

# VESS

Vascular &  
Endovascular  
Surgery Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 • Issue 1 • Spring 2025



## President's Corner by Ravi Rajani, MD



### Another year, another successful VESS Winter Meeting!

It was wonderful seeing so many of you in Breckenridge, with the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Personally, I was inspired by **Misty Humphries's** insightful presidential address and am honored to serve as President for the next year. The meeting demonstrated so many of the strengths of the Society. Our didactic educational programs, including for Vascular Fellows (**Adam Doyle**), General Surgery Residents (**Reshma Brahmhatt**), Early Career Faculty (**Gabriela Velazquez**), and Students (**Genevieve Hayek**) remain best-in-brand opportunities with more applicants than spots to fill. Thank you to all of the leaders who make these experiences meaningful. Our Technology Forum continued to grow under **Michael Curi's** leadership. Most significantly, the scientific program, led by **Bjoern Suckow**, received yet another record number of submissions with a broad variety of topics from a wide range of institutions. To quote Misty, I think it's safe to say that the Society is thriving.



*President's Corner continued on page 2*

## 2025 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2025 VESS Winter Annual Meeting was a resounding success. It had the highest attendance and the highest number of submitted abstracts to date. Held in Breckenridge, CO from Feb. 6-8, 2025, it brought together students, residents, fellows, associate providers, faculty and many friends from around the world. Scientific sessions across three days touched on novel therapeutics, cutting edge technology, scientific advancements, clinical trial results and up-to-date outcomes across the entire spectrum of vascular diseases. Thank you very much to all who presented their academic work in these sessions.



*2025 VESS Winter Annual Meeting continued page 2*

Looking forward, I'd like to thank each of you who volunteered to serve on a committee. For newcomers, don't be shy about using your voice to guide our future - you are the core of the Society, and we welcome you enthusiastically. Rather than "just attending" committee meetings, think about initiatives that are important to you personally. Look for a path towards implementation. Make them happen. And don't hesitate to send me a line if you need help getting something off the ground.

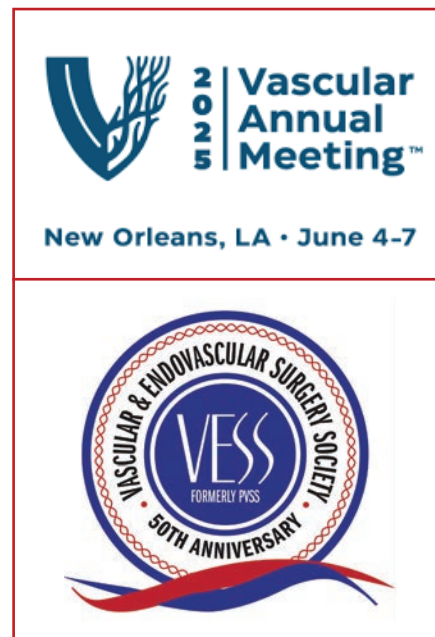
Speaking of independent initiatives, **Elizabeth Genovese** and **Jordan Stern** have worked tirelessly on behalf of our Vascular Research Consortium and we close to the launch of our new VESS Research Fellowship. This funded opportunity allows a resident to perform two years of dedicated research with an experienced mentor as part of a multi-institutional collaborative. The inaugural umbrella topic is peripheral arterial disease, and I'm excited to see the work that is produced. Please encourage your trainees to apply for this wonderful opportunity to support young academic physicians.

Lastly, I hope everyone has already marked their calendars for the 2025 VESS Spring Meeting (June 4, 2025, in New Orleans) and for **THE BIG ONE**. Yes, next year the VESS turns 50 years old, and we will celebrate it in style - February 5-8, 2026, at the Everline Resort in Olympic Valley. Preliminary plans are already underway to make this a meeting to remember - if you have any interest in helping to plan the Golden Anniversary, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Looking forward to another great year.

