

VESS

Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 • Issue 2 • Summer 2020



President's Corner *by Matthew Corriere, MD*



I hope that this VESS Newsletter finds you in good physical and mental health! The first half of 2020 has certainly been filled with chaos and radical change. Our previous newsletter included a welcome invitation to the VESS Session at Vascular Annual Meeting 2020 in Toronto, only to find the US-Canada border closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the meeting converted to virtual before it arrived in the mail. I would like to acknowledge the resourceful agility of both the VESS Spring Program Committee (chaired by **Dr. Shang Loh**) and the SVS Program Committee (chaired by **Dr. Matt Eagleton**) for redesigning the VESS session as a virtual component of the SVS ONLINE program. Our inaugural VESS virtual session on June 24 was well-attended with great science and discussions - a resounding success. Pulling this off took an incredible amount of

work and flexibility on a short timeline, demonstrating the talent of our membership and the value of ongoing strategic partnership with the Society for Vascular Surgery.

continued next page **President's Corner**

2020 Inaugural Virtual Spring Meeting Recap

As we all struggle to come to grips with the COVID-19 Pandemic, life both in and out of the hospital has changed permanently. Travel has essentially ground to a halt and with it all in-person meetings. This has required us to quickly pivot

away from live meetings and embrace the new normal (at least for now) of virtual meetings. The VESS was no different and with the cancellation of the SVS VAM, and the VESS Spring Meeting along with it, we embarked on the task of converting the Spring Meeting into a virtual one.



A very successful inaugural VESS Virtual Spring Meeting was held on Wednesday June 24, 2020 from 2-5 pm EST as part of the Society for Vascular Surgery Online New Advances and Discoveries in Vascular Surgery Virtual Meeting. The SVS meeting ran from June 20th to July 2nd with sessions spread out over the two weeks. The VESS session was broadcast out nationally and attendance was great, attracting a total of 147 attendees.

We congratulate the VESS Spring Program Committee led by **Dr. Shang Loh** (Chair), and included **Drs. Yazan Duwayri, Shipra Arya, and Matthew Wooster**, who are completing their second

continued next page **Virtual Spring Meeting**

With the COVID-19 pandemic far from over, we have recently been reminded that the ongoing challenges of racism, disparities, and social injustice haven't gone away and require our ongoing engagement as a society (and human beings). I encourage you to review the VESS position statements on anti-racism (authored by **Dr. Venita Chandra**) and Diversity & Inclusion (authored by **Drs. Bernadette Aulivola** and **Mathew Smeds**) (see page 10). I am proud that this ongoing commitment has been a part of our bylaws. We must ensure that it is also reflected in our actions and look for opportunities to catalyze progress, which has been a strength of VESS as a society.

Finally, although the past few months have, by necessity, made the possibilities of virtual meetings increasingly clear, I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the return of in-person gatherings and the comparatively immersive experiences they offer. Being out of your office (including your home office) without your pager makes for deeper thought and richer social engagement. Along those lines, I am looking forward to seeing our members in person soon. We hope to see you at the 2021 Winter Meeting in a new (to our society) venue, the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, Idaho January 21st-24th. Save the date and get those abstracts ready to submit!

At your service,
Matt

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Shang Loh, MD, FACS, FSVS
VESS Spring Program Committee Chair

year on the program committee. They were joined by **Drs. Caitlin Hicks, Bjoern Suckow**, and **Karen Woo** who are in their first year of the two-year commitment. They worked with the SVS/VESS Joint Program Committee led by **Dr. Matt Eagleton** to select a spectacular line-up of papers for our session.

A total of 684 abstracts were submitted to VAM (a new record), of that, 502 (up from 428 last year) selected VESS as an option for presentation. We initially selected twenty-nine (29) abstracts for the Spring Program but ultimately selected 12 to present at the inaugural VESS Virtual Spring Session. This included three presentations on aortic disease, three presentations on cerebrovascular disease, with the remainder of the 6 abstracts covering topics in vascular education, surgeon wellness, venous disease, reno-visceral occlusive disease, trauma, and peripheral vascular disease. Fourteen abstracts elected to present at the 2021 VESS Winter Meeting from January 21-23 in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Given the transition to a virtual meeting in place of an in-person meeting, the format of the session had to be altered drastically to fit within the constraints of streaming out a live video conference from multiple locations. To keep the session running smooth and on time, the authors pre-recorded their talks for playback which was followed by a live question and answer session with the presenting author. In addition, the use of discussants was also unfortunately not logistically feasible. In place of this, the moderators, assumed the role of initiating the discussion for each presentation. They did a wonderful job adapting to the new format asking insightful questions that led to great discussion giving time for the audience to submit their questions. The "submit a question" feature on the live-stream window allowed for audience participation with a number of great questions submitted throughout the session. The moderators posed audience questions to the presenters during the live Q&A.

