

# VESS

## Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

### NEWSLETTER

Volume 13 • Issue 2 • Summer 2021



## President's Message by Jason T. Lee, MD



The Summer of 2021 begins with excitement about new vascular surgery students, residents, and fellows joining our ranks, and once again we want to highlight how the VESS and its membership can impact our specialty. As we describe to new trainees and colleagues what the VESS is all about, let us remind ourselves we are a strong national society with over 1,000 members and a 40+ year history dedicated to advancing clinical practice, research, and professional development of early career vascular surgeons. *The VESS mission is to improve the quality and safety of vascular & endovascular surgical procedures and general vascular care through education, scholarship, advocacy and leadership.* The **Membership Committee**, led by **Kristine Orion**, has been very busy creating strategies to assure a strong new member pipeline, and we encourage all of you to nominate your colleagues for VESS membership.

Perhaps the most exciting news this summer will be the **Vascular Annual Meeting**, and through our long-term commitment and agreement with our MOU with the SVS, will participate with our **Spring Program** in San Diego on **Wednesday, August 18th**, in the main plenary auditorium from **12:30pm-6:15pm**. Our Spring Program Committee, led by Shang Loh, has created a comprehensive, high-impact, and exciting program covering all aspects of vascular surgery that is certain to launch the VAM meeting. Special this year was the additional attention to asking fellows/early faculty from programs not represented on the program to be discussants, further emphasizing participation in our meeting, and as a way to encourage all of us to prioritize getting back to an in-person meeting! We hope you are traveling to the San Diego Convention Center in August to also participate in the jointly sponsored recruitment reception on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. A strong showing by our VESS membership at the VAM will go a long way to spark some new mentor/mentee opportunities! Speaking about the SVS, I personally cannot let the moment pass too in order to congratulate **Ron Dalman**, my mentor and partner for 15 years, on his presidency this past year, and all that he has done to make vascular surgery as strong and exciting as it is today.

### VESS "Spring" Meeting @ VAM!!

On behalf of the VESS Spring Program Committee, we want to encourage you to attend the 2021 VESS meeting during the Vascular Annual Meeting (VAM) in San Diego this August. The program will feature 26 wide-ranging presentations touching on all aspects of vascular surgery complete with live discussants. The committee was proud to be able to include presentations from 21 different institutions with discussants from an additional 16 unique institutions. *(Continued on next page)*

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*(President's Message continued from page 1)*

As we look on the immediate horizon, it is absolutely not too early to start making your plans to travel to our in-person **2022 Annual Meeting**. We are returning to Aspen/Snowmass, January 27-30, for the first time in 14 years, and coming out of the pandemic, I hope you are all ready to make this the largest and most epic VESS Meeting in history! First order of business will be to help properly toast and celebrate our immediate past-president **Matt Corriere**, as we were not able to do that in usual VESS fashion in Sun Valley. The call for abstracts for our 2022 Annual Meeting has recently been sent out, and our **Winter Program Committee**, led by **Karan Garg** and **Jeanie Ruddy**, will certainly put together a program highlighted by cutting edge science and clinical care. Programming is also underway for our traditional "**Next Generation**" **Student Mentor Program**, **Vascular Fellows Program** & **Vascular Technology Forum**. And new this year we hope to introduce a **General Surgery Resident Program** (Stay tuned for more details). These programs will be organized by **Nathan Orr**, **Venita Chandra**, **Mounir Haurani**, and **Gaby Velazquez**, so please reach out to any of them to volunteer! Our **Fundraising Committee**, ably run by **Todd Berland**, continues the behind-the-scenes hard work to gather financial support from industry to help fund our annual meeting, develop scholarship support, and make possible even further developments within the VESS.

Finally, with support of the Executive Board of the VESS, we have created an ad hoc annual **VESS Research Consortium (VRC)**, this year to be co-chaired by **Jordan Stern** and **Liz Genovese**. The idea that through the VESS membership we can create an annual clinical research project and allow the expertise and diversity of our members to contribute certainly has amazing potential. This year's project will focus on *Acute Type B Aortic Dissections and Management Strategies*, and we look forward to hearing more about this in the upcoming months!