### Ravi Rajani, MD

Emory University  
President 2025-2026



## 2025 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday began with individual programs for Medical Students, Vascular Fellows, General Surgery Residents and Early Career Faculty. This year's meeting featured a special session on the role of artificial intelligence in vascular surgery arranged by **Drs. Yana Etkin** and **Nathan Liang**. **Dr. Mel Sharafuddin** organized a special session on vascular trauma, which featured invited guest speaker **Dr. Erica Mitchell**. Additionally, dedicated sessions for interesting case reports were held Friday and Saturday, which we rounded out by personal challenging cases presented by VESS faculty members **Drs. Dawn Coleman, Matthew Corriere, Tina Desai, Jason Lee, Ravi Rajani, and Ravi Veeraswamy**.

Several awards were presented. The best presentation award went to **Elonay Yehualashet, MD** from UPMC. The VESS Travel Award went to **Adam Tanious, MD** from MUSC. The VESS Resident Research Award went to **Tiffany Bellomo, MD** from MGH. The VESS BSCI Early Career Faculty Award went to **Melinda Schaller, MD** from Mayo Clinic.

Lastly, we thank outgoing president **Dr. Misty Humphries** for her excellent leadership and dedicated service to the society. We welcome incoming president **Dr. Ravi Rajani** and look forward to his service this year. Lastly, we congratulate our new president-elect **Dr. Todd Berland**.

### Bjoern Suckow, MD, MS

Winter Program Committee Chair



# 2025 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## VASCULAR FELLOWS PROGRAM

In 2025, VESS hosted another successful Vascular Trainees Program, led by **Dr. Adam Doyle**. In preparation for the meeting, the 6-person organizing committee met several times to refine the program, building on past years' success. There was a focused effort to enhance the overall curriculum structure, while also introducing fresh perspectives with new speakers. Of the 11 talks, 8 were given by speakers who had not participated in previous years.

We saw an increase in the number of applicants, with 49 trainees applying (compared to 38 in 2024), including residents (0+5), fellows (5+2), and international participants from around the world. A total of 25 travel scholarships were awarded to applicants from 20 different training programs. Four attendees, each from different programs, had the opportunity to present challenging endovascular and open cases, followed by engaging discussions.

The program featured excellent talks from 11 invited speakers, representing diverse institutions. Topics included *"Tips and Tricks for Success,"* *"Transitioning to Attending Life,"* and *"Industry Relationships: Impact on Career and How to Develop/Maintain Them,"* with insights from 5 industry sponsors.

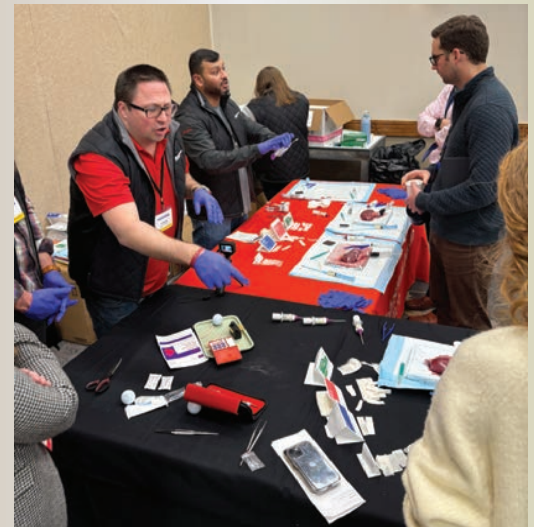
One highlight was the *"Great Practice Debate,"* where trainees learned about various practice paradigms, and Vascular Jeopardy, a favorite activity, also made a return. To improve participation in the industry-sponsored lunch symposium and tech forum, attendance was made mandatory, and travel stipends were distributed at the conclusion of the tech forum. Overall, feedback from attendees was very positive.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our industry sponsors—Cook, Medtronic, Boston Scientific, and others—for their continued support of this valuable program.

