



### 36th WVS ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Dr. Vincent Rowe



70 members, 13 non member physicians, 23 guests, 23 Medical Students, 27 Residents and Fellows, and 46 sponsors gathered at the Four Seasons in Teton Village for three days of scientific sessions and networking events. 15 virtual attendees enjoyed the conference from the comfort of their own home and office. Comments from members included kudos on the beautiful location and wonderful planning by Dr. Chandra and the Program Committee.

New this year was the Rapid-Fire Session instead of posters and it was well received. VSIG Symposium was a valued new addition with over 50 people participating in two concurrent sessions. Record breaking numbers of medical students and residents show that Dr. Humphries and this new committee are to be congratulated! On the Monday afternoon, Dr. Quiroga and the DEI committee held a powerful luncheon sponsored by Cook Medical on Health Care Disparities that left the attendees in the room talking it over in small groups long after the session ended.

The Whova app gave a glimpse in to the memorable moments shared by the members and guests. Families relaxing by fire tables. Hikers laughing along for five miles amidst the autumnal aspen trees. Mangy moose strolling along the pathways of the village. Grown men crying tears of joy to be wading into the Snake River and snagging trout. Denim and Diamonds Presidential Banquet was enjoyed by ninety people. It is safe to say WVS black tie is back in style especially paired with a white cowboy hat.

#### Congratulations to Past President Dr. Conte on three counts.

- 1) Inspiring leadership in uncertain times required you to be flexible, yet move confidently towards a hybrid meeting. Thank you for believing we could host a safe meeting in Wyoming.
- 2) Remarkable selection of Presidential Guest Lecturer in Dr. Michael Belkin. Thank you, Dr. Belkin, for your generous donation of your honorarium to the Robert Hye Fund!
- 3) For forgiving the lies we told you about the introduction to the presidential address. Dr. Rowe, who wielding your giant encyclopedia of a CV, then instead, invited your three children up to the podium. Sorry to report they completely stole the show. All present set new parenting goals that day.

Thanks to modern technology the Presidential Address and all presentations were recorded and will be stored on both the website and the meeting app for six months.



### WVS 2021 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Michael S. Conte MD FACS



#### "Vascular Health and the Health of Vascular Surgery"

Vascular Health can be defined as freedom from death, disability, emotional stress, or social isolation related to vascular disease. There are multiple perspectives relevant to vascular health, from that of the individual person to the healthcare system and the population at large. Vascular surgeons are the stewards of vascular health for our patients and should be advocates for it in our communities, large and small. Recent data on the cardiovascular health of Americans is sobering. After two decades of progressive decline, mortality related to CVD has been steadily rising since 2010. This is largely related to the ongoing adverse trends in diabetes, obesity, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity. These factors disproportionately affect individuals based on their geography, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The recent COVID-19 pandemic shed a spotlight on the devastating effects of health inequity across the country. Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) affects 8-12 million Americans, including 1 in 3 diabetics over age 50. PAD severity at presentation is higher among black and native Americans, as well as some Hispanic populations.



With this backdrop, what are the challenges for vascular surgery and how can we become a greater part of the solutions? The cardiovascular community at large has recognized the urgent need for action and professional societies are taking the lead. The SVS Foundation has launched the Vascular Volunteers in Service to All (VISTA) program, focusing its efforts initially on amputation prevention in poorly served communities. Regional societies like the WVS have developed committees on DEI and educational programs focused on health disparities and building of diverse teams. The AHA has created a PAD "national action plan" with a target of reducing nontraumatic leg amputations by 20% by 2030, an ambitious but well-defined goal. To be effective leaders in these important efforts, which encompass advocacy, education, and volunteerism, we must look closely in the mirror at the current state of our specialty.

There are important questions about access, appropriateness and value of vascular care that influence the public trust. A careful look at the stresses and strains within our workforce is also critical. The SVS Wellness Task Force report demonstrated that 41% of survey respondents met criteria for burnout. A third or more have symptoms of depression, and physical pain related to work is described by most surgeons. Recent workforce estimates predict an ongoing shortage of vascular surgeons in the United States for the next two decades. These factors, together with the ongoing pressures for clinical productivity and an inadequate valuation of the overall financial impact of vascular surgeons in hospitals and healthcare systems, are major threats to our specialty. Nonetheless, promoting vascular health in the community must be a top priority for vascular surgery if we are to truly lead. Our patients are our most important partners, and we must not lose focus of our service mission as we pay closer attention to taking care of ourselves, and each other.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Ali Azizzadeh, MD



#### NEW MEMBERS 2019 (12)

LeAnn Chavez, MD  
David Kauvar, MD  
Sharon Kiang, MD  
Marcus Kret, MD  
Jenny Lee, MD  
Gregory Magee, MD  
Mahmoud B. Malas, MD  
Leigh Ann O'Banion, MD  
Allan W. Tulloch, MD  
Adam Oskowitz, MD  
Michael B. Peterson, MD  
Ehab Sorial, MD

#### NEW MEMBERS 2020 (15)

Shahram Aarabi, MD  
Shipra Arya, MD  
Amir Azarbal, MD  
Yiu Che Chan, MD  
Atish Chopra, MD  
Warren Chow, MD  
Sukgu Han, MD  
Tazo Inui, MD  
Karthikeshwar Kasirajan, MD  
Owen Palmer, MD  
Karen Quirk, MD  
Johnathon Rollo, MD  
Jordan Stern, MD  
Christopher Washington, MD  
William Yoon, MD

