

VESS

Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 • Issue 1 • Spring 2023



President's Corner by Mark F. Conrad, MD, MMSc, MD



I am honored to write to you as the 48th president of our great society. Like many of those who came before me, I first attended the PVSS because it provided an additional venue for abstract submission at a time when my main academic focus was to create a national presence in the world of vascular surgery. I quickly learned that this meeting offered much more than plenary sessions and industry sponsored symposia. I remember walking towards the first session in my traditional vascular meeting uniform (dark suit and tie) when I was stopped by **Darrin Clouse** who was wearing ski pants and a sweatshirt. He informed me that this was a casual meeting, and I should go change or risk being called out by the moderators. I quickly realized this was not my boss's society.

What an amazing experience for a young investigator to be able to present your work in a plenary session and that same day find yourself on the gondola with a member of EC and their children. I returned home and told my wife I planned to attend this meeting every year. Since then, I have missed few and have watched the PVSS develop into the VESS; the premier national society for vascular trainees and surgeons who are early in their careers. Each year, we have seen our presidents continue to support our members through funding research projects, travel scholarships and an ever-expanding program for trainees at the winter meeting. With my presidency, I plan to carry this torch forward in support of our mission.



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VESS 2023 Winter Meeting Highlights

It may have been cold on the slopes in Whistler, but the VESS Annual Winter Meeting was hot, hot, hot! We continued to offer strong educational content through the Medical Student, General Surgery Resident, and Fellows Courses and added a dedicated Education Research Session on Friday. The Scientific Program offered diverse clinical and basic science topics presented by trainees of all levels and demonstrated our growing national and international membership. Congratulations to **Kaohinani Longwolf** for winning The Best Paper Award with her presentation entitled "*Exogenous Testosterone Replacement Therapy Is Associated With Increased Risk For Arterial Graft Infections*". And for those looking for a break from the weather, the Case Report Reception and "*Should I Stay or Should I Go*" Roundtable Session focused on job transitions offered small group settings for chatting and networking. Finally, it was a President's Dinner to remember with a beautiful venue, great food, karaoke, and a live performance by **Dr. Ravi Veeraswamy** to cap his successful year as VESS President.



Jeannie Ruddy, MD, Chair,
VESS Winter Program Committee

VESS 2023 Winter Meeting Highlights

Vascular Fellows Program

VESS hosted another successful Vascular Trainees Program in 2023 led by **Dr. Venita Chandra**. We had over **40 applications** from senior residents and fellows from around the country. Participants had the opportunity to present challenging endovascular and open cases, which were followed by spirited discussions. These were interspersed between excellent talks by over **14 invited speakers** with topics ranging from Tips and Tricks to Successful Transitioning to Attending Life to Industry Relationships - Impact on Career and How to Develop/Maintain Them. The Program included the "*Great Practice Debate*" which exposed trainees to the top reasons to consider difference practice paradigms. Trainees were thrilled that we offered the ever popular **Vascular Jeopardy** twice during the program. We'd like to thank our industry sponsor, **Cook Medical** for their continued support of this important program.

*Venita Chandra, MD, Co-chair,
Vascular Trainee Education Committee*



Next Generation Student Mentor Program

The VESS hosted the 6th edition of the Next Generation Student Mentor Program this year. The program was highly sought after by medical students interested in pursuing careers in vascular surgery. We received over **60 applications** from medical schools across the United States and its territories. The group of Next Generation scholars showed up ready to learn and contribute to the conversation. This year, we continued in the footsteps of Dr. Orr's (Student Education Committee 2020-2022) open format with multiple panel discussions to allow for as much interaction with the students as possible. The panel discussions included topics like a "day in the life" of a vascular surgeon, building a mentor/mentee relationship, promoting wellness in medical school, the importance of inclusion and diversity within our specialty, what makes a competitive training program applicant. A wide representation of leaders (present and future) in the field of vascular surgery joined the discussion. A group of vascular program directors, residents, and fellows participated in an informative discussion to help these future applicants learn more about the application and interview process. This year, we added a journal club, discussing landmark papers of 2022. In the afternoon, the medical students participated in a hands-on session that included both open surgical practice and thoracic and abdominal endovascular simulators. Overall,

this was an unforgettable experience with a dynamic and inspirational group of medical students, the future of our specialty. I extend my gratitude to the Student Education Committee, Moderators, Panelists, and Next Generation scholars for making this a program to remember. Throughout the program, the roles continued to switch back and forth in a marvelous way. I kept wondering to myself "*who is the teacher and who is the student?*"