## 2025 TECHNOLOGY FORUM

The 2025 Technology Forum was an exceptional showcase of cutting edge technology utilized in the field of vascular surgery. The session was open to all, and was packed with Fellows, Residents, and many of our young career Vascular Surgeons. Forum attendees were able to get their hands on wet models, endovascular simulators, and the devices being used in advanced surgical suites and interventional rooms around the country. 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 Cook Medical brought an updated aortic aneurysm repair simulator for complex aneurysm repair. Terumo Aortic showcased their latest technologies and had their latest endograft devices on display for attendees to hold and examine ex-vivo. Johnson & Johnson MedTech brought a wet model to demonstrate their newest procoagulants. Overall, the event was well attended and enjoyed by our attendees and industry partners.

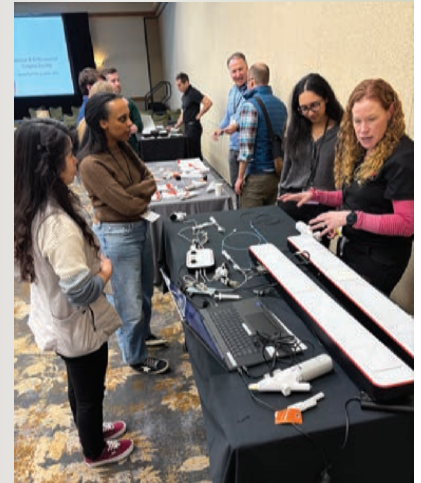




## 2025 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### NEXT GENERATION STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM

The VESS hosted the 8th annual Next Generation Student Mentor Program in Breckenridge, CO on February 6th. The event was highly sought out by medical students around the country who are pursuing a career in vascular surgery, and those who wanted to gain more insight on what it is to be a vascular surgeon. We had over 60 applicants for the travel scholarship to attend. We welcomed 25 medical students from various levels, schools and backgrounds to our event. This wonderfully diverse group of Next Generation Scholars showed up ready to learn, mingle and participate in the discussions. The day started off with a warm and inspiring welcome address to the students by the president of the APDVS, **Dawn Coleman, MD**. We then started our panel discussions that were aimed at introducing students to the world of vascular surgery (and why we love it), as well as trying to give them helpful information on how to best navigate the journey to becoming one. Panels included topics on "A Day In The Life Of A Vascular Surgeon", building a mentor/mentee relationship, inclusivity within our specialty and what we could be doing better, and a larger panel on what makes an applicant competitive.



We had surgeons from a variety of practice styles, different levels in their career and non-traditional backgrounds all sit on our panels to share their unique perspectives with the students. Students were incredibly receptive to all the discussions, which often had to be cut a little bit short! After the discussion, they headed to the convention hall in the afternoon for a skills session, run by committee members. Students were able to do an open lab where they were able to practice everything from knot tying to sewing an anastomosis with a 5-0. They also had a chance to practice obtaining ultrasound guided access and placing an EVAR and a TEVAR. Perhaps the best part about the skills session was seeing the medical students meeting and learning about each other and having a chance to speak more one-on-one with the committee members running the stations. Overall, it was a wonderful event that hopefully made a lasting impression on everyone who attended.

**Genevieve Hayek, MD**

Committee Chair – Next Generation Student Mentor Program

### GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENT PROGRAM

We hosted the second General Surgery Resident Program at the winter VESS meeting this year in Sun Valley, ID. This program was attended by selected general surgery residents interested in vascular surgery from around the country. This year, we had more applicants than available slots and each attendee was provided a \$1000 travel stipend. Our program included new and previous speakers and panelists, who generously contributed their time and expertise to help our future vascular surgeons achieve their goals. We brought back popular discussions and presentations from last year, including talks on "What Makes A Competitive Fellowship Applicant" as well as "Mentorship, Scholarships, and Research Opportunities". Our interactive panel discussions included a Fellows Panel, with 4 current and recently graduated fellows lending their experience to the group. We also brought back the popular "Great Debate: Academic vs. Private Practice", which sparked thoughtful and dynamic conversation. One of the most well received topics this year was a new talk on Financial Literacy, which was informative and incredibly useful to our young surgeons. In the afternoon, the residents participated in hands-on simulations of endovascular procedures for AAA and lower extremity revascularization, before participating in the Vascular Technology Forum. Overall, this was an incredible experience with a motivated and invested group of general surgery residents, poised to become the next leaders in our field. I want to thank all of the members of the General Surgery Resident Program committee and our speakers/panelists for making this year's program outstanding.

