

# VESS

## Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

### NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 • Issue 3 • Fall 2020



## President's Corner *by Matthew Corriere, MD*



### **What a strange and difficult year it has been...so far.**

Regardless of whether your perspective is that of a vascular surgeon, frontline healthcare worker, spouse, parent, teacher, registered voter, or just a member of the human race and citizen of planet Earth, lately it feels like we are inside a snow globe being shaken violently (or perhaps repeatedly thrown against a wall)! We had no clue that these unknown challenges loomed ahead as we departed our last in-person meeting in Steamboat Springs this past January. Everything that has transpired since then makes me feel like that gathering was years ago.

As we reel between once-in-a-generation sucker punches together, though, I am inspired by how VESS members keep rolling up their sleeves and rising to the occasion again and again, attacking previously unheard of problems and leading our specialty forward. It would have been understandable to go into hibernation mode, put things on hold, and wait out the storm, but that is not how energetic young vascular surgeons (and yes, I realize I am slowly migrating out of this category) respond in a crisis. Examples abound where the resilient, resourceful, and hard-working VESS members are leading the way for our trainees, our students, and our specialty. I am especially proud of how you have stepped forward with innovative ideas and leveraged our society as a platform. This year's Virtual Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency Fair, amendments to our mission statement and bylaws, the VESS YouTube Channel with its growing bank of educational materials and interviews (including residents interviewing residents, no less), telemedicine tips (remember when that was a new thing?), and VESS position statements on anti-racism, diversity and inclusion, and non-emergent surgery during the first wave of pandemic are just a few examples of new and exciting initiatives from our society this year. All of these ideas started with VESS members saying "Why can't we...", "We must..." or "Someone needs to just get in there and make it happen...". My job has been easier because there have been so many opportunities to agree with your great ideas, figure out how VESS can support and amplify them, and then just get out of the way.

All of this new, exciting, and unanticipated stuff has gone on alongside recurring society tasks that are always an enormous amount of work but became unpredictable and exponentially more demanding this year. The Executive Committee, administrative team at Administrare, and Program Committees have gone above and beyond. Their extra time, adaptability, and creative thinking have been essential as the usual work became most unusual.

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## Call for Leadership Volunteers

### **Are you ready to serve the premiere Society for Early Career Vascular Surgeons?**

VESS is calling all Active Members to submit your nomination to serve on one of the many Committees.

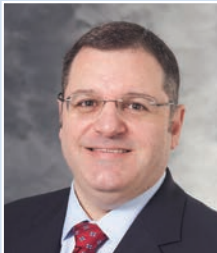
- Program Committee (Spring)
- Program Committee (Winter)
- Website Committee
- Women & Diversity Committee
- Newsletter Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Grants & Awards Committee
- Membership Development Committee
- By-laws Committee
- Vascular Residency Committee
- Student Education Committee

Along those lines, we are looking forward to our 2021 Annual Meeting in Sun Valley, Idaho (that's right... a physical place you can go to if you are so inclined, with appropriate social distancing of course) January 21-24. The hybrid meeting format, another VESS innovation developed this year, will also permit remote participation for those who can't travel or prefer virtual format. Our membership survey indicated a majority preference for a live meeting option, which comes with those great fringe benefits we are missing more every month (like leaving your pager behind, having just one daily meeting you actually look forward to, continuing discussions outside in the hallway, recreational activities, etc.). This will be a new venue and a new format for VESS, and has generated considerable enthusiasm from both our members and our sister societies. Sun Valley Resort has implemented additional protocols to ensure that safety and sanitation in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. VESS has also conducted additional site visits to confirm adequate space for social distancing at all times. The scientific program will be outstanding as usual, and I encourage you to participate in whatever format suits you best. I look forward to enjoying some much-needed camaraderie and relaxation in a beautiful place. I miss that more familiar, tranquil snow globe scene that often resembles the VESS Annual meeting venue. Take care and hope to see you soon, with smiles beneath our masks.