*Max Wohlauer, MD, Chair,
Student Education Committee*

VESS 2023 Winter Meeting Highlights

General Surgery Resident Program

Our General Surgery Resident Program was yet another home run for VESS in Whistler, Canada!! The ongoing growing interest of General Surgery Residents in Vascular Surgery Fellowship has been the cornerstone of our program and its continued success. This year we had a record number of applications to sponsor **25 General Surgery Residents** throughout the country, VESS continues to be committed in sponsoring diversity and inclusion and we were witness of it during all the educational programs and participating faculty. Our program was extremely interactive and our residents were very enthusiastic and involved. We talked about the growing need of Vascular Surgeons and our value, discussed Mentorship, Scholarship and Research Opportunities, we had a Program Directors perspective on what to look in programs and how to be more competitive. Our panels are always popular, listening to current fellows regarding their experiences on applications and finding the right fit and the great debate of deciding between Private and Academic Practice. To close our day we had a fun skills session and joined the Forum Tech for more learning and Networking! We are looking forward to VESS 2024 and meet more of our talented General Surgery Residents to experience our vibrant meeting.

*Gabriela Velazquez, MD, FACS, RPVI
Director, General Surgery Program*



Vascular Technology Forum

The 2023 Technology Forum was the culmination of another excellent Fellows and Resident Education Session. In addition to our fellows and residents, conference attendees were able to get their hands on live models. These ranged from demonstrating the efficacy of arterial lithotripsy courtesy of **Shockwave Medical** as well as the latest suction thrombectomy from **Penumbra, Inc.** This year **Medtronic** brought an updated aortic aneurysm repair simulator featuring the **Heli-FX Endoanchor device**, allowing trainees to experience ESAR. **Silk-Road Medical** brought an updated model which now allows for simulation of the TCAR procedure in an even more life-like experience. Once again **Cook Medical** provided an immersive experience using VR to demonstrate their peripheral intervention technology. **Terumo Aortic** as well as **Medtronic** and **Cook** also had their latest endograft devices on display for attendees to hold and examine *ex-vivo*. Overall, the event was well attended and received by our attendees and industry partners.

*Joe Haurani, MD, Co-chair,
Vascular Trainee Education Committee*



2023 Annual Meeting Photos



VESS 2023 Award Winners

TRAVEL AWARD



Elizabeth Genovese, MD
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

MEDTRONIC RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD



Tyler Bauer, MD
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
SETDB2 Regulates Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms

VESS RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD



Calvin Chao, MD
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Role of Sympathetic Nervous System Dysfunction in Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Pathogenesis

BOSTON SCIENTIFIC EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD



Frank Davis, MD
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
The Role of Macrophage and Smooth Muscle Cell Crosstalk in Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Development

2023 BEST PAPER



Kaohinani Longwolf, MD
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT
Exogenous Testosterone Replacement Therapy Is Associated With Increased Risk For Arterial Graft Infections

President's Corner continued from page 1

We recently completed our winter meeting of the VESS executive council, and I am pleased to report that the society is thriving! Our membership continues to grow, and this year we approved 193 new active and candidate applications which brings our membership to over **1570** Active, Associate, Candidate and Medical Student Members. Our meeting in Whistler was the largest on record with a total of **337** registered attendees including **83** vascular residents/fellows and **41** medical students. The quality of the science presented in the meeting remains outstanding. Indeed, we had **220** abstracts submitted for **63** presentations and I am looking forward to the VESS edition of *Annals of Vascular Surgery*; remember to submit your papers soon. In the words of past president **Ravi Veeraswamy** "my meeting was huge." We are financially sound, and these assets will allow us to provide ample support to our dynamic and capable group of volunteers. Last year we spent almost **\$140,000** on scholarships, grants and travel awards and we plan to increase that number in 2023.