**Reshma Brahmhatt, MD, Chair**

VESS Vascular Trainees Education Committee

# 2025 VESS WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## VESS AWARD WINNERS

### TRAVEL AWARD



**Adam Tanius, MD**  
 Medical University of South Carolina  
 Charleston, SC

### VESS RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD



**Tiffany Bellomo, MD**  
 Massachusetts General Hospital  
 Boston, MA  
*Associations Between Lipoprotein(a), Extra-coronary Vascular Disease, and Progression to Major Atherosclerotic Complications*

### BOSTON SCIENTIFIC EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD



**Melinda Schaller, MD**  
 Mayo Clinic  
 Rochester, MN  
*Human Mononuclear Cell Phenotype in Peripheral Arterial Disease*

### 2025 BEST PAPER AWARD



**Elonay Yehualashet, MD**  
 University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
 Pittsburgh, PA  
*Glp-1 Receptor Agonists Associated With Improved Survival After Infrainguinal Bypass In Diabetic Patients*

## 2025 EXHIBITORS & SPONSORS

#### 2025 PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



#### 2025 GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS



#### 2025 SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



#### 2025 EXHIBITORS





# 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



**PRESIDENT**

**Ravi Rajani, MD**

Emory University  
Atlanta, GA



**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Todd Berland, MD**

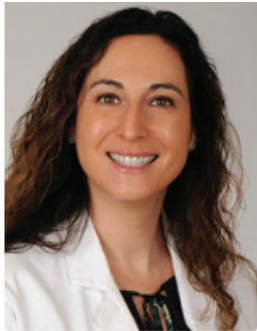
New York University  
New York, NY



**SECRETARY**

**Dawn Coleman, MD**

Duke University Med Center  
Durham, NC



**TREASURER**

**Jeannie Ruddy, MD**

Med. Univ. of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC



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NYU Langone Health  
New York, NY



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Mt. Sinai Hospital  
New York, NY



**COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**

**Max Wohlauer, MD**

University of Colorado  
Aurora, CO



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PRESIDENT**

**Misty Humphries, MD**

University of California, Davis  
Sacramento, CA



**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Mark Conrad, MD**

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center  
Boston, MA

## 2025-2026 COMMITTEES

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Dawn Coleman, Secretary  
Website/Social Media Subcommittee  
Jake Hemingway, Chair  
Lorela Weise  
Viraj Pandit  
Jarrad Rowse  
Mira Tanenbaum

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Christopher Smolock, Chair  
Cara Lyle  
Maxim Shaydakov  
Nathan Orr  
Tiam Feridooni

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Matthew Smeds  
James Cornwall  
Nathan Liang  
Ravi Rajani  
Todd Berland  
Dawn Coleman  
Jean Marie Ruddy

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Joanelle Lugo  
Sharee Wright  
Benjamin Chou  
Karan Chawla  
Kathryn DiLosa  
Christopher Ramos, Ex-officio  
Daniel Han, Councilor

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Elizabeth George  
Roan Glocker

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Mohamed Zayed  
Ryan King  
Young Erben  
Courtenay Holscher  
Loay Kabbani  
Samuel Leonard  
Max Wohlauer, Councilor

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Neel Mansukhani  
Charles Leithead  
Ravi Ambani  
Jon Quatromoni  
Matthew Smith  
Brittany Fraser  
Dawn Coleman, Secretary

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Jordan Stern, Co-chair  
Jonathan Bath  
Max Wohlauer  
Leigh-ann O'Banion  
Adam Tanious  
Mounir Haurani  
Elizabeth Chou  
Kristine Orion  
Misty Humphries  
Ravi Rajani  
Mark Conrad

