and thinking ahead to the need of an emerging expert surgeon. Ours is a "flat" organization – the hierarchy is absent, so any member can find a place to express an idea, contribute to a committee, or vet a research project. So I invite you, your partners, colleagues, or trainees to contribute or join our great organization: **THE. BEST. VESS.**

James Black, MD



# 2019 VESS Annual (Winter) Meeting Highlights

## 2019 VESS Vascular Fellows Course

The 2019 Winter Meeting had another successful Vascular Fellows Program, with 25+ senior residents and fellows participating. The topics discussed ranged from negotiating contracts to understanding changes in healthcare, as well as the role of social media in healthcare.

Participants had the opportunity to present challenging cases encompassing both endovascular and open solutions, which was followed by spirited discussions. The highlight, as is every year, was the Vascular Jeopardy, which instilled some confidence that the trainees have a reasonable fund of knowledge, with a bright future ahead. We'd like to thank Cook Medical for their continued support of this program.



Vascular Jeopardy winner Danielle Sutzko

## 2019 VESS Next Generation Student Mentor Program



Dr. Bjorn Suckow showing medical students how it's done

The second edition of the VESS Next Generation Student Mentor Program took place in Snowbird UT and again the program was of great success. Based on the feedback obtained from last year, this year's program was highly sought after and competitive for medical students interested in pursuing careers in vascular surgery. We received over 50 applications from medical schools all around the country, twenty travel scholarships were sponsored in part by W. L. Gore.

This year's faculty was outstanding and covered important topics related to becoming a vascular surgeon, perspectives from young vascular trainees and career options within our specialty. After the faculty sessions, students participated in the surgical skills component of our program where they were able to perform endovascular procedures and practice their suturing skills using simulators and under the instruction of our faculty. It was a great day and our program continues to grow. We look forward to next year's program and meeting another group of inspiring students.

## 2019 VESS Technology Forum

The 2019 VESS Technology Forum highlighted exciting vascular device technology and provided an exciting opportunity to members for an intensive, hands-on experience with the 'latest and greatest' in a small group format. Thanks to our industry sponsors that brought the following to our program:

- **Abbott Vascular** - 'Embolization - Highlighting the use of the Amplatzer Plug'
- **Boston Scientific** - 'Peripheral Embolization, Applications, Tools, and Techniques'
- **Cook Medical** - 'Design with the Patient In Mind - Cook Technology Update'
- **Penumbra** - 'Penumbra's Latest Innovation in Thrombectomy and Embolization'
- **Silk Road Medical** - 'TCAR: New Data Signals Standard of Care for Carotid Disease'



Best Case Winner Thomas Heafner

# VESS 2019 Awards

**2019 Best Paper** - The nine (9) highest scoring abstracts were considered for the Best Paper Award. The Program Committee then evaluated the actual presentations - based on originality, methodology, clinical impact, and quality of presentation. **Cash prize for Best Paper is \$1,000**



## 2019 Best Paper Winner:

### Jake Hemingway, MD

*University of Washington, Seattle, WA*

**"Lowering the Ankle Brachial Index Threshold in Blunt Lower Extremity Trauma May Prevent Unnecessary Imaging"**

*Jake F Hemingway, Enock A Adjei, Sarasijhaa K Desikan, Joel A Gross, Nam T Tran, Niten Singh, Elina Quiroga, University of Washington, Seattle, WA*

**Medtronic Vascular Resident Research Award** - Grant for basic/translational science, educational, clinical or health outcomes research was awarded during the VESS winter meeting in 2019. 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. **Award: \$12,500**



## 2019 Medtronic Resident Research Award Winner:

### Elizabeth Chou, MD

*Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA*

**"The HDAC $\gamma$  Complex and Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells in Carotid Atherosclerosis and Stroke"**

**VESS Early Career Faculty Award** - The VESS 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. **Award: \$22,500**



Eligible candidates must identify as an early career faculty member. "Early career" implies holding a full-time vascular surgery academic appointment within five (5) years of completing surgical training at the time of grant submission. Senior vascular surgery trainees (2nd year fellows or 5th year residents) are eligible with proof of appointment at an academic medical center upon graduation. The applicant must be a VESS member in good standing.