We will continue our outreach efforts and encourage our young colleagues, trainees, and students to join the VESS, get involved, and take advantage of all the great programs we have to offer. We recently created an ad hoc research consortium committee and plan to support their efforts to promote multi-institutional research projects among our members through infrastructure support and will work to create a research fellowship to provide a person to coordinate and manage data. In addition, we are nearing our 50th year as a society and as we prepare to celebrate that milestone, we plan to begin the VESS historical project where we will look to highlight the most influential papers from past meetings and celebrate the accomplishments of past research grant and travel award winners. The committees of VESS have been re-populated and are ready to work on the scientific programs, evaluate grants, fundraise, communicate, and put together our spring meeting. Finally, we are open to suggestions so please let me know of other ways that the VESS can serve your needs. It's going to be a great year!

Mark F. Conrad, MD, MMSc
St Elizabeth's Medical Center
2023-2024 VESS President

2023-2024 Executive Council



PRESIDENT

Mark Conrad, MD

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center
Boston, MA



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Misty Humphries, MD

University of California, Davis
Sacramento, CA



SECRETARY

Dawn Coleman, MD

Duke University Med Center
Durham, NC



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Todd Berland, MD

New York University
New York, NY



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Emory University
Atlanta, GA



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Ravi Veeraswamy, MD

Med. Univ. of South Carolina
Charleston, SC



PAST PRESIDENT

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Stanford University
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Stanford University
Stanford, CA



COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

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NYU Langone Health
New York, NY



COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

Kristine Orion, MD

The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH



COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE

Jeannie Ruddy, MD

Med. Univ. of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

2023-2024 Committees

PROGRAM COMMITTEE (WINTER 2023-2024)

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- Bjorn Suckow, Vice Chair
- Michael Soutl
- Gregory Magee
- Alisa Hart
- Elizabeth Genovese
- Alamide Alabi
- Lindsey Korepta
- Nathan Liang

PROGRAM COMMITTEE (SPRING 2022 – 2023)

- Yazan Duwayi, Chair
- Jenianne Yi, Vice Chair
- Jordan Stern
- Dave Kauvar
- Jill Zink
- Gregory Salzler
- Faisal Aziz

VESS REPRESENTATIVES

Representative to the American College of Surgeons
Board of Governors

- Niten Singh, MD

Representative to the ACS Advisory Council for Surgical
Specialties

- Bernadette Aulivola, MD

SVS Strategic Board of Directors

- Bernadette Aulivola, MD

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COMMUNICATIONS

- Dawn Coleman, Secretary

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- Laura Drudi
- Alan Conway
- Natalie Sridharan

Newsletter Subcommittee

- Danielle Sutzko, Chair
- Behzad Farviar
- Anders Davidson
- Chiamaka Uzoma

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- Misty Humphries
- Dawn Coleman
- Todd Berland

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- Jeffrey Siracuse
- Shang Loh

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- Matthew Smeds
- Scott Robinson
- Katherine Hekman
- Jonathan Bath
- Frank Davis
- Max Png
- Jean Marie Ruddy, Councilor

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- Anna Boniakowski, Chair
- Melinda Schaller
- J. Westley Ohman
- Kathryn Fong
- Rym El Khoury
- Dawn Coleman, Secretary

VASCULAR RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

- Jordan Stern, Chair
- Elizabeth Genovese, Co-Chair
- Jonathan Bath
- Caitlin Hicks

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

- Christine Shokrzadeh, Chair
- Christopher Ramos
- Nkiruka Arinze
- Joanelle Lugo
- Kristine Orion, Councilor

VASCULAR TRAINEE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

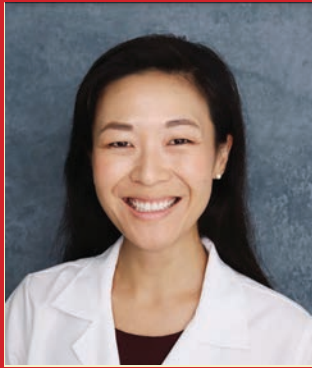
- Adam Doyle, Co-chair, General Surgery Resident Program
- Reshma Brahmhatt, Co-chair, Vascular Fellows Program
- Adam Tanious
- M. Libby Weaver
- Edvard Skripochnik
- Samantha Cox
- Young Kim
- Kedar Lavingia
- Venita Chandra, Ex-officio
- Mounir Haurani, Ex-officio

STUDENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Max Wohlauer, Chair
- Antwana Sharee Wright
- Jaime Benarroch-Gampel
- Elizabeth Chou
- Yana Etkin
- S. Keisen Wang
- Nathan Droz
- Mihai Rosca
- Anand Brahmandam
- Genevieve Hayke
- Nathan Orr, Ex Officio
- Karan Garg, Councilor

Spotlight on VESS Grant Award Winner

Each year, the VESS awards a Travel Grant, an Early Career Investigator Award and a Resident Research Grant. Here, we catch up with our awardee to find out how she used their 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 the VESS is proud to support. For more information on how to apply, visit <http://vesurgery.org/grants-awards>.



Elizabeth Chou, MD
*Assistant Professor, Vascular Surgery
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center,
Smidt Heart Institute*

VESS



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

The VESS Research Award, provided flexibility and external support for collaborations with other investigators and funding to generate preliminary data on costly experiments prior to full investment.

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

The VESS Research Award provided an opportunity to compose my thoughts on paper and came at a time where I was very unsure about my plan to explore interests in basic and translational research. I had no prior background in basic research. In fact, during residency interviews, I said I had no interest or plans in doing basic research. During training, however, that changed because all the questions that kept bothering me and causing so much pain for our patients, all led to how much we still don't know about the basic pathophysiology of vascular diseases. Applying for the award helped me formulate a question and a plan, and communicate it in a new language of basic and translational science. Submitting the grant and the bonus of receiving the reward served as a great boost not only financially, but psychologically—that I DID have a plan, I was able to communicate it to a group of people much smarter than me, my thoughts had merit, and my experience, as limited as it was, didn't seem to be as big as an obstacle as it was in my head.

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

I remain in that category! I am learning and I ask for advice broadly and widely. There are many amazing mentors who are so generous with their time and expertise. I have found multiple mentors helpful, because each provides a different perspective—whether professional development, clinical, research or personal—they may be from a different specialty, or even have different interests, but all are invaluable. I often have to tell myself it's ok to fail, and often times it's not failing, but the feeling of failing that is the hardest to get over—whether that's grants, experiments, unexpected patient outcomes, rejected publications... the list goes on. When I first started research in basic and translational science I felt like I was failing every day. It was very different than residency, where there seemed to be a direct correlation between input of effort and energy and output of "success" in knowing your patients, knowing and doing an operation, and using your knowledge and judgement to advise patients and influence their outcome. But in research that correlation didn't seem to exist as plainly. Investment of months of effort would not work and be soul crushing. It wasn't until I went to an informal research talk with Dr. Pat Donahoe when she mentioned that 99% of the work is optimization—that my mentality shifted. It wasn't constant failure, it was constant learning, tweaking, optimizing, generating the data.

Although the learning curve was steep, the process forced me to develop a type of resilience and optimism that I think has been very helpful thus far in early career/attending life.

Looking back, how did the VESS Research Award influence your career? What do you see as the most valuable thing the VESS has to offer the young surgeon?

I have barely started my post-training career but am thankful to have mentors during training and now as an early faculty, who show me that careers and their paths come in many forms and often do not have linear paths. My own path has not been linear in timeline, location, or research, and I feel incredibly fortunate for it. I can't say that what I'm interested in today and what gives me fulfillment professionally will be the same today as it will be 20 years from now, and that's exciting! I credit the diversity of VESS membership and of the growing diversity of vascular surgeons in general for showing me that differences in perspective and experience, professionally or personally are a strength and drivers in pushing the clinical and research advancement of our field.

2023 Exhibitors & Sponsors

The VESS would like to thank the following companies for their generous support of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

2023 PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



2023 GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS



2023 SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



2023 EXHIBITORS



VESS Mentorship Program

Overview

Mentorship is one of the most important tools for professional development and has been linked to greater productivity, career advancement, and professional satisfaction.