### VASCULAR TRAINEE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

#### VASCULAR FELLOWS PROGRAM

Mimmie Kwong, Co-chair  
Edgar Galinanes  
Kevin Chang  
K. Benjamin Lee  
Zachary Pallister  
Jenianne Yi  
Brett Salomon

#### GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENT PROGRAM

David Laczynski, Co-chair  
Salim Lala  
Natasha Hansraj  
DAvid Schechtman  
Kamran Jafree  
Amanda Filiberto

#### EARLY CAREER SURGEON PROGRAM

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Tanya Repella  
Randall Bloch  
James Iannuzzi  
Abe Mohapatra

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Zachary Wanken, Chair  
Gregory Salzler  
Theodore Hart  
Kara Hessel  
Issam Koleilat  
M. Libby Weaver  
Margaret Smith  
Steven Cheung  
Laura Drudi  
Laura Healy  
Patrick Stone  
Benjamin Ford  
Genevieve Hayek, Ex-officio  
Daniel Han, Councilor

# NEW MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE 2025 BUSINESS MEETING

## ACTIVE MEMBERS

Alzakari, Nasr	Felsted, Amy	Janda, Layne	Martin, Andrew	Riley, Christopher
Andraska, Elizabeth	Fleischer, William	Joh, Jin Hyun	Mayor, Jessica	Ring, Adam
Arinze, Nkiruka	Fowler, Brett	Kao, LeslieAnn	McFall, Ross	Saatzer, Mark
Aru, Roberto	Fraser, Brittany	Kenney, Kevin	McQuinn, Christopher	Schechtman, David
Audu, Christopher	Gaines, Sara	Kessler, Evan	Meena, Richard	Sharma, Kush
Blackstock, Chris	Gensicke, Nicole	Kim, Gloria	Nooromid, Michael	Shaughnessy, John
Blakely, Channa	Gilmore, Brian	Kimyaghalm, Ali	Nwachuku, Emmanuel	Sheehan, Brian
Blitzer, David	Goudreau, Bernadette	King, Justin	Palmer, Michael	Srinivasan, Arivalagan
Brahmandam, Anand	Haddad, Paul	Klein, Andrea	Parkerson, G	Sullivan, Brian
Caliste, Xzabia	Hanak, Courtney	Kumar, Shivani	Pendleton, Alaska	Ta, Truc
Chauhan, Yusuf	Hernandez, Joshua	Lee, Jonathan	Perry, John	Trivedi, Apurva
Chen, Huiting	Ho, Vy	Leonard, Samuel	Phi, Lucas	Van Asseldonk, Brandon
Chihade, Deena	Ilyas, Sadia	Li, Jing	Plotkin, Stacey	Volteas, Panagiotis
Chilton, Tim	Jackson, Margaret	Longwolf, Kaohinani	Potter, Helen	Vyas, Priyam
Chivukula, Sitaram	Jacobs, Christopher	Mahoney, Reid	Pozolo, Cara	Wiske, Clay