## 2019 Early Career Faculty Award Winner:

### Andrea Obi, MD

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

**"Epigenetic Influence on Macrophage Phenotype and Development of Post Thrombotic Venous Fibrosis"**

# 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, visit <http://vesurgery.org/grants-awards>.



## **DAWN COLEMAN, MD**

*Associate Professor of Surgery  
University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI*

**VESS**

Vascular and  
Endovascular  
Surgery Society

Dr. Coleman, you are quite the vascular surgeon and American. You are an Associate Professor of Surgery at Michigan, Program Director of the residency and fellowship and section editor for vascular surgery for the Journal of Surgical Research. Clinically you are an expert in not only vascular disease, but also pediatric vasculopathies. On top of it all, you are a member of the US Army.

## **Where do you get your drive? What accomplishment to date are you most proud of?**

For better or worse, I am fueled by a strong sense of service. I wake up most days and pinch myself – I feel so lucky to have the professional opportunities that I have. My current academic career has been entirely influenced by many formative opportunities and mentors; as such I feel compelled to 'give back' to our specialty in whatever fashion I can.

Pride is dangerous conceptually, but I feel the most satisfaction when students, residents or fellows that I have had the opportunity to train or mentor achieve something that brings them great joy – a successful podium presentation, technical/surgical mastery, funding or an impactful manuscript as examples.

## **How did the VESS Young Faculty Award help you in your professional development?**

This award quite simply shaped my early scientific efforts. The funding allowed me to explore a basic scientific hypothesis with a team, and it was the first non-intramural award I received. The lessons learned from managing the budget, using the preliminary data for additional funding applications and disseminating the data in a meaningful form were critically formative for me. I also learned hard lessons when experiments didn't work, didn't yield the results we anticipated, were slow... etc. The study results were not overly compelling, and I have not maintained that particular direction of investigation. Rather, I have taken all of the lessons learned from that experience together with scientific lessons from my mentors, lab team and reviewers, to grow as a surgeon scientist. I now continue to investigate the genetics of developmental pediatric arterial dysplasia with a collaborative scientific team.

## Outside of vascular surgery, what successes in your life are you most proud of?

Without a doubt, my family. I am grateful every day for a husband that supports unconditionally my professional drive, relentless schedule/travel and repeat deployments. He is an outstanding father to our two amazing children that bring me more joy than anything else I could think of!!

## What advice would you have for young academic vascular surgeons still looking for their niche?

Always be open to opportunity, say 'yes', love what you do, and chose kindness. Moreover, find your passion and find your people – I LOVE taking care of pediatric vascular patients. In caring for an esoteric group of patients, I have found over the years that I have more questions than answers. I am compelled to advance the care of these patients, and their families; research is an integral part of this! We have an effective and wonderful multi-disciplinary team at the University of Michigan that works together clinically and scientifically with that central mission in mind.

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. Why did you become active in VESS and what would you say to our members to help them make the most out of the opportunities VESS provides?

I became a VESS member because Jon Eliason told me to when I was a fellow. Jon has influenced my surgical career in so many positive ways – it is impossible to express the gratitude I have for his mentorship and friendship. He was spot on when he encouraged me to become a member. There is nothing like VESS for young academic surgeons. It is a 'safe place' for junior faculty (and trainees) to learn and practice those academic skills that aren't always coached during surgical training: podium presentations, asking questions during a scientific session, committee participation and more specifically committee leadership - how you conduct yourself on a conference call as a good example. There are additional, countless benefits (funding opportunities, mentorship, etc...), but most importantly, I have made really great friends through VESS and the social/peer support has been tremendously valuable.

## What was your first publication? What advice would you give trainees or mentors of trainees on getting that first paper "out the door"?