The VESS Mentorship Program aims to promote career and leadership development for early career vascular surgeons. All Active members of the VESS within 10 years of training or candidate members in their last year of training are encouraged to apply.



Through a one-year young surgeon/leader match, the program will pair early career vascular surgeons with mentors who are more experienced colleagues, to provide opportunities to develop leadership skills and obtain guidance for achieving specific career goals.

Early Career Surgeons will gain a trusted advisor and learn methods to enhance career advancement. They will learn to:

- Develop short-term and long-term growth goals and strategies to achieve those goals
- Identify leadership opportunities within the VESS
- Expand current networks within the specialty

Mentors will act as a guide to help develop the early career surgeon's career, as well as enhance their personal growth and productivity. The mentor will:

- Provide honest and constructive feedback
- Assist the young surgeon on issues such as the establishment of short- and long-term goals, navigation of the advancement/partnership process, and guidance on research and/or teaching activities, etc.
- Offer advice on overall clinical and practice management concerns

How it Works

1. The VESS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee will review all applications and create a match with a leader based on needs and experience and will notify each young surgeon of the arrangement.
2. VESS will monitor the year-long relationship through regular feedback and assessments from both parties to ensure the relationship thrives and is beneficial to both surgeons

Who Is Eligible?

- Applicants must be in the last year of a vascular surgery training program or have completed a training program and have no more than 10 years of practice experience at the time of their application submission.
- Applicants must be Active members or Candidate members of VESS

Time Commitment

- Leaders/young surgeons will be asked to set regular phone meetings, at least once every other month, to discuss young surgeon goals, objectives, and progress
- One-on-one leader/young surgeon in-person meeting at a time convenient for the leader and young surgeon

Application Deadline: MAY 5, 2023

Applications can be found on the VESS website: <https://vesurgery.org/resources/find-a-mentor/>

2023 New Members

The VESS would like to welcome the new members elected at the 2023 Business Meeting

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Abdulhussein, Jalal	Davis, Frank	Juneja, Amandeep	Poulsen, Neil	Toribio, Miguel
Al_obeid, Zaid	Edwards, Jeffrey	Kanneganti, Manasa	Quatromoni, Jon	Troutman, Doug
Arhuidese, Isibor	Frye, Lauren	Khalifeh, Ali	Repella, Tana	Williams, Zachary
Balogun, Yetunde	Gaffey, Ann	Kim, Young	Rishi, Muhammad	Wishy, Andrew
Barnes, Jonathan	George, Elizabeth	Kimball, Andrew	Ryer, Evan	
Biggs, Joedd	Gomez-Sanchez, Clara	Klarin, Derek	Safaya, Aditya	
Blecha, Matthew	Greenleaf, Erin	Kottapalli, Sai	Salhanick, Marc	
Boll, Griffin	Grieff, Anthony	Lalani, Alykhan	Schwartzman, Jacob	
Cardelli, Francesco	Hata, Kai	Lubitz, Andrea	Sen, Indrani	
Chang, Ronald	He, Jane	Man, Jeanette	Sgroi, Michael	
Cheung, Steven	Hemingway, Jake	McMackin, Katherine	Soh, Ina	
Choi, Justin	Hessel, Kara	Moree, Lamar	Steenberge, Sean	
Chou, Elizabeth	Hwang, Jason	Nagy, Andrew	Stines, Ian	
Conant, Mark	Iyer, Prashanth	Paisley, Michael	Summers, Kelli	
Cornwall, James	Johnson, Adam	Pantoja, Joe	Teter, Katherine	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Lapp, Kevin
Mudarris, Ayad
Nunnery, John-Jordan
Sheth, Sharvil
Singh, Gurkirat
Turner, Monica