There were nearly 40 institutions represented as author or co-author for all the selected abstracts with participants from across the United States and three international locations. All projects, including those to be presented at the 2021 Winter Meeting, will be considered for potential publication in the Journal of Vascular Surgery.

VESS GRANTS AND AWARDS

Go online
and apply
today

VESS Travel Award – 2021

Application Deadline: Friday, September 11, 2020

The primary purpose of the VESS Travel Award (\$5,000) is to provide the recipient with the opportunity to visit one or more vascular surgery centers of excellence. The visit is intended to stimulate academic inspiration and to foster the development of fraternal fellowship in vascular surgery. Achievement of these objectives will enhance the vascular surgery career of a VESS member recipient. This award is not intended to support specific research interests but rather to assist the award recipient in a unique opportunity for travel and professional exchange.

VESS / Medtronic Vascular Resident Research Award – 2021

Application Deadline: Friday, October 9, 2020

One \$12,500 grant for basic/translational science, educational, clinical or health outcomes research will be awarded during the VESS Annual Meeting in 2021. The VESS/Medtronic Resident Research Award is specifically designed to help residents in training initiate projects during protected academic development time that will lead to future academic potential toward extramural funding for basic or clinical research.



VESS Early Career Faculty Research Award – 2021

Application Deadline: Friday, November 6, 2020

One \$22,500 grant for basic/translational science, educational, clinical or health outcomes research will be awarded during the VESS Annual Meeting. 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.

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

www.vesurgery.org

New!

The grants and awards committee has reached out to Previous Winners and asked that they provide us with some highlights from their experience as well as provide access to the presentation they were required to give at the annual winter meeting. Visit the "Previous Winners" page of the website under the Grants/Awards Tab.

VESS 2021 ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

SAVE THE DATES

Be sure to mark your calendars for the VESS 45th Annual Winter Meeting to be held January 21-24, 2021 at the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, Idaho.

VESS and its Winter Program Committee are looking forward to seeing our members and colleagues live and in person! What a crazy year this has been. As a reminder, the Opening Session will once again begin on Thursday afternoon but, with the cancellation of VAM and the VESS Spring Meeting we are adding back the Sunday morning session to accommodate those abstracts that did not participate in our Virtual Spring Meeting. The full program should be available in the Fall but for travel planning purposes the meeting will end by 9:00am on Sunday.



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

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society is now accepting abstracts for their 45th Annual Meeting to be held January 21-24, 2021 at the Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Abstracts must be submitted online and submission must be completed by Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. (EDT). Submission Guidelines can be found under the meetings tab at: www.vesurgery.org.

CANDIDATE MEMBER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Win a Free Registration to the 2021 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 with 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 now, new this year, only requires a letter from the Program Director. And even better, there is no membership fee for Candidate Members.

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our administrative office. We appreciate your help and commitment to keeping VESS the premiere vascular society.

VESS 2021 WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, January 21st, 2021 The opening day of the 2021 Annual Winter Meeting is packed full of exciting programming from the Vascular Fellows Program to the Student Mentor Program, both require the submission of an application so be sure to go online soon because these programs are over subscribed every year! Later in the day the Vascular Technology Forum is open to all attendees and is a great way to see the latest trends Industry has to offer.

VESS VASCULAR FELLOWS PROGRAM

The objective of the Vascular Fellows Program is to educate graduating fellows on content pertinent to starting a career as a vascular surgeon. Topics that were addressed over the past few years have included **negotiating contracts, billing and coding, social media and branding, how to be successful in an academic versus private practice, and recognizing/coping with burnout**. Participants also have the opportunity to present interesting cases while hearing review from our moderators and participate in **Vascular Jeopardy** with questions commonly asked on the vascular boards. The course is interactive with opportunities to engage the speakers as well as other participants. This part of the winter meeting program is always met with positive reviews and continues to be a favorite among aspiring as well as active vascular surgeons. It is unclear at this point whether the winter meeting will be virtual or live, but we plan to have an engaging program prepared that will be worth attending either way.

Through industry grant funding, we are able to offer each qualified fellow a **\$1,000 reimbursement stipend** to help offset travel and accommodations.

VESS NEXT GENERATION STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

With the continued success and popularity of the Next Generation Student Mentor Program, the VESS will once again accept 30 eligible medical students to receive funding to attend the meeting. Travel funding has also increased to provide each student with a **\$1,500 travel stipend**.

The program will once again focus on providing medical students with a career interest in vascular surgery, a forum to see what we are all about, as well as opportunities for **students to hone their vascular surgery open and endovascular skills with simulation**! 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. 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. Applications can be found online under the Winter Meeting Information.

VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY FORUM

The 2021 Vascular Technology Forum will showcase some of the best and newest devices that industry has to offer. In addition to some of the current workhorse technology in the aortic and peripheral spaces, this year's Forum plans to **highlight new advances** in percutaneous mechanical thrombectomy, embolization techniques, and intra-arterial lithotripsy, among others. The goal of this program is for industry to provide **insights into current technology**, and a look at what treating physicians may see as it relates to up-and-coming developments in the pipeline. Expert physicians will share their experiences with these devices, and provide some 'tips and tricks'. There will also be an opportunity for **intensive, hands-on experiences** in a small group format that provides a more granular experience for the participating physician.

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 VESS is proud to support. For more information on how to apply, see page 3 or visit <http://vesurgery.org/grants-awards>.



Thomas Maldonado

Professor of Surgery, New York University School of Medicine
Chief of Vascular Surgery, Manhattan VA Hospital
New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, NY



How did you use the funding from the VESS Research Award?

I was awarded the VESS research grant shortly after completing my fellowship in Vascular surgery. I was interested in studying carotid plaque morphology using CTA. I compared pathologic features on plaque specimen with radiographic findings on preoperative imaging. I presented my work at the annual VESS Spring meeting and published my work afterwards.

How did the VESS Research Award help you in your professional development? What professional achievements came from this Award?

The VESS award, and for that matter the VESS (or PVSS as it was known at the time), were instrumental in my professional development. I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in academia but it was this early recognition by my peers, that served to fuel my drive to push myself in that direction. My research project exposed me to my colleagues in radiology and pathology and showed me the benefits to a multi-disciplinary approach which allows for cross-pollination of ideas among specialties. Indeed, some of my most rewarding research experiences to date have resulted from multi-center collaborations. The award also provided me with an opportunity to interact with my peers at a national level. Following this early recognition, I soon immersed myself in the VESS and soon volunteered as a member of various committees, including the grants and program committees where I was privileged to see the research process unfold from the other side. In short, this VESS award was the springboard which propelled all my interests in research and is a milestone in my career that holds a special meaning because of that.

What advice would you have for young vascular surgeons who are starting out and applying for grants?

The process of applying for a research grant, including understanding budgets, IRB processes, data collection, and ultimately collating all of this into a research paper, is perhaps the most valuable lesson one can learn as a young academic vascular surgeon. I think the most sound advice I can give young vascular surgeons who are starting out in grant-writing is to persevere. Like a boxer, keep punching... recognize that if a grant application is not awarded/funded, this does not make it irrelevant or unworthy. Revise and resubmit. Next, to have realistic and achievable research ideas. Identify weakness and limitations in your research strategy early on. Be your own harshest critic. And finally, to collaborate and seek advice from a mentor. In my case, Tom Riles. The grant application process should not be daunting. A good mentor who has been there already, can prove invaluable.

Looking back, how did the VESS Research Award influence your career?

This award was instrumental in launching my academic career. Perhaps mostly because it taught me the process of grant writing and showed me the value in identifying good mentors, as I mentioned. Most importantly, the award was the event that first introduced me to the VESS, a society of young vascular surgeons, who like myself at the time, are a group full of energy and ideas.

What do you see as the most valuable thing the VESS has to offer the young surgeon?

There is no better place to explore and develop one's academic interests as a junior vascular surgeon than VESS. It is a society that embraces and elevates the young vascular surgeon like no other. It prides itself as the society for young vascular surgeons. Indeed, its bylaws restrict or limit the age at which one can serve as president of the society, so as to maintain a relatively young vibe to the society. This young vibe was readily apparent to me as I remember feeling like my voice mattered in a way that unfortunately it seemed not to in the larger national societies. While providing the young vascular surgeon a platform from which to be heard, this society's greatest value to a young surgeon, is access to an instant network of contemporaries who share similar early career challenges, but also have the same enthusiasm for the future of vascular surgery. Societies are designed to bring people together to exchange ideas but also to develop relationships. And for the latter, I am eternally grateful to the VESS. My best friendships were forged on the slopes those early days at VESS (PVSS) winter meetings.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB

Have you visited the
VESS website lately?
www.vesurgery.org

The Communications Committee is actively trying to add content to the VESS website to increase the value to its members.