The VESS continues to be as vibrant as I can remember it to be when I joined out of fellowship, mainly because of its membership. Let's encourage all of our colleagues, trainees, students, and ourselves, to participate, contribute, volunteer, and work together to make the VESS even stronger. "Strength in numbers" will accomplish a lot in vascular surgery, and we look forward to continuing to listen and learn with all of you. Enjoy the summer and we'll see you soon.

Respectfully,  
Jason T. Lee MD  
2021-22 VESS President

*(VESS "Spring" Meeting @ VAM!! continued from page 1)*

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We can think of no better way to celebrate a return to live meetings than by attending the VESS session on **Wednesday, August 18th from 12:45 – 6:30 pm**. This year, the VAM will showcase VESS in the Main Plenary Session Room and it would send a strong message as to the influence of the VESS if we were to fill that room to capacity! The full program can be found on the spring meeting page of the VESS website ([www.vesurgery.org](http://www.vesurgery.org)). We look forward to seeing you in Sunny San Diego.

Sincerely,  
Shang Loh  
VESS Spring Program Chair 2021

# Member Recruitment Campaign

## \*Active Membership for Early Career Vascular Surgeons

On behalf of the VESS Membership Committee we are looking to you, our members, to assist with recruiting efforts by encouraging your colleagues to join. There are many early career vascular surgeons who have not yet realized what an asset VESS could be to their personal success.

Our meetings foster an encouraging, collaborative environment geared to early career vascular surgeons interested in sharing and benefiting from the exchange of ideas based in basic/translational science, educational, clinical or health outcomes research. We encourage members to cement their work with submissions to *Journal of Vascular Surgery* and *Annals of Vascular Surgery*, our official publication partners for the Spring and Winter Meetings, respectively.

**VESS ACTIVE Membership** (available to those within the first 15 years of practice) offers the following opportunities:

- Early Career Faculty Research Award (\$22,500)
- VESS Travel Award (\$5,000)
- VESS Mentorship Program
- VESS Committee Participation

- ☑ Recruit 1 New Member and receive VESS "Swag"
- ☑ Recruit 3 New Members and receive VESS "Swag" and 1 Free Ski Lift Ticket
- ☑ Recruit 5+ New Members and receive VESS "Swag", 1 Free Ski Lift Ticket, FREE Meeting Registration to the 2022 Annual Winter Meeting and be recognized during the Annual Business Meeting.

*\*Instruct your recruits to include your name as their sponsor during the application process. Recruits can go to the website and click on the "Not a Member? Apply Today" link at the top of the Home Page.*

## RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES...

As a way of rewarding your efforts to help recruit new members!

**WHY DID YOU JOIN VESS?** To assist you with your recruiting efforts please share the responses below from current members as to why they joined the Society.

- It is important to find a professional home and family. VESS offers an opportunity to meet and spend time with colleagues who are diverse yet likeminded and dedicated to patient care.
- I joined VESS because it represents a group of surgeons who are interested in understanding current vascular surgery but questioning the norm and pushing for change.
- I joined VESS because it allows me to network with a newer generation of vascular surgeons who are in the forefront of the specialty and utilize both open and innovative endovascular techniques. Vascular surgery is always evolving and growing and VESS is the epitome of this.
- I joined VESS because it is a society that fosters the development of young vascular surgeons with mentorship opportunities and focuses on improving the quality of vascular care for our patients. VESS meetings are excellent forums for younger surgeons as their less formal atmosphere fosters new ideas and in depth discussions in a friendly and inviting environment.
- I joined VESS because it is an academic society that welcomes and helps develop young surgeons. I have found mentors and friends, both whom have influenced and shaped my career.
- I have been inspired by all the scientific works and in turn, have developed new research questions of my own. As I have become more involved with VESS committees, I have been impressed by the accountability VESS has for education and inclusion of younger trainees and students. I can truly say that my evolution as an academic surgeon, a researcher and a teacher has been influenced by what I have learned through VESS.

# Winter Meeting Highlights

## VESS VASCULAR FELLOWS PROGRAM

Thursday, January 27, 2022

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. Each fellow accepted into the program will receive a **\$1,000 travel stipend** to help with the cost of attending the meeting.

## VESS NEXT GENERATION STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

Thursday, January 27, 2022

The Next Generation Student Mentor 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 student 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.

The VESS will once again accept 30 eligible medical students and provide a **\$1,500 travel stipend** to help them attend the meeting.

## VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY FORUM

Thursday, January 27, 2022

The 2022 Vascular Technology Forum will showcase some of the best and newest devices that industry has to offer. 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.



# SAVE THE DATES

Be sure to mark your calendars for the **VESS 46th Annual Winter Meeting** to be held January 27-30, 2022 at the Westin Snowmass (Soon to be the new Viewline Resort) in Snowmass Village, Colorado.

Visit the VESS website for full meeting information including Registration & Hotel Reservations.



## 2022 Call For Abstracts

## DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society is now accepting abstracts for their 46th Annual Meeting to be held January 27-30, 2022 at the Westin Snowmass in Snowmass Village, Colorado.

Abstracts must be submitted online and submission must be completed by **Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.** (EDT). Submission Guidelines can be found under the meetings tab at: [www.vesurgery.org](http://www.vesurgery.org).

## Manuscript Submission Requirements / **Annals of Vascular Surgery**

\*All accepted abstracts will be printed in a future issue of Annals of Vascular Surgery

Any Abstract accepted as a **STANDARD PAPER** for presentation at the Annual Meeting has a **MANDATORY REQUIREMENT** to submit a **FULL MANUSCRIPT** by **MARCH 1, 2022** for consideration to Annals of Vascular Surgery.

- Authors will be asked at the time of submission to acknowledge their understanding of this commitment to submit a manuscript by the stated deadline.
- If a manuscript is not submitted within 90 days of presentation, the First Author and Senior or VESS Sponsoring author will not be allowed to submit an abstract to the VESS 2023 Annual Meeting (1 Year Penalty).
- Case Reports and Rapid Fire Presentations are encouraged but not required to submit manuscripts to the Annals of Vascular Surgery.

# VESS Grants And Awards

The VESS is pleased to offer the following opportunities to its' members to help further their careers.



## VESS Travel Award

**Application Deadline: Friday, September 10, 2021**

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



## Medtronic Vascular Resident Research Award

**Application Deadline: Friday, October 8, 2021**

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

**Application Deadline: Friday, November 5, 2021**

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

# The Journey to Being a Senior Resident



Submitted by Ahmed Naiem, MD  
*PGY-4 Vascular Surgery Resident, McGill University*

Vascular surgery residency is truly a life journey beyond the 5 to 7 years from internship to board certification. You start fresh off medical school with a hunger. You want to read about the different diseases all at once. You want to know about all the new trials. You want to smash the ceiling of expectations you set for yourself.

The maiden year goes faster than you would have ever expected. You realize you have gone through so many different rotations, met so many different patients and have learned so many new skills both in the operating room and outside. By this time, you are a second-year resident. You walk around the surgical floor with a deeper understanding of how things work. You know who to ask for what. You are ready for the next step; being a surgeon.

It is now time for the leap to being a senior resident. The third year arrives with its own set of objectives and responsibilities. You now show up to morning rounds to lead the team. You are interpreting laboratory results and imaging findings to form a plan. The eyes are truly shifting on you to set the tempo for the team. You are managing both your inpatient list and making sure all your team members are working at their potentials. It is all about learning the intricate arts of delegation and supervision. Next comes the real joy in the operating room. It is after all the reason you chose vascular as your specialty. You are now on the surgeon's side operating under supervision. You are asking for the DeBakey forceps and working your way through tissue with the Metzzenbaum. It sure is a great feeling to be able to do part of a procedure, let alone most of it. But it is only when you take off your lead apron or put down your loupes that it hits you. A great sense of duty and an overwhelming feeling of ownership towards the patient. Every charted tachycardia on the vitals record gets you stressed. You are chasing the pedal pulse or signal every morning like your life depends on it. You slowly understand what it really means to be responsible for the well-being of another human being's life or limb.

Residency, for me and many others, has not been all about learning to operate. On a personal level, I had the joy of giving lectures to medical students on 'vascular surgery 101' for the first time. I also mentored first year medical students in their first in-hospital rotations. The cherry on top, however, was experiencing parenthood in a new city and watching my family grow.

Writing this piece allowed me to reflect on the past three years and truly appreciate all the patient encounters, night shifts, emergency consults and exchanges with my mentors and trainers. We are truly privileged to be part of this specialty. It has truly been a journey!