CANDIDATE MEMBERS

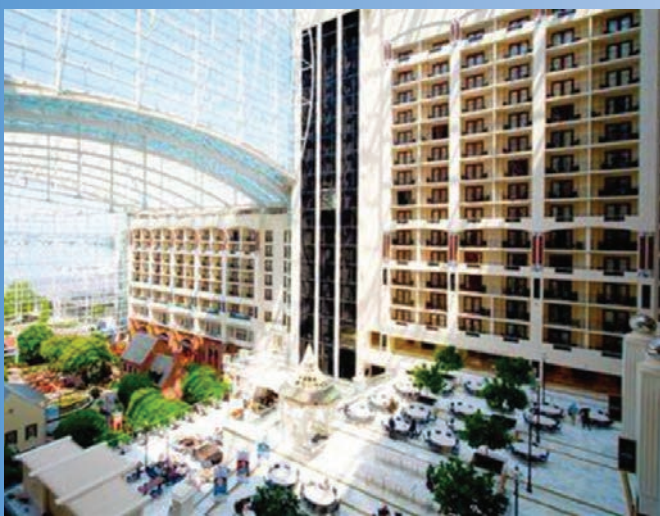
Abou-Assi, Sami	Christie, Ryan	Gontarz, Brendan	Lott, Colton	Potluri, Vamsi	Smith, Nathan
Al-Ghaili, Ahlam	Chung, Yvonne	Graham, Alexis	Low, Matt	Pujari, Amit	Smith, Margaret
Ali, Ali	Chung, Dar	Green, Adrienne	MacCallum, Katherine	Qaqish, Michael	Sorrentino, Thomas
Bakshi, Saagar	Cirillo-Penn, Nolan	Hall, Ryan	Madison, Mackenzie	Quaye, Kofi	Stafforini, Nicolas
Barsim, Eslam	D'Andrea, Melissa	Hila, Regis	Mahoney, Reid	Rakestraw, Stephanie	Staton, Kyle
Basu, Rohan	DePaolo, John	Ho, Vy	Marrone, Alexandra	Ramirez, Joel	Sundaram, Saranya
Batarseh, Paola	Dhara, Sanjeev	Howell, Caronae	Martinez, Camilo	Ratner, Molly	Supino, Christina
Bennett, Sasha	DiBartolomeo, Alexander	Hurst, Michael	McDermott, Katherine	Ray, Keval	Talutis, Stephanie
Bhamidipati, Theja	Dittman, James	Janda, Layne	McGuirl, Don	Reilly, Margaret	Thaxton, Carly
Birchler, Caleb	Dronney, Andrew	Kabeil, Mahmood	Minami, Hataka	Robbins, Justin	Tsouknidas, Ioannis
Bjorklund, Rebekah	Ebertz, David	Kalbfell, Elle	Morales, Laura	Roberts, Kallie	Tsakagoshi, Junji
Bloch, Randall	Eddinger, Kevin	Kao, LeslieAnn	Moreno, Oscar	Rodriguez, Alejandra	Vasan, Srin
Bontekoe, Jack	Facciponte, Dominic	Katz, Nathan	Murphy, Blake	Rotelli, Brando	Voit, Antanina
Breite, Matthew	Feridooni, Tiam	Kiely, Kate	Nguyen, Cecilia	Sadri, Babak	Watson, Jacob
Buckley, Tyler	Fisher, Andrea	Laczynski, David	Nimmich, Andrew	Sahibzada, Omar	Weiler, Eric
Bush, Charles	Fleming, Tyler	Lauria, Alexis	Noty, Christopher	Schwarz, Samuel	Weissler, Elizabeth
Campbell, Anthony	Fobare, Amanda	Lee, Jani	Parikh, Umang	Shah, Anil	Welle, Nicholas
Caron, Elisa	Fowler, Brett	Lenth, Gerri	Parker, Michael	Shan, Deepak	White, Midori
Chau, Marvin	Gage, Daniel	Loanzon, Roberto	Patel, Raj	Shanberg, David	Zemela, Mark
Chauhan, Yusuf	Gedney, Ryan	Loh, Sarah	Pecchioni, Louisa	Simioni, Andrea	Zhang, Jingyuan
Chhaya, Vina	Gensicke, Nicole	Longwolf, Kaohinani	Phi, Lucas	Singh, Nikita	

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society
203 Washington St., PMB 311
Salem, MA 01970



Plan to Join Us at the 2023 Spring Meeting & 2024 Winter Meeting

2023 Spring Meeting June 12-14, 2023
Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, MD



2024 Winter Meeting January 18-21, 2024
Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID

