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## WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY

## PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME Vincent Rowe, M.D. FACS; President, Western Vascular Society





2022 Presidential **Invited Guest Lecturer** Gilbert Upchurch, M.D. FACS University of Florida Health

#### Dear Colleagues,

Being a member of WVS has been helpful for me. When I started practice, I kept my head down and took care of the next patient in front of me. I did not come up for air. I thought the grind was the way to succeed. When I discovered WVS and started going to meetings I had a chance to connect with great people who I could learn from, and often they just wanted to talk as friends. I encourage the young surgeons to join WVS to add to your enjoyment to the practice of vascular surgery. It is demanding and behind the mask we are all just people who can help each other. With any luck you will find friendship and mentors that will last a lifetime.

Being elected President was a huge surprise. Not that I did not feel worthy, but that I did not follow the traditional path to leader. I have observed the commitment to excellence in Western Vascular Society by senior members and felt humbled by this nomination. I accepted this work to serve as the Western Vascular Society President for 2022 aware that I am standing on the shoulders of giants. Amid the pandemic and social upheaval of the last few years Western has held to traditions and forged ahead adapting along the way.

As Program Chair, I felt supported every step toward the 2020 virtual meeting with record numbers of abstracts coming from all over the region. No doubt the pandemic has been a devastating time to work healthcare, yet residents still did the work. Council still met for an hour long zoom meeting monthly. At one such meeting, Dr. Starnes outlined the powerful Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Vascular Surgery Interest Group Mission Statements. When the entire Executive Council and then membership heartily endorsed these committees and their scope of work. I was proud to be a member because Western is up for the challenge to grow.

The Program Committee led by Chair Dr. Omid Jazaeri is collecting abstracts sponsored by members until April 15. I am proud to announce I have invited Dr. Gilbert Upchurch to be the 2022 Invited Guest Lecturer and trust that his talk will be inspiring to vascular surgeon members and residents. Vascular Surgery Interest Group led by Dr. Niten Singh will host two VSIG webinars this year. One on "Why Vascular Surgery?" and an annual meeting symposium will demonstrate your commitment to dedicate resources to the medical students we mentor.

Set the alarm clock now for the breakthrough DEI Symposium sponsored by Cook Medical on Monday, September 18, 2022 at 7:00 am. The committee led by Dr. LeAnn Chavez will ask members to recommit to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in 2022. There will be two webinars leading up to the breakfast in Victoria keeping us open to learning about racism, pay equity and helping us answer the problems by living the questions. More information will be coming your way in coming weeks on how to participate in this powerful program.

When September comes around, vascular experts gather in Victoria to share their work, engage in debate, and continuing to advance our field. Highlight of the meeting will be Invited Guest Lecturer Dr. Gibb Upchurch. We will a hybrid meeting format so that members can participate from home if needed. Update your passport and book September 17 -20th off today if you want to be included in the best vascular debate in the West in the morning, and network in the afternoon golfing, whale watching or strolling around the gardens. Pandemic times has pushed us to find a new way to achieve balance and make a difference. It is possible to be cutting edge scientifically and enjoy yourself!



#### **Call for Member Contributions**

Please email heather@surgicalcs.com your OR photos, stories of patient success or research victory. You can also nominate a colleague for the Member Feature, or just send us your ideas!

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE** Omid Jazaeri, M.D., FACS; Western Vascular Society Program Chair





Hello Western Vascular Community!

Happy belated New Year. We know this past year has brought many of you uncertain challenges. As a vascular community we continue to thrive and look towards a year full of possibilities. As 2022 Program Chair, and on behalf of Drs Rowe and Zhou, I have the honor to welcome you to contribute to the largest vascular surgery scientific meeting in the western region. Our comprehensive scientific program represents a unique educational opportunity, and the best-in-class meeting location we hope will foster member interaction and collaboration - truly the hallmarks of the WVS.

We will continue to raise the bar as we plan the 37th Western Vascular Society Annual Meeting for September 17-20, 2022 at the Fairmont Empress and Victoria Conference Center in Victoria, B.C. Our local chair Dr York Hsiang really needs no introduction and will be welcoming us to Canada and B.C. Be sure to renew your passport now to pave the way for your attendance at this special event. Only 3 months validity needed for travel to Canada, however, as a general rule, you should have at least six months validity on your passport before you travel.

Be sure to indicate on the submission process if you prefer a full, mini, or rapid-fire presentation. Please bear in mind the full presentations make up less than 15% of the accepted abstracts and have strict expectations associated with them including completion of manuscript prior to the conference and submission to JVS immediately after the conference. Thanks to the hard work of our society Recorder Dr. Matthew Mell our accepted abstracts have one of the highest rates of publication in the Journal of Vascular Surgery! Let your good work speak for itself!

#### Keep in mind our overall learning objectives:

This activity is designed for: vascular surgeons, vascular fellows, vascular residents, and general surgeons along with other individuals interested in vascular interventions and treatments. This meeting will feature original oral scientific presentations by members, sponsored guests, and trainees that will serve to expand our knowledge and illustrate the incorporation of new science, techniques and practices in vascular surgery. Full learning objectives for this CME accredited program will be available after the scientific program is finalized. CME and Self-Assessment credit hours for the program will be estimated and accessed by AMEDCO in Joint providership with Western Vascular Society.



As always, we plan to feature original research and scientific studies from our expert membership. Please note the Call for Abstracts is now open and will remain open until our deadline of April 15, 2022. I would like to encourage all of you to submit your personal work, or sponsor papers from our young colleagues; medical students and vascular trainees... are all welcome.

The art and science of vascular surgery is rapidly changing with respect to scientific discovery and surgical technology. We hope to make sense of this rapid growth for our members by our members. Looking forward to seeing you all in Victoria in September!



## VASCULAR SURGERY INTEREST GROUP REPORT Niten Singh, M.D.; VSIG Committee Chair



Hope that spring is bringing growth and vitality to your vascular program. Here at UW we have the cherry blossoms popping and restrictions lifting in WA. It has been a pleasure working with the VSIG committee members, Dr. Leigh Ann O'Banion from UCSF-Fresno and Dr. Gregory Magee from USC, to create the educational program for the Western Vascular Surgery Interest Group Outreach. Please share the following webinar information with your mentees and VSIG contacts.



Join us April 11, 2022 at 5pm PST for the first medical student focused webinar:

### Vascular Surgery: Why I Do It and You Should Too!

Moderator: Gregory Magee, M.D. Speakers include the VSIG committee and Dr. Elsie Ross, our new WVS member from Stanford and Dr. Sarah Zettervall from University of Washington

### Spread the word!

Check your emails for all details on registration or email heather@surgicalcs.com for assistance.

## **MEMBER FEATURE: DR. LEIGH ANN O'BANION**



Leigh Ann O'Banion, MD, FACS, FSVS, RPVI Assistant Professor of Surgery Division of Vascular Surgery UCSE-Fresno 1247 E. Alluvial Suite 101 Fresno, CA 93720 Office: 559-431-6226

Dr. Leigh Ann O'Banion represents all that is excellent in the next generation of WVS vascular surgeons. Recognized by leadership early as she was awarded the first ever Western Vascular Society Founder Award in 2020 for her multicentered collaborative work on traumatic popliteal injuries. Additionally, she presented her SVS Foundation grant funded research on vascular amputees at the 2021 meeting in Jackson Hole, WY which continues to be a large focus of her patient centered outcomes-based research. WVS is grateful to her for stepping up to volunteer when the call went out in 2021. She was perfect for launching the first Vascular Surgery Interest Group Committee and will be the Chair of this committee in 2023. Catching up with Dr. O'Banion for a phone interview I asked her "Tell me something that not many people know about you?" She burst into her easy laugh "Well, that is tough because I am an open book!"

After some thought, she shared with me her love of cooking. Crafting a recipe for her family and friends is her favorite way to relax after a busy day with patients. Surgeons, she told me are natural chefs. The ritual of preparation, the recipe, the process of perfecting each step is very much like saving a limb - but way more delicious. If this surgery thing ever goes south, you may find Leigh Ann as a Master Sommelier with a Michelin Star restaurant. Good thing for the WVS she is not going anywhere soon - continuing to work in Vascular Surgery is a satisfying career for this happily married mom of two beautiful girls. Follow her journey on twitter @limbsalvagedr.

## MEMBER FEATURE: DR. NIKHIL KANSAL



Nikhil Kansal, MD, FACS



Dr. Nikhil Kansal was nominated by WVS leadership as a surgeon quietly making a big difference for both patient care and in evolving the practice of vascular surgery. His research has focused on endovascular repair of thoracic and abdominal aneurysms, percutaneous EVAR, post-EVAR endoleak management, trans-carotid carotid artery stenting, and medical device development.

He started his medical career at the University of Miami where he completed a 6-year accelerated Honors Program in Medical Education. In his time there, he became convinced he wanted to be a trauma surgeon. To further that interest, he moved to Newark, NJ to train in General Surgery at University Hospital in Newark, NJ. It was during a research year working with Dr. Robert Hobson that he saw the potential of endovascular surgery to revolutionize vascular surgery. He set his sights on a career in vascular surgery and moved to Boston, to complete a vascular surgery fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Harvard Medical School. At that time endovascular training was only available at a few institutions, so he spent 6 months of his research year training at the Gonda (Goldschmied) Vascular Center, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. His first faculty position was at UC San Diego Medical Center where he founded the endovascular surgery program. He subsequently returned to Boston, MA as the System Director of Vascular Surgery for Steward Healthcare, and in 2018 bounced back to the west coast (and the WVS) as the Chief and Program Director of Vascular Surgery at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He's extremely proud

and excited to have begun Harbor-UCLA's first integrated vascular surgery residency in 2021 to compliment the over 50-year-old fellowship training program.

Dr. Kansal considers his career highlight to be his success as a local youth soccer coach for his 5 and 8 yo kids; win or lose, his teams always have the most fun. Second to that is his work building the Division of Vascular Surgery at Harbor-UCLA medical center where his group is very active in exploring novel options for the management of CTLI, aortic disease and traumatic aortic injury.

Nikhil holds membership with SVS, WVS, SCVSS and VESS. This year he was elected to be the President of the Society of South Asian Vascular Society. He has been involved with the society since its inception over ten years ago . He has formalized and grown the society as he moved through the ranks of leadership. The mission of the South Asian American Vascular Society (SAAVS) is to serve as an international organization for Vascular Surgeons of South Asian heritage. The annual meeting for SAAVS this year will be held as a dinner event at VAM. If you are interested in joining or learning more about SAAVS please see www.saavs.org or send an email to <u>saavs@surgicalcs.com</u>.







Dr. Gelabert and resident Dr. Ajalat, doing a thoracic outlet case from the axillary approach. Dr. Gelabert is an international TOS expert. Photo credit Dr. Karen Woo UCLA

## Call for Abstracts

Join us for the 37th Western Vascular Society Annual Meeting at the Fairmont Empress and Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria, B.C. September 17-20, 2022. Dr. Gibb Upchurch will be joining us as the Presidential Invited Guest Lecturer. Registration and housing links will be on this site soon. Submit an abstract until April 15.



# 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting September 17 - 20, 2022 Fairmont Empress, Victoria, B.C. Canada



The venue for the 37th Western Vascular Society Annual Meeting is a National Historic Site of Canada, the Fairmont Empress began its story as Victoria, British Columbia's, most iconic hotel in 1904. The Fairmont Empress-known simply as "The Empress was designed by the famed architect Francis Rattenbury who was commissioned to design the hotel after his success in designing the new legislative buildings in the relatively new Canadian province of British Columbia. Like with many of Canada's fellow grand railroad hotels, Rattenbury crafted the hotel's exterior to resemble that of a spectacular historic manor from France's Loire Valley. Fairmont Empress was meant to serve businesspeople and tourists, but sits comfortably beside the Victoria Conference Centre which will host the scientific sessions for the annual meeting of Western Vascular Society.

The WVS DEI wishes to acknowledge the

Women's History Month,

Representative media links are provided in this issue

following articles. The WVS DEI hope these articles

will spark discussions among colleagues, residents,

and medical students to promote an academically

of True Lumen. Please take a moment to read the

March 8: International Women's Day

**Diversity Calendar Events.** 

March:

February: Black History Month

enriching and supportive climate.

Salary Negotiation Among Male and Female

JAMA: Career Goals, Salary Expectations, and Salary Negotiation

Career Goals, Salary Expectations, and

Among Male and Female General Surgery Residents

**General Surgery Residents** 

» Author Affiliations | Article Information

Kelsey Gray, MD<sup>1</sup>; Angela Neville, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Amy H. Kaji, MD, PhD<sup>2,3</sup>; et al

JAMA Surg. 2019;154(11):1023-1029. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2019.2879

## **DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE REPORT**

LeAnn Chavez, M.D.; DEI Committee Chair



The Mission of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for the Western Vascular Society is to promote an academically enriching and supportive climate that allows all members of the Society to thrive and succeed. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will collaborate with members to provide a comprehensive approach to diversity and inclusivity, access, and equity. Through strategic planning and programmatic development, the committee shall empower medical students, residents, fellows, and members to build a diverse and inclusive society.

#### The New England Journal of Medicine: New Creatinine- and Cystatin C-Based Equations to Estimate GFR without Race



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

New Creatinine- and Cystatin C-Based Equations to Estimate GFR without Race

P.H., Josef Coresh, M.D., Ph.D., Hocine Tighisouart, M.S., Dan Wang, M.S., Yingying Sang, M.S., Deidra C. Crews, M.D., strella, M.D., M.H.S., Mater Poissart, M.D., Ph.D., Morgan E. Grams, M.D., M.H.S., Ph.D., Tom Greene, Ph.D., <u>gt.al</u>, for the Chronic Kidner Discase Teleformiology Colliburation<sup>4</sup> Lesley A. Inker, M.D., Nwamaka D. Eneanya, M.D., M.P. Alessandro Doria, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., Michelle M. Estr

November 4, 2021 N Engl J Med 2021; 385:1737-1749 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2102953



## WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY

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Vascular Surgery Interest Group Chair NITEN SINGH, MD

> **Program Chair** OMID JAZAERI, MD

### MISSION

The Western Vascular Society promotes and inspires education, research, inclusion and leadership in the art and science of compassionate vascular health in the Western United States, Canada and the Pacific Rim.

VISION

The Western Vascular Society (WVS) seeks to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health through education, research, public awareness and advocacy. WVS membership is recognized in the vascular communities of the Western United States, Canada and the Pacific Rim as a mark of the highest professional achievement. WVS seeks to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health.

VALUES

Education | Research | Public Awareness | Advocacy | Career Development | Diversity