Most recently we added the **"Published Manuscripts"** section under the **Resources Tab**. We have reached out to authors who have presented their work at the past few VESS meetings (both Winter & Spring) whose manuscripts have been published in either *Annals of Vascular Surgery* or *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. We have asked that they provide a TLDR. What is a TLDR you ask...

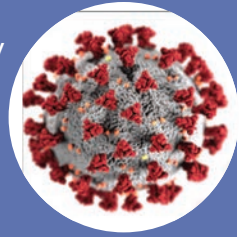
TLDR stands for "too long; didn't read." In this age of rapid information consumption, the VESS wants to provide its members with easy reading and browsing of VESS published manuscript topics. Formally, TLDR is a briefly-expressed main point or key message that summarizes a longer discussion.

Authors were also asked to provide a Summary with a bit more information to help the reader decide if they would like to search out the full manuscript. And to make things even easier, we have provided a link to the PUBMED Reference directing you straight to the manuscript.

If you have any suggestions on future website content please send an email to [vess@administrare.com](mailto: vess@administrare.com).

Interview with a vascular surgery trainee at the heart of the COVID-19 Pandemic

At the beginning of April, North America began to see the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. New York was a hot zone among many in the United States. Members of the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society (VESS) came together to interview a fellow trainee impacted by this pandemic. The interview can be found online on the VESS Youtube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IjxCWZmL9A>. The purpose of this interview is to get a trainee's perspective working in a hotzone during this pandemic. The interview was conducted by Dr. Laura Marie Drudi, a Chief Vascular Surgery resident at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in collaboration with Dr. Linda Wang, a Chief Vascular Surgery resident at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). The interviewee was Dr. James Cornwall, a Chief Vascular Surgery resident at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.



Dr. Laura Marie Drudi



Dr. Linda Wang



Dr. James Cornwall

1. How were you informed of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it evolved in your center?

Many of us have been following the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic since January and February. But we first became aware of it and affected us was when it began affecting travel restriction on hospital employees for academic and educational purposes as well as some restrictions on personal travel. And all within a week's time, there was cancellation of a major vascular surgery conference in California and this quickly transitioned to cancellation of all elective cases. All this all happened simultaneously around a week's period.

2. Over the past month, what has happened at Mount Sinai Hospital?

Roughly 5 weeks ago, we stopped all elective cases, which was devastating since this is a big portion of what we do. All outpatient visits and all follow-ups were stopped. As far as operative cases that are being performed, we are only doing life or limb threatening cases. The surgical services themselves have been reduced to bare-boned numbers. Everyone else has been assigned and redeployed to one of these COVID units.

Within our group there is one or two chief residents on at any given time and there is a rotating group of interns to avoid unneeded personnel and exposure.

3. How has the call schedule changed during this period?

The call schedule hasn't changed dramatically. We are still taking the same amount of call and there is one attending on for the entire week.

4. With many surgical trainees facing redeployment, how have you been affected by that?

I have not been redeployed as I am considered to be part of the bare-bones of the Vascular Surgery team. However, all the other senior resident have been assigned to these COVID units which includes an attending, senior resident, physician assistant and nurse practitioner. These individuals are being assigned to units and teams where they need it the most in the health system. This is almost exclusively the emergency rooms and the ICUs throughout the health system (with hospitals across the metropolitan area)

5. Have you received any additional training on the use of PPEs or how to treat a COVID-19 patient?

The anesthesia department at Mount Sinai has two excellent courses for all employees that want these resources. One of these courses is on the proper use of PPEs and comprises of what that looks like and what that entails. The second course is a crash course on critical care for patients specifically with COVID. It educates on some of the best practices of what we currently know about how to treat a COVID patient.

6. Have you needed to operate on a COVID-19 patient yet?

We have operated on a fair amount of patients who were COVID positive. The big take home points are to have a COVID test on any patient you are planning on operative on. However, if they don't have time to wait for the results to come back then we assume they are positive. Also, being thorough with PPEs is paramount from transferring a patient to the operative room to getting to the operative room, having a good plan on the anesthetic modality pre-operatively (as we try to avoid on intubating these patients if at all possible). We also keep the same team for nursing, anesthesia and surgeons throughout the entire case (with no one going in or out). We have a dedicated nurse called a "runner" who is out of the operative room obtaining supplies as needed. For what concerns the intubation, the anesthesiologist is alone in the room and there is a 15 to 30 minute delay before we proceed with the operation.

7. There has been a significant decrease in surgical case volume given this pandemic. Have you or your colleagues faced any concerns about this, particularly for senior trainees in terms of meeting certain competencies prior to graduating?

We have 3 graduating vascular surgery trainees this year (2 integrated residents and 1 fellow). We have all met our minimum requirements for the ACGME so I don't believe there is any concern in that regard. Obviously we would be happier to have a busier elective operating schedule for the next three and half months of training but that's not the reality of the current situation. Honestly, if we compare it to the cost of what some people had to pay, if this is the worst thing that happens to me, I consider myself incredibly lucky.

8. Have you been involved with outpatient clinics using telemedical technologies? Has Mount Sinai implemented this in any way?

Mount Sinai has been using a lot of telemedicine; however, I have not personally been involved. Keeping people away from the emergency department is a big part of the strategy in managing this pandemic and there are many people in the hospital who are implementing telemedicine to address this. What I have seen are patients sending pictures of wounds via email to the attendings but I believe that happens regardless of what is going on.

9. With schools and daycares closing, how are trainees with families dealing with this situation on top of the demands imposed at work? What are some additional resources available to these trainees?

For trainees who have families, if the spouse is working they are most likely working from home. However, this makes the work environment for that spouse incredibly stressful. But having a spouse at home can help with some of those issues.

A big conversation among trainees is if we as health care professionals will self isolated from our significant other or family. We do live in New York city so real estate isn't readily available but people are way more thoughtful about not wearing scrubs at home, changing clothes when entering the home, have a thorough routine when they get home, go immediately into the shower. Most people's biggest concerns are their parents who are over the age of 60 years old. Most people who can self isolate from their parents who are over the age of 60 years will do so.

10. Have you gotten a sense from your program or the hospital if the situation may start to stabilize or return to normal over next few weeks or months?

No. Everything I have heard is all speculation. We hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

11. How has overall wellbeing and morale been amongst the group and are there resources available for mental health and wellbeing?

I will start off by saying that the hospital has increased resources around mental health and wellbeing to address this incredibly stressful time during a pandemic. The program director, chief of division and chair of surgery is checking up seeing how everyone is doing. The residents are checking up on each other via zoom and online happy hours and get an idea of what everyone is going through.

12. Is there anything else you would like to share with the VESS community about being on the frontline?

Wanted to mention that many of these patients are having arterial and venous thrombotic disorders without a previous history or underlying comorbid state such as PAD. We have seen a lot of cases and operating a fair amount on these patients and the health system has a protocol on anticoagulation for these patients. All of these patients are getting therapeutic anticoagulation and for those being discharged home are being discharged on an oral anticoagulant.

Survey Conducted on Effects of COVID-19 on VESS Membership

In the midst of the nation-wide SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic, VESS members **Matthew Smeds, Jonathan Bath, and Faisal Aziz** surveyed the society in order to determine the effects of this virus outbreak on vascular surgery practices. The total response rate was 28% with 206 of the 731 members emailed completing the survey. At the time of the survey, most respondents reported significant effects of COVID-19 on their practice, including significant decreases in clinic referrals, inpatient/ER consults, case volumes, and educational opportunities for trainees, as well as concerns for personal protective equipment (PPE) availability. Many had been redeployed to provide non-vascular surgery related care, and over a quarter faced decreasing compensation. The responses correlated with the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak in the participants' state, and also validated the VASCON surgical acuity scale, a measure of hospital/healthcare capabilities when resources become limited first proposed by **Dr. Thomas Forbes** on social media. Utilizing this scale as we continue to struggle with COVID-19 as a nation, may enable leaders in vascular surgery to think about case selection, reimbursement strategies, and protection of their faculty, staff and trainees depending on the acuity of their institution's VASCON level. This survey is currently under review for publication in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*.

