

The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) is dedicated to providing timely, compelling, and original educational content to vascular specialists of all backgrounds and interests. To fulfill this mission, the SVS organizes and presents the Vascular Annual Meeting, or VAM – one of the world's largest and most influential annual scientific meetings focused solely on the care of the vascular patient.

Over the past several months, the SVS Program (PC), Postgraduate Education (PGE), Video Review (VRC), International Relations (IRC), and Research and Education (R&E) Committees have worked together to create a program focused on the needs of the practicing vascular specialist. The program content has evolved over the past several years to meet the interests and needs of the heterogeneous constituents of the Society. To help guide the current and future evolution of the VAM, the SVS has sought feedback from its membership through a variety of surveys, focus-group interviews, and “man-on-the-street” interviews. All facets of the SVS and a number of vascular specialty societies came together to provide valuable input into shaping the future of the VAM. Changes for VAM 2018 represent the initiation of some of these changes with the aim to provide more clinically relevant content while maintaining the ability to present high-level scientific research.

Key components of the 2018 meeting include:

1. Scientific sessions

a. *Seven scientific sessions*: Live podium presentations continue as the centerpiece of the meeting. Full-length (7-minute) and rapid-paced (3-minute) presentations are interspersed throughout these thematically organized sessions. The 2018 program includes 30 full-length and 11 rapid-paced presentations. In addition, each session has topic-oriented clinical videos and invited research presentations by leading vascular surgeon investigators. New this year, in addition to a concurrent session on practice guidelines, updated practice guidelines for abdominal aortic aneurysm and global guidelines will be presented during the topic-appropriate scientific sessions. Also debuting this year, authors of scientific abstracts will have the opportunity to submit full-length manuscripts for expedited review in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* with publication concurrent with the VAM.

b. *Late-breaking (Session 8) session*: Again this year, “late-breaking” abstracts were solicited to ensure that VAM attendees receive the most up-to-date scientific information available. Due to publishing deadlines, abstracts in these categories are not indexed or included in this supplement; titles

and authors are indexed and searchable through the online schedule planner and mobile app.

c. *Poster sessions*:

Poster competition – In the initial round, 120 posters will be discussed on Friday afternoon. The winning posters – one selected from each of ten categories – will be presented orally to a larger audience the following day. Prizes are awarded to the top three presenters following the championship round Saturday afternoon.

Interactive posters – In its fourth year, interactive posters will be presented during the Thursday evening welcome reception in the exhibit hall. This venue allows for 140 additional poster presenters to discuss their work with colleagues attending the reception.

d. *International forum & international fast talk*: Of the many international abstracts submitted for consideration this year, 31 were selected for presentation during the dedicated international programs on Wednesday. International programming expanded this year to include an updated International Chapter Forum and an International Poster Session.

e. *“How I Do It” video session*: This extremely popular session features 10 videos chronicling a broad array of unusual and challenging procedures for live presentation and discussion on Saturday afternoon.

2. *Postgraduate courses*: These 3-hour courses provide critical updates on topics relevant to the practicing vascular specialist, including management of aortoiliac occlusive disease, hemodialysis access, new management strategies for the diabetic foot and diabetes-associated peripheral arterial disease, treating acute pulmonary embolism, surgeons discussing their most challenging cases, and succeeding in the challenging evolving fiscal landscape. These valuable courses run throughout the day on Wednesday.

3. *Workshops*: Nine small group workshops, spread out over three timeslots, have also been organized on Wednesday. Subjects include arteriovenous malformation management, achieving reliable pedal or alternative site access, tips and tricks for fenestrated endovascular aneurysm repair planning and sizing, considerations for thoracic endovascular aneurysm repair-based management of aortic dissection, techniques and effective employment of transcatheter artery revascularization, hemodialysis access de clot focusing on open and endovascular techniques, embolization techniques for type II endoleaks, effective methods for crossing chronic tibial occlusions, and how to do a complete venous ultrasound exam. These interactive sessions are moderated by content experts in each respective category; a separate registration fee is required for participation.