## CANDIDATE MEMBERS

Aldana, Jose	Cook, Rebekah	Kaufman, Daniel	OBrien, Ciaran	Towery, Henry
Al-Harethee, Wasim	Dargy, Noah	Khader, Mustafa	Oyenyi, James	Tsouknidas, Ioannis
Alimohamadi, Sahar	DeHaven, Christopher	Krosser, Alec	Patel, Nathan	Ueland, Walker
Alkurashi, Adham	Ellias, Samia	Kruger, Joel	Paterson, Jeanette	Wainwright, Brandon
Anderson, Ryan	Flanagan, Colleen	Lam, QuynhDiem	Perry, Luke	Walsh, Richard
Andrews, Shalimar	Forrester, Nathaniel	Laskar, Sahib	Piccinini, Alice	Whitson, Daniel
Anjorin, Ricky	Gardner, Graham	Le, Hong Quang	Presto, Jacob	
Aparicio, Carolina	German, Alexander	Lian, Tiffany	Questore, Olivia	
Bakayev, Olga	Gober, Leah	Lopez, Santiago	Rathod, Swarnim	
Baker, Dane	Grafmuller, Leanne	Mallett, Alexis	Rieth, Gabrielle	
Barghtuhi, Lutfi	Grimm, Jennifer	Marincel, Steven	Rogalska, Anna	
Bazikian, Sebouh	Gutierrez, Richard	Mccabe, Kathryn	Rothenberg, Paul	
Bellomo, Tiffany	Hadi, Saeed	McDonnell, Shannon	Said, Shreef	
Bjorklund, Rebekah	Hakimi, Ali	Menon, Ajay	Sanin, Gloria	
Breier, Yuli	Harish, Keerthi	Metoyer, Garyn	Satam, Keyuree	
Buti, Yusef	Hawkins, Travis	Miller, Stephen	Sharma, Prateek	
Cadavid, Felipe	Hsu, Angel	Mostafa, Ahmed	Siddiqui, Ali	
Chahrour, Mohamad	Huang, Andrew	Mulaney-Topkar, Bianca	Stewart, Nakosi	
Chamseddine, Hassan	Hubbard, Grant	Murray-Ramcharan, Max	Sudina, Yashashwini	
Chevuru, Phani	Huber, Michael	Natarajan, Jay	Tabiei, Armin	
Cisneros, Esau Nefthaly	Husman, Regina	Nguyen, Trung	Talbot, Benjamin	
Clark, Nicolette	Istrefi, Jugerta	Nix, Quinn	Telma, Kate	
Clements, Austin	Kania, Thomas	Nussenblatt, Brandon	Thompson, LaVerne	

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Amir, Harris
Cruz, Rosa
Deckerman, Peter
Dunning, Kirsten
Figueroa, Carlos
Garcia, Danielle
Golant, Brandon
Hussain, Amber
Sharkas, Gamal
Uribe, Celso
Wistrom, James
Zaleski-Larsen, Lisa



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A 2-YEAR FELLOWSHIP APPOINTMENT



*VESS is proud to announce the inaugural year of the VESS Research Fellowship!*

This is a 2-Year Research Fellowship for Vascular Surgery Integrated Residents and General Surgery Residents interested in Vascular Surgery who are planning to take dedicated research time starting in July of 2025!

The fellowship will include mentorship by the VESS Research Consortium members on a capstone, outcomes-based research study engaging with the VESS membership.

Along with this research opportunity, the fellowship will provide \$50,000 of funding each year to the recipient to support research efforts and scholastic endeavors.

See the VESS Research Fellowship website for more details on the Fellowship, timeline and expectations over the two-year period.

**Application  
Deadline is  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025!**

## VESS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

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.



**Application Deadline: MAY 5, 2025**

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

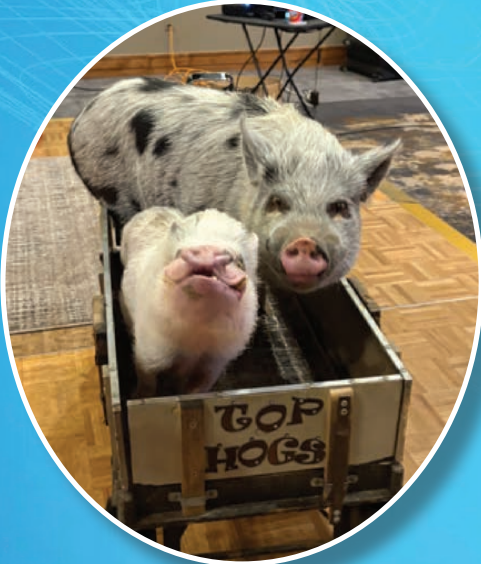


# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING





# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING







## Plan to Join Us at the 2025 Spring Meeting



June 4-7, 2005  
Morial Convention Center  
New Orleans, LA

## Save the Dates for 2026 Winter Meeting



February 5-8, 2026  
Everline Resort,  
Olympic Valley, CA