Matthew Corriere, MD  
VESS President



**Matthew R. Smeds, MD, FACS, DFSVS**  
Chief - Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery  
Program Director - Vascular Surgery Training Programs  
Associate Professor - Department of Surgery  
Saint Louis University  
St. Louis, MO



**John E. Rectenwald, MD, MS**  
Professor of Surgery  
Vice-Chair, Section of Vascular Surgery  
Program Director, Vascular Surgery Residency and Fellowship  
Department of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
Madison, WI



**Venita Chandra, MD, FACS**  
Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery  
Program Director - Vascular Surgery  
Medical Director, Stanford Advanced Wound Center  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stanford, CA

## VESS offers Virtual Residency Fair to 4th Year Medical Students

Earlier this fall, the VESS sponsored a virtual residency fair for 4th year medical students applying for integrated vascular surgery residencies this year. Normally, an in person event is held at the Vascular Annual Meeting (SVS) every year and vascular surgery training programs are allowed to erect tables in order to recruit medical students to their programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this did not occur. Additionally, medical students interested in vascular surgery have been left in a difficult spot. There has been a decrease in away rotation possibilities for many students due to institutional travel restrictions (or institutions suspending visiting away students), a decrease in clinical responsibilities at home institutions, and a lack of opportunities for mentorship from many vascular surgeons who have had less of a presence at the hospitals.

Organized by VESS members **Matthew Smeds** (Chair, Communications Committee), **Venita Chandra** (Chair, Women & Diversity Committee), and **John Rectenwald** (Chair, Student Education Ad Hoc Committee), over 120 students virtually "visited" 46 vascular surgery programs via Zoom, which allowed them the opportunity to learn about programs. These programs had the ability to both present information about their residencies, but also introduce potential candidates to current faculty and trainees. The fair started off with a talk by **Dr. Shernaz Dossabhoj** on "The Top 10 Things to Consider When Choosing a Vascular Surgery Residency". She then joined a panel discussion with other current vascular trainees, **Timothy Chilton** (Saint Louis University), **Elsie DeRoo** (University of Wisconsin), and **Justin Smith** (Case Western Reserve University) to discuss the vascular surgery match process. Students spent the remainder of the time visiting programs that they were interested in.

Overall, students reported a 94% positive response rate to the event, with main critique being they need more time to visit more programs! As the Country adjusts to the changing world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the VESS strives to stay current and provide opportunities to its members and future members. Subsequent virtual recruitment fairs are being planned for the upcoming vascular fellowship season, and the VESS is in the midst of planning a hybrid VESS Annual Winter Meeting in January 2021. Let us know if you have any ideas that may benefit our members in these crazy times.

# 2021 VESS Call For Leadership Volunteers

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society continues to grow and be **THE** Society for Early Career Vascular Surgeon. The Executive Council is pleased to announce an open **Call for Volunteers** to serve on one or more of the many VESS Committees. Both nominations of other members and self-nominations are invited.

Active members in good standing are eligible to serve. Kindly let us know if you would like to participate by emailing the Administrative Office and include which Committee would be of interest. Though not required, including a brief paragraph indicating why you would like to serve may be helpful to the Nominating Committee and Executive Council members who will consider all appointments.

Unless otherwise indicated, most terms begin in February of each year with most committee business being conducted by conference call. In many instances, committee members rotate up to chair during their final year. Committee chairs and Society representatives are invited to attend the Executive Council meetings twice annually during the Annual Meeting in the winter and the spring meeting held at VAM.

**Send your nominations to [VESS@administrare.com](mailto:VESS@administrare.com) by Wednesday, January 6, 2021.**

## THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES HAVE OPENINGS FOR NOMINATIONS:

### **SPRING PROGRAM COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Committee members work collaboratively with the SVS Program Committee to select abstracts for the VESS spring meeting in conjunction with VAM. Term begins in June, 2020.

### **ANNUAL (WINTER) PROGRAM COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Committee members review and select abstracts for the Annual Meeting and assist in the development of the scientific program.

### **WEBSITE SUB-COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Reviews existing website, suggest changes and updates and new ideas.

### **WOMEN AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE (4 Year Term)**

The purpose of this committee is to identify and promote ways to address minority issues in vascular surgery and encourage women and minorities to actively participate in the Society and its committees. It is also responsible for fostering the VESS Mentor Program each year.

### **NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Develop, write and review content for three issues of the VESS Newsletter annually.

### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (3 Year Term)**

Research and implement comprehensive fundraising campaigns to support Society initiatives. Assist in the fundraising for the annual winter meeting. Help to identify industry with an interest in vascular surgery that may want to support the Society in some way.

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Review applications and select winners for awards (Travel, Resident Research and Early Career Faculty). Also review any requests to survey the VESS membership and submit recommendation to the Executive Council.

### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Assist with member recruitment strategy when necessary. Review list of applicants and present nominations for membership to the Executive Council for review before final vote during the Annual Business Meeting.

### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE (3 Year Term)**

Review the by-laws from time-to-time as directed by the Council and make recommendations regarding amendments. Assist with the development of official policies & procedures for Society business.

### **VASCULAR RESIDENCY ISSUES COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Develop programs (i.e.: Technology Forum, Fellows Program) and address issues of vascular trainees.

### **STUDENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE (2 Year Term)**

Develop program and address issues for medical students interested in a vascular surgery career.

# 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

The VESS looks forward to hosting our annual winter meeting. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be hosting both a live, in-person event as well as an on-line, virtual component for those unable to attend.

**VESS 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in beautiful Sun Valley, Idaho – January 21-24, 2021**

An outstanding program has been planned - watch your mail for the Preliminary Program brochure.

For full meeting registration & hotel information visit the VESS website - [www.vesurgery.org](http://www.vesurgery.org).

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In order to follow social distancing and other safety guidelines, we are limited to 168 in-person attendees. That is the maximum # of seating the ballrooms will allow.

Registration options include:

- **Register to attend in-person:**

- In-person registration is on a first come, first serve basis. We can put you on a waitlist once this option is full.
- If you are on the waitlist and a spot opens up to attend in-person, we will notify you ASAP.

- **Register to attend virtually:**

- We will broadcast all presentations via Zoom in real-time during the conference dates. You will be able to ask speakers questions and access all resources from speakers and exhibitors online.
- Should you wish to take advantage of our group discount hotel rates at Sun Valley Resort and on ski lift tickets, but not attend in-person sessions, you can register to attend the meeting virtually and tune into presentations from your hotel room. Note: Virtual attendees will not be able to attend any in-person events, including meals.

## Cancellation Policy

We are committed to providing you with a safe, valuable and fun experience at our meeting. Due to the limited number of in-person registrations and possible sell out situation, we regret the VESS will be unable to refund your registration fee if you cancel your registration. (Unless your spot can be filled from the wait list). If VESS needs to cancel the meeting for any reason, we will refund your registration fee, but you will be responsible for any travel-related costs incurred (flight & hotel deposits, etc.). Most airlines and hospitality companies are working with customers on COVID-related cancellations.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

### The Sun Valley Resort

On behalf of attendees the VESS has secured special discounted room rates at the **Sun Valley Lodge** and **Sun Valley Inn**.

Reservations must be made by **5:00 pm (Eastern) Saturday, December 18, 2020**, to guarantee the group rate and can be made by contacting the Sun Valley Resort directly at **800-786-8259**. After this deadline, or if the VESS block of rooms sells out prior to the above mentioned deadline, availability and rates cannot be guaranteed. Please mention the VESS 2021 Annual Meeting to ensure the discounted rate.

**We strongly recommend making your reservations as early as possible. We anticipate selling out of our discounted rooms early.**

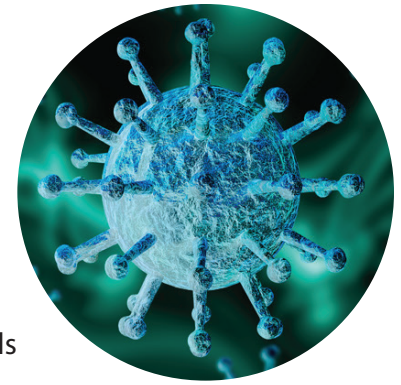
Rooms Rates, Room Descriptions and more information about booking can be found on the VESS website.



## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

We understand that a degree of uncertainty exists around traveling and attending in-person events because of COVID-19. We are closely monitoring the situation and working with Sun Valley Resort to ensure the safety of everyone attending. On-site precautions will include:

- **Mask mandate** – All attendees are required to wear masks during presentations and while in common areas at the resort.
- **Social distancing** – we have reserved enough space within the resort to allow attendees to maintain social distancing. This includes broadcasting presentations into multiple meeting rooms and allocating certain times for groups to attend meals and the exhibit hall.
- **Sanitizing stations** – the resort has multiple hand sanitizing stations throughout the property, and we'll have additional stations set up within our meeting space.
- **Temperature checks** – VESS staff will check attendees' temperature as you enter the meeting space before sessions start each day.
- **Contactless experience** – We will provide registration packets upon check-in to the resort. We will not hand out any materials throughout the conference.
- **Resort catering will serve all meals to attendees.** The Sun Valley Resort is following food safety state and



# VESS 2020 Annual Meeting AT-A-GLANCE

## Thursday, January 21, 2021

- 7:30 am – 12:30 pm **VESS Fellows Program**  
7:30 am – 12:30 pm **VESS Next Generation Student Mentor Program**  
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm **VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY FORUM** - All welcome to attend  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **SCIENTIFIC SESSION I**  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm **WELCOME RECEPTION / EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE**

## Friday, January 22, 2021

- 6:00 am – 7:00 am Continental Breakfast  
7:00 am – 9:15 am **SCIENTIFIC SESSION II**  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Round Table Discussion – Women in Vascular Surgery  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Case Presentation Session I (*Case Reports & Videos*)  
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Coffee/Snacks  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **SCIENTIFIC SESSION III**  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm **VESS MEMBER BUSINESS MEETING**  
6:15 pm – 7:30 pm *Industry Sponsored Symposium*

## Saturday, January 23, 2021

- 6:00 am – 7:00 am Continental Breakfast  
7:00 am – 8:30 am **SCIENTIFIC SESSION IV**  
8:30 am – 9:00 am Award Session  
9:00 am – 9:10 am **Introduction of the President – Jason Lee, MD**  
9:10 am – 9:55 am **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS – Matthew Corriere, MD**  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Round Table Discussion - Top 10 Pieces of Advice from Academic & Private Practice Physicians  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Case Presentation Session II (*Case Reports & Videos*)  
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Coffee/Snacks  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **SCIENTIFIC SESSION V**  
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm **PRESIDENT'S DINNER**

## Sunday, January 24, 2021

- 6:00 am – 7:00 am Continental Breakfast  
7:00 am – 9:00 am **SCIENTIFIC SESSION VI**  
9:00 am Adjourn

# Spotlight on VESS Grant Award Winner



## Dr. Kathleen Lamb

*Tower Health Medical Center-  
Reading Hospital  
Assistant Professor of Surgery,  
Drexel University College of Medicine  
West Reading, PA*

VESS



Vascular &  
Endovascular  
Surgery Society

## Academic Development Award

### 1. How did you use the funding from the 2012 Academic Fellow Award?

The funding from my 2012 Academic Fellow Award was used to fund my basic science research project of creating a tissue engineered vascular graft using adipose-derived stem cells and a small intestinal submucosa scaffold. This project involved harvesting and differentiating adipose-derived stem cells to endothelial and smooth muscle cells to create an artificial artery. The in vivo portion of this project involved implanting the TEVG in canines as carotid interposition grafts. I then performed graft surveillance with duplex ultrasound and ultimately grafts were harvested for histologic analysis.

My mentor, **Paul DiMuzio MD**, and I were very excited by our results, which demonstrated adipose derived stem cells were able to acquire the characteristics of endothelial and smooth muscle cells. We were able to create a multilayered TEVG from a single stem cell origin and the TEVG was able to tolerate physiologic stretch and remain patent in the long term.

### 2. How did the Award help you in your professional development? What professional achievements came from this Award?

By funding my research, this award gave me the opportunity to engage in academic medicine and learn fundamentals of basic science research and project execution. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to publish some of my work and present our results at local, regional and national meetings. I was exposed to other researchers from whom I was able to learn and who provided mentorship.

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

I would encourage young vascular surgeons to believe in the merit of their research and not to become discouraged by early experiment failures, challenges getting work published or applying for grants. I think it is important to continue to persevere in your work. It is necessary to learn to handle constructive criticism and use this to strengthen your experiment, project, paper. I have also found that advice from mentors or other researchers can be particularly helpful in finding my way in academic medicine.

### 4. Looking back, how did the Award influence your career?

The opportunities this award provided helped me better understand the process behind research. It helped me develop the ability to evaluate critically published papers and determine how I will incorporate that data into my own practice. It also gave me the forum to meet other young surgeons and colleagues in the field.

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

I think the VESS offers young surgeons an excellent opportunity to become involved in a prominent vascular society at a young age. The VESS does an excellent job of supporting the efforts of young surgeons and encourages academic pursuits in the field. Society meetings are also a great way to meet and interact with other vascular colleagues across the country.

**June 2, 2021**  
**San Diego Convention Center**  
**San Diego, CA**

**Save the Dates**  
**for 2021**  
**VESS Annual**  
**Spring**  
**Meeting**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH VAM**



## **Interact with Society Leadership and Other Members through Social Media!**

Follow us at @VESurgery for updates on society activities, VESS articles of the week, case of the week, and highlighted members. 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. Also, check out the LIVE Twitter Feed on the [vesurgery.com](http://vesurgery.com) home page.

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



***Registration is now open!***

2021 VESS Winter Meeting



January 21-24, 2021

Sun Valley Lodge and  
Sun Valley Inn  
Sun Valley, Idaho