VESS POSITION STATEMENTS

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society (VESS) affirms its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the field of Vascular Surgery. We recognize the impact of inequality and bias on health care and value a diverse, culturally competent Vascular Surgeon workforce. We are committed to the fundamental principle that all people should be treated with decency, respect, and civility, and that all patients deserve equitable health care regardless of background, beliefs, race, sexual or gender identity, or geography. We are confident that we can realize this vision. As we move forward, the VESS intends to be a powerful voice for compassion, equity, and justice. As a Society that represents the young Vascular Surgeon community, we pledge to seek and promote equity and diversity in our general and committee membership and Society leadership. We will commit to providing mentorship to a diverse group of medical students and Vascular Surgery trainees. We will prioritize setting an example of assuring equity and diversity for others to follow.

ANTI-RACISM

On behalf of the VESS executive council and Women and Diversity Committee we would like to express our thoughts during these troubling and tumultuous times. Not only has our Society, profession and community been struggling from a biologic insult, but we are deeply troubled and shaken by the recent tragic examples of blatant racism. We want to actively acknowledge and reject such acts of inequality and institutional racism. We stand by the black community, our black colleagues, patients, and trainees in solidarity. We fundamentally believe that all people, regardless of race are entitled to dignity, justice and equal treatment. Yet we know and must not accept that this is not the current reality.

The number one objective of the current VESS bylaws is the following: To provide a diverse and inclusive forum for the young vascular surgeon. In this moment of grief, VESS stands together with our colleagues committed to the fair, and universal care of our patients and ourselves. We can and will do more, however, and would appreciate your input, as members, on actionable ways to improve our practices.

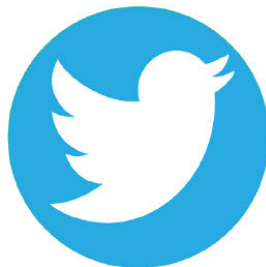
VESS @ SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you know we are on Social Media? Do you follow us? If not come find us on both Twitter and Instagram @VESurgery!

We post papers presented at VESS meetings that are now in print, highlight upcoming meeting presentations, share great cases our colleagues are doing, spot light a member of the month, and have fun with interactive polls and games!

Come join in on the discussion on whichever platform you prefer. Don't forget to tell your colleagues, fellows, residents and medical students to follow us as well! Feel free to give us a shout out when you see something you think we should feature.

PS – Subscribe to our YouTube channel for even more education and fun!



VESS BYLAWS

Amendments approved at the June Executive Committee Meeting

Recently, amendments to the VESS Bylaws were circulated to the membership for review and approval. Below is a list of changes that were approved.

Article II – Objectives

- The addition of the verbiage “**diverse & inclusive**” to our mission & objectives. The other changes were just cleaning up and making the objectives more concise.

Article III – Membership

- **Combine the Active & Senior Active Categories into one group (Active).** Since current Senior Members still pay dues and stay involved in the Society, the combining of these categories will show the true number of Active VESS members. The information from the Active Senior Category was incorporated into the Active Category.
- **Updating the requirement for Candidate Member enrollment.** The applicant will no longer need the endorsement of a VESS member but will be required to submit a letter from his/her program director. The endorsement from a VESS member will be required upon conversion from Candidate to Active Membership
- **Adding a Category for Medical Student.** In an effort to start recruitment efforts early, we can capture those who attend the Student Mentor Program during the Annual Meeting each year.

Article VII – Officers: Elections and Duties

- A change in structure to the Executive Council was discussed during the 2020 Annual Business meeting by Dr. James Black. His recommendation, which was vetted during the Executive Council Meeting prior to the business meeting was to **increase the number of Councilor positions from 3 to 4 and change the terms from 3 years to 2**, allowing for more leadership positions.

Article IX – Committees and Representatives

- With the success of the Student Mentor Program for the past 3 years, it was decided to make the **Student Education Ad Hoc Committee a Standing Committee.**
- There were some updates to the Representatives

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY – MEDICAL STUDENT!!

With the **newly added Medical Student membership category** we would like to ask our current members to encourage any and all medical students to consider joining the VESS. Enrollment is a simple online application that requires no endorsement at this time and membership is free.

VESS strives to facilitate the interchange of new knowledge while providing mentorship, leadership development, and advocacy on behalf of its membership. These efforts are particularly relevant to not only the young vascular surgeon, but also the students and trainees who follow aspiring for a career in vascular surgery.

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society
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SAVE THE DATES

2021 VESS ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

VESS 45th Annual Winter Meeting

January 21-24, 2021

Sun Valley Resort
Sun Valley, Idaho



Visit www.vesurgery for more details