A very long time ago I was set on becoming an Emergency Medicine Physician, with plans to specialize in Disaster Medicine and essentially tour the globe responding to need. My first manuscript was published in the Journal of Emergency Medicine in 2003 titled "Injury patterns related to use of less-lethal weapons during a period of civil unrest." It documented injury patterns related to beanbag and other less-lethal weapons during the riots that ensued while I was a medical student at the University of Cincinnati. I had an amazing mentor, Dr. Fitzgerald. I shadowed him clinically and he let me help with this timely project. The cumulative experience shaped significantly my interest in academic medicine. To all the trainees that need to get a paper 'out the door' – find a mentor and be a good mentee. Do good work in a timely fashion. There is no shortage of scientific topics to explore!!

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.

## VESS would like to welcome new members elected at the 2019 Business Meeting

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

Affi, Rana	Duran, Cassidy	Kim, Hyein	Rollo, Johnathon
Aldailami, Hasan	Fankhauser, Grant	Knepper, Jordan	Saleem, Taimur
Alizadegan, Shahriar	Finlay, David	Kuhn, Brian	Sanford, Jennifer
Ballard, James	Galinanes, Edgar Luis	Liang, Nathan	Schwartz, Samuel
Barfield, Michael	Gibson, Matthew	Lucas, Sarah	Shah, Parth
Batista, Philip	Gudz, Oleksiy	McFarland, Graeme	Siddique, Afzal
Beckerman, William	Gupta, Prateek	Mendes, Bernardo	Sohn, Allie
Bennett, Kyla	Hastings, Laurel	Miserlis, Dimitrios	Stein, Jeffrey
Bittenbinder, Emelia	Hicks, Caitlin	Nolte, Ryan	Vemuri, Chandu
Bounds, Michael	Hong, Michael	O'Banion, Leigh Ann	Vlada, Claudiu
Bowens, Nina	Howe, Kathryn	Ohman, John	Weis, Tahlia
Boyes, Christopher	Jayarajan, Senthil	Ramdon, Andre	Wengerter, Sean
Brown, Justin	Kelly, Patrick	Ramos, Christopher	Werter, Christopher
Cox, Samantha	Kiang, Sharon	Rathore, Animesh	Yoon, William

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Marquardt, Charles

### CANDIDATE MEMBERS

Ahmed, Nida	Giuliano, Katherine	Locham, Satinderjit	Salzler, Gregory
Ahmed, Taqwa	Gober, Leah	Makkar, George	Schaller, Melinda
Ajalat, Mark	Gonzalez, Andrew	Man, Jeanette	Schechtman, David
Anderson, Joseph	Grant, Brian	Mandel, Jacob	Schwartzman, Jacob
Arinze, Nkiruka	Graphia, Mickey	Meena, Richard	Shelton, Kyla
Audu, Chris	Ha, Cindy	Mendelsberg, Ranan	Shokrzadeh, Christine
Badia, Daniel	Hardouin, Scott	Mitromaras, Christopher	Sibille, Joshua
Bakshi, Saagar	Harris, Donald	Mohammad, Farah	Sigdel, Abindra
Barnes, Jonathan	Hata, Kai	Myers, John	Simon, Meryl
Bartline, Peter	Hekman, Katherine	Naddaf, Abdallah	Sooppan, Renganaden
Beach, Jocelyn	Hemingway, Jake	Nanavati, Ruhani	Sorber, Rebecca
Besho, Joseph	Inagaki, Elica	Nguyen, Tammy	Soult, Michael
Bolin, Jeremy	Irfan, Wajeesh	Nishikawa, Cole	Sticco, Andrew
Brathwaite, Shayna	Jackson, Margaret	Oh, Edward	Strickland, Adam
Cambiaghi, Tommaso	Jammeh, Momodou	Oriel, Brad	Sutton, Tia
Casillas-Berumen, Sergio	Jones, Brian	Patel, Priya	Tanaka, Akiko
Chait, Jesse	Juneja, Amandeep	Patel, Rhusheet	Thompson, Jonathan
Chang, James	Kainth, Amit	Peck, Laura	Ulloa, Jesus
Chang, Ronald	Kenney, Kevin	Perry, John	Vuoncino, Matthew
Chia, Matthew	Kernodle, Amber	Pike, Steven	Waldrop, Heather
Chou, Daisy	Khan, Adil	Plotkin, Anastasia	Wallace, Gabriel
Clark, Christopher	Kim, Gloria	Ramirez, Joel	Wanken, Zachary
Cooper, Neal	King, Justin	Reitz, Katherine	Williams, Zachary
D'Addario, Justin	Levin, Scott	Richie, Cheryl	Woelfel, Ingrid
DiLosa, Kathryn	Lewis, Carlton	Robinson, Scott	Yamine, Halim
Ferris, Mead	Li, Chong	Rothenberg, Kara	Yang, Yang
Fuller, Tim	Liang, Tiffany	Saguan, Nicholas	Yoo, Taehwan