# The 2021 Vascular Surgery Match

## Successes and Future Directions

Submitted by Jeniann Yi, MD

The National Resident Matching Program 2021 Match highlighted the continual growth of the match overall, as well as the growth of vascular surgery residencies and fellowships in particular. The National Resident Matching Program reported that a total of 38,106 positions were offered, representing 5,915 programs – an increase of 2.7% from 2020. Despite this growth, the percentage of filled positions rose to 94.8% with a decline in unfilled positions by 3.6%. Number of applicants also rose by 8.3% to 48,700.

Vascular surgery residency was one of the few specialties that matched all of their available positions, which also grew this year to 79 positions at 64 programs. Yet interestingly, there were only 266 applicants which was a marked decrease from the year prior of 472 applicants. Of the 2020 applicants, 71% were male and 29% were female. Regarding race/ethnicity, 7.6% were Black, 10.3% were Latino, 19.9% were Asian, and 41.7% were White.

Of the 100 vascular surgery fellowship positions available, 96.1% were filled. For the fellowship match, there were 155 applicants – a slight but consistent increase from the years prior. In 2020, there were 145 applicants with 66% male and 34% female applicants. Of these, 4.8% were Black, 6.2% were Latino, 20% were Asian, and 57.9% were White.

Interestingly, this applicant pool is mirrored closely by the demographic composition of current trainees. In their yearly survey of all US medical trainees, Brotherton et al found that among the 335 current vascular surgery integrated residents, 35.8% are female, 5.1% are Black, 6.6% are Latino, 27.4% are Asian, and 54.8% are White. Of the 236 vascular surgery fellowship trainees, 29.2% are female, 3.8% are Black, 6.3% are Latino, 25.4% are Asian, and 62.7% are White. However, these similarities end when considering vascular surgeons beyond training. Per the Association of American Medical Colleges, there were 3,941 active vascular surgeons in 2019 of which 85.4% were male and 14.6% were female. In the continued commitment to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, there needs to be continued effort to promote interest in vascular surgery amongst all in order to increase representation amongst applicants. Furthermore, the transition of trainees into successful vascular surgery careers is critical to changing our workforce as well as improving the exposure of underrepresented students/trainees to vascular surgery through increased mentorship opportunities with mentors representative of our diversity.

Notably, the 2021 match also marked the first year where the application process was entirely virtual, as mandated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The NRMP survey found that generally applicants felt comfortable in the virtual setting and that the virtual format allowed for applications to the same or higher number of programs. However, the majority (51.4% vs. 20.7%) preferred an in-person interview experience. Specific issues arising from the virtual format were that determining program culture and the “fit” with program faculty and residents based on web-based materials. Additionally, there was limited exposure to the preferred specialties from both home institution and away rotations. Program directors felt that the same or slightly more applications were received and similarly the same or slightly more interview invitations were sent. This led to more applicants being interviewed and ranked for the match. Roughly 60% of program directors intend to continue a virtual recruitment process in some form. While the program website, social media, and virtual residency fairs were viewed as beneficial overall, virtual away rotation were found to be not beneficial by the majority of program directors (86.3%).

Overall, these trends highlight the ever-changing nature of our chosen profession. As we continue to grow interest in vascular surgery amongst the next generation, we also seek to improve our inclusivity as well as our adaptability. Congratulations to all who matched in 2021. The future is bright!



Lindsay Gallo (L) is excited to start her intern year at CU vascular surgery residency & received a friendly welcome Kelly Radtke (FNP)

### Sources:

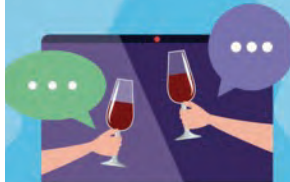
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AAMC Preliminary Data (ERAS 2021) – Residency <https://www.aamc.org/media/6231/download>  
AAMC Preliminary Data (ERAS 2021) – Fellowship <https://www.aamc.org/media/6226/download>  
Brotherton SE, Etzel SI. Graduate Medical Education, 2019-2020. JAMA. 2020;324(12):1230–1250. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.14635



# Virtual Happy Hour!!

TUESDAY, JULY 20TH 7:00PM EST

The VESS would like to invite the Candidate and NewActive Members to participate in a VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR focusing on topics pertinent to early career vascular surgeons.