4. *Breakfast sessions*: As started in 2016, the traditional breakfast sessions offer a mix of CME-eligible and non-CME-eligible content. The Thursday morning sessions are commercially sponsored and thus

not-CME-eligible. Topics for the CME-eligible Friday and Saturday morning sessions include a session on new anticoagulants, physician well-being, multidisciplinary approaches to amputation, challenging cases for hemodialysis, controversies in the management of type B aortic dissections, and the business sense of an office endovascular center.

5. Concurrent sessions: Nine concurrent sessions are on the schedule this year and will occur throughout the program. These courses, suggested and developed by SVS committees and individual members, examine topics of broad interest across the vascular community. This year's topics include a joint session from the JVS/EJVS on critical issues for authors and reviewers. Additional topics include leading change through influence, maintenance of certification for the vascular surgeon in the 21st century, the vascular surgeon and political advocacy, practice management tips for young vascular surgeons, update on the SVS clinical practice guidelines, sharing common ground for cardiovascular problems, research for the busy clinician in the modern era, and vascular laboratory follow-up after vascular interventions.
6. The SVS Vascular Quality Initiative/Patient Safety Organization will conduct its third annual national meeting this year at VAM (VQI@VAM). Due to high demand, VQI@VAM programming will meet all day on Wednesday and continue through noon on Thursday. Participants include local data managers and affiliated staff, as well as participating surgeons and regional group leaders.

ALSO NEW THIS YEAR

The VAM will include special programming for physician assistants in the vascular setting. The programming highlights the importance and contributions of these advanced practice personnel to the care of patients with vascular disease. Physician Assistant-focused programming will occur Thursday afternoon.

For the first time, the Society for Vascular Nursing will hold a meeting back-to-back with the SVS during the VAM. The members will present their scientific content on Wednesday and Thursday. The timing of these two meetings will allow for better exchange between two organizations, with many presenters and participants taking advantage of the dual content.

On Friday afternoon, there will be a special session to hallmark this year's theme of "Home of the Vascular Team – Partners in Patient Care." The forum will explore the advantages of the team approach to vascular care in a session entitled "Improving Clinical Metrics with the Utilization of Advanced Practice Providers (APPs)." The session will be co-moderated by its organizers, Anil Hingorani, Sarah Rosenberger, and Ricardo Morales. This will be a great session highlighting many

important topics in the complex care of vascular patients.

A new program entitled "Ask the Experts" has been organized based on feedback from the membership. These 60-minute sessions will provide participants the ability to work directly with content experts to discuss topics such as coding, thoracic outlet syndrome, aortic care for occlusive disease, open venous reconstruction, endovascular aneurysm repair graft explantation, and hemodialysis access. Two such sessions will occur every afternoon over the course of the meeting.

RETURNING FAVORITES

Educational programming for medical students and residents will continue to include breakfast sessions, skills competition, and the perennially popular Friday afternoon residency fair.

The Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society (VESS) will hold its annual spring meeting on Wednesday, making it easier for members to attend both the VESS and VAM meetings.

The E. Stanley Crawford Critical Issues Forum, moderated by incoming SVS president Michel S. Makaroun, will examine the supply and demand of the vascular surgery workforce in the United States, its national distribution, and projected shortages.

The combined SVS/ESVS "Transatlantic Forum" will take place on Thursday afternoon. Co-moderated by the SVS and ESVS presidents, Dr R. Clement Darling, III and Alison Halliday, in-depth discussions will occur on a variety of vascular topics with our colleagues from "across the pond."

Drs Hazim J. Safi and Kenneth Ouriel are this year's recipients of the John Homans and Roy Greenberg lecture honors, respectively. Stay until Saturday to hear Dr Safi's insightful comments and Dr Ouriel explore multidimensional imaging.

The "top ten" papers not published in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* session and the popular Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation review course will both keep attendees up-to-date with entertaining and instructive programming.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This supplement is a collaboration between the SVS councils, committees, and hundreds of individual members who enable the VAM and the editors and staff of the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* who chronicle their contributions. Be sure to visit the JVS web site to view the online-only publication.

This year's VAM will be a truly exceptional meeting, with many compelling new educational opportunities; make

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