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# 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 young surgeons with opportunities to further develop leadership skills and obtain guidance for achieving specific career goals. This program also will foster engagement in the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society (VESS).



## Young Surgeons

Young surgeons will gain a trusted advisor and learn methods to enhance career advancement. Through a partnership with their respective mentor, the young surgeon 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

## Leader/Mentor

Mentors will act as a guide to help develop the young 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 Women & Diversity Committee will review all applications and select a maximum of 12 young surgeons per year
2. VESS will create a match with a leader based on needs and experience and will notify each young surgeon of the arrangement, as well as provide support and information on successful mentoring relationships.
3. Upon submission of mentoring goals and a mentorship plan, the young surgeon/leader pair will be provided with \$100 to be used towards funding an in-person meeting of their choice.
4. 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

**Applications:** Due May 3, 2019 by 5PM PST.

**Questions?** Please contact Venita Chandra at [vchandra@stanford.edu](mailto:vchandra@stanford.edu) or Angela Wetherbee at [angela@administrare.com](mailto:angela@administrare.com).



The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society wishes to recognize and thank the following companies for their ongoing support of our Annual Meeting:

PLATINUM LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



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EXHIBITORS



# OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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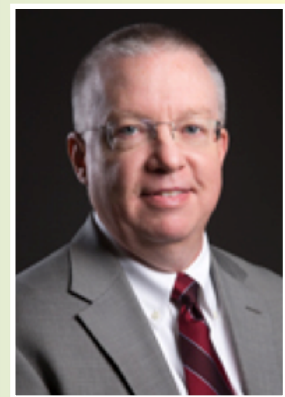
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**COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**  
*Dawn Coleman, MD*  
*University of Michigan*

# 2019 – 2020 COMMITTEES

We would like to welcome and thank the following member volunteers for their commitment to the Society by serving on a Committee or as a Representative on our behalf. The success of VESS depends on the input and enthusiasm of its members. Each year we put out a **Call for Volunteers** so keep an eye out for your chance to get involved.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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- Matthew Smeds

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- Raghunandan Motaganahalli
- Dave Kauvar
- Jaime Benarroch-Gampel
- Gabby Velazquez
- Karan Garg (Ex-officio)
- Dawn Coleman (Ex-officio)

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- Shang Loh
- Max Wohlauser
- Courtney Morgan
- Tze-Woe Tan
- Michelle Williams
- William Yoon

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- Andrew Meltzer
- Karan Garg
- Jeanie Ruddy
- Max Wohlauser

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**SVS Executive Committee**

**Darrin Clouse, MD**

**SVS Young Surgeons Advisory**  
**Misty Humphries, MD**

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society  
100 Cummings Ctr., Suite 124A  
Beverly, MA 01915



## JOIN US AT THE VESS SPRING MEETING (PRIOR TO THE START OF VAM)

Join the VESS at the 2019 Vascular Annual Meeting (VAM) to be held:

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019**

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center  
National Harbor, MD (just outside Washington, D.C.)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The VESS program takes place from 7:30 am - 4:15 pm. Visit [www.vesurgery.org](http://www.vesurgery.org) to view the full scientific program outline.