Please save the date and plan to join us for a discussion to learn about the keys to success as well as some of the pitfalls that early career vascular surgeons face. Use this unique opportunity to reach out and talk with those who have worked through the ups and downs of the first few years of practice as they help you learn from their experiences

A Zoom link will be sent out via email in the near future.

# VESS Slogan Competition!

Greetings esteemed VESS Members. As we embark on a spectacular year after the pandemic, we have decided to inject some attitude to generate publicity and unify our society strategy. Branding will help VESS become more recognized for our championship of early career scholarship, national mentorship, and our commitment to diversity & inclusion.

We are calling for your best interpretation of what the VESS slogan should be. We have several examples below to get the creative juices flowing. The Executive Team will review all entries and will send out the top choices for a vote. The winner will not only have bragging rights but a free lift ticket for the upcoming Winter Meeting in Snowmass, Colorado.

- "First InLine"
- "Bypassing the Rest"
- "Got Vein"
- "Keeping it Patent"
- "Worldwide Vascular Managers"
- "Challenging the Vascular Future"

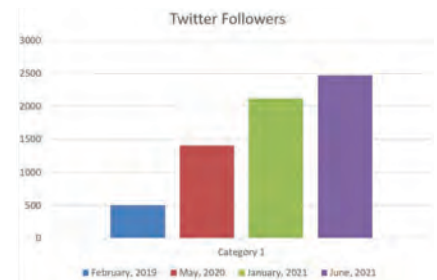


Email your entries to [vess@administrare.com](mailto:vess@administrare.com) by September 1, 2021.

# VESS Social Media Update



Our social media presence continues to expand. We have nearly 2,500 **Twitter** followers and almost 700 Instagram followers, and send posts on topics pertaining to our society 2-3 times per week.



Since starting our **YouTube** channel in April 2020, we have had almost 4,000 views of 42 videos that have been uploaded. These include educational and surgical technique videos as well as presentations from the VESS Winter Meeting that are uploaded every week. If you missed the meeting or want to review one of the talks

you saw, check it out and be sure to subscribe to get updates on newly uploaded videos. This valuable resource can be accessed via YouTube directly or our website (<https://vesurgery.org/>).



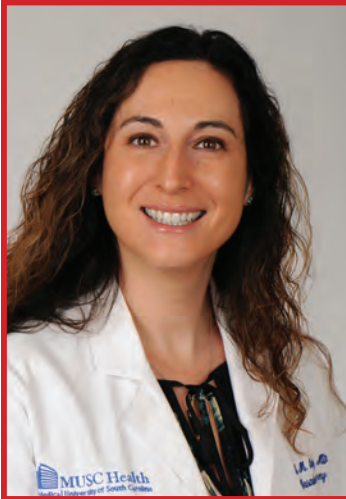
If you haven't already, follow us on Twitter (@VESurgery) and Instagram



(@VESurgery), and feel free to tag us in Tweets/Instagram posts pertaining to our society, meetings, and vascular topics! Send any recommendations for social media topics to the communication committee; we are always looking for ways to engage our membership and remain current.

## Spotlight on VESS Grant Awardee

Each year, the VESS awards a travel grant, an early career faculty research grant and a resident research grant. Here, we catch up with a previous awardee to find out how she used her funds and what impact the award had on her 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 6 or visit <http://vesurgery.org/grants/awards>.



### **Jean Marie Ruddy, MD FACS**

Associate Professor of Surgery  
Division of Vascular Surgery  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Ralph H Johnson VAMC  
Charleston, SC



Principle Investigator in MUSC Cardiovascular Surgery Research Laboratory

#### ***Additional Professional Roles:***

Associate Program Director for Vascular Integrated Residency  
Associate Program Director for Resident Research for General Surgery Residency  
Medical Director of Vascular Laboratory

### **How did you use the funds from your VESS Faculty Research Award?**

I was very fortunate to receive departmental support to initiate my research endeavors focused on elucidating the biomechanical link between hypertension and the development as well as progression of abdominal aortic aneurysms by utilizing several animal models and benchtop procedures. The funding provided by the VESS Early Career Faculty Award then enabled acquisition of genetically altered mouse strains and integration of specialized flow cytometry techniques that elevated the complexity and depth of our investigations, thereby extending our experimental scope into the realm of inflammatory mediators in aneurysm disease.

### **How did the Early Career Faculty Award help you in your professional development? What professional achievements came from this Award?**

As the first extramural grant funding I achieved, the VESS Early Career Faculty Award legitimized my self-designated role as a vascular surgeon-scientist. I was able to negotiate for additional personnel support in the laboratory and extend my training tools to mentor medical students and surgery residents in the critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential to scientific investigation. This award enabled a productivity boost that was vital to achieving presentations at national meetings such as the Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Annual Meeting, Vascular Discovery (formerly the Vascular Research Initiatives Conference), and the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions wherein I was fortunate to network with other vascular surgeon-scientists and obtain insights on career development topics such as time management, the benefits and pitfalls of acquiring administrative roles, and maximizing grant funding opportunities. Most importantly, the experimental data acquired by the support of this award directly contributed to the successful acquisition of an NIH Ko8 Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award.

### **What advice would you give to young surgeons who are starting out and applying for grants?**

When embarking on a career as a surgeon-scientist, the institution is investing in you with an expectation of experimental productivity in addition to clinical growth, and tending to both of these expectations

simultaneously is a significant challenge. It is essential to establish mentorship relationships to assist in balancing these responsibilities, and it is particularly helpful to have a mentoring team to cover the breadth of those expectations. I strongly recommend completing an Individual Development Plan (IDP) to assist in thinking about stepwise actions toward your clinical, administrative, and research goals. Take advantage of opportunities to present your experimental plan or preliminary data at divisional, departmental, or inter-departmental research meetings to get diverse and meaningful feedback. Submissions to institutional and foundation/society grants serve a dual role of acquiring constructive comments to improve your writing skills or investigational focus as well as getting your name into the conversation of researchers in your field. Be proactive and creative in identifying grants to which you can apply and then complete as many of these as you can. Persistence and resilience are key.

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

As mentioned above, achieving this first extramural grant legitimized my self-designated role as a vascular surgeon-scientist, but it also brought me into the conversation with other departmental and institutional “funded investigators” such that networking and collaboration opportunities became apparent. Invitations to present my work at board meetings and departmental grand rounds events helped market my abilities such that students and trainees interested in vascular biology were referred to me for research projects, thereby building my team and increasing productivity that then allowed for acquisition of more funding. I have always believed in stepwise progression to stated goals, and the first step can be the hardest... I am exceptionally grateful to the VESS Research Committee for helping me take this first and very important step!

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

Vascular surgeons are confronted with many obstacles inside as well as outside the OR and the development of a support network is a vital step in surviving these stressful situations. I believe the efforts of VESS to create a diverse community for early career vascular surgeons, vascular residents, and medical students has provided a valuable foundation upon which we can each build the mentorship team to fit our individual career goals.

# Call For Volunteers *for the new* VESS Vascular Research Consortium

We are pleased to announce the formation of the **VESS Vascular Research Consortium (VRC)**! This society is home to surgeons and researchers who are continually pushing the envelope and providing innovative and complex care to vascular patients across the country. The goal of the VRC is to capture and leverage our combined experience with novel treatment of various disease processes. Each year we will identify one specific research objective, with the intent of producing landmark research on a contemporary topic to guide therapy for vascular surgeons everywhere.

This notice is to serve as a Call for Volunteers to participate in the VRC. We are looking to create a committee of 5-7 motivated individuals who would like to contribute to the design and implementation of this important research taskforce. We are asking those who are interested in serving on this committee to submit a short (150 word) statement of interest, including prior experience that may lead to a successful inaugural year of the VRC. Applications can be sent to the VESS Administrative Office at [VESS@administrare.com](mailto:VESS@administrare.com) and will be accepted until 7/31/2021. Thank you for your interest!



Jordan R. Stern, MD (Chair)  
Elizabeth Genovese, MD (Vice-Chair)

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society  
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Beverly, MA 01915



# SAVE THE DATES

VESS 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Meeting  
**January 27-30, 2022**

The Westin Snowmass  
*(Soon to be the new Viewline Resort)*  
Snowmass Village, CO

Visit the VESS website [www.vesurgery.org](http://www.vesurgery.org) for more information  
on registration, hotel accommodations and more.