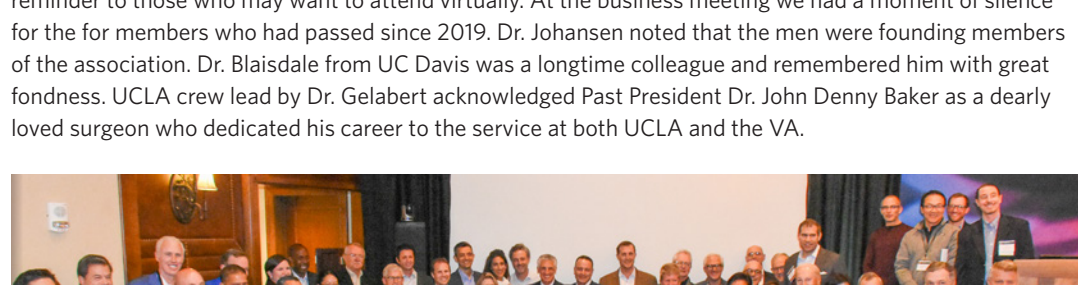
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Ehab Sorial, MD

#### NEW MEMBERS 2022 (12)

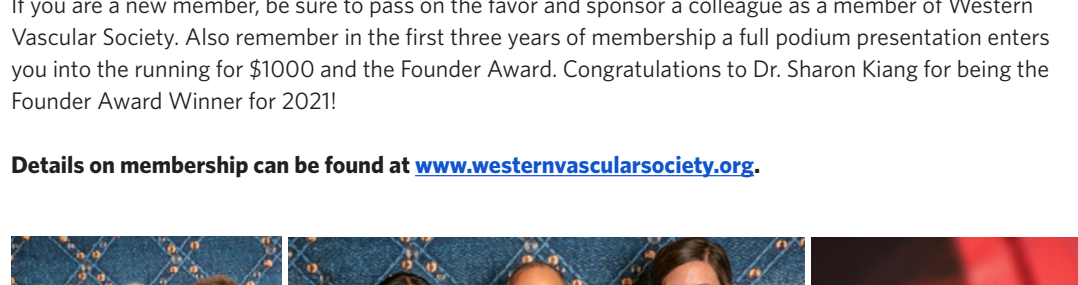
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Western Vascular Society has 135 active members with a majority up to date with their dues. There is a requirement to attend every three years. Due to the pandemic, we are easing this restriction but will send a reminder to those who may want to attend virtually. At the business meeting we had a moment of silence for the members who had passed since 2019. Dr. Johansen noted that the men were founding members of the association. Dr. Blaisdale from UC Davis was a longtime colleague and remembered him with great fondness. UCLA crew lead by Dr. Gelabert acknowledged Past President Dr. John Denny Baker as a dearly loved surgeon who dedicated his career to the service at both UCLA and the VA.



If you are a new member, be sure to pass on the favor and sponsor a colleague as a member of Western Vascular Society. Also remember in the first three years of membership a full podium presentation enters you into the running for \$1000 and the Founder Award. Congratulations to Dr. Sharon Kiang for being the Founder Award Winner for 2021!

Details on membership can be found at [www.westernvascularsociety.org](http://www.westernvascularsociety.org).



Special thanks to Past President Dr. E. John Harris. In the last four years of council work, you did not miss one call! Your inspired nominations have changed the face of Western Vascular Society to reflect the membership more accurately. We will miss your straightforward opinion, and good-natured chuckles on the Executive Council Calls.

#### Nominations for 2021 - 2022

President-Elect: Dr. Wei Zhou  
Program Committee Member: Dr. Karen Woo  
Membership Committee Member: Dr. Christian Ochoa  
DEI Committee Member: Dr. Kenneth Zielger  
VSIG Committee Member: Dr. Gregory Magee  
Local Arrangements Chair: Dr. York Hsiang



SAVE  
THE  
DATE



WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY

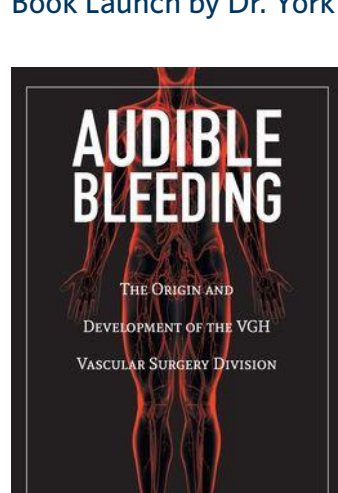
# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

## September 17 - 20, 2022

Fairmont Empress, Victoria, B.C. Canada

### MESSAGE FROM CANADIAN CONTINGENT

Book Launch by Dr. York Hsiang

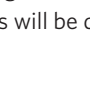


Have you ever wondered why some institutions don't do certain operations or have their specific way of doing things? Well, this book, **"AUDIBLE BLEEDING: The Origin and Development of the VGH Vascular Surgery Division"** may give you some perspective. During our Divisional Christmas party of 2019, I looked around the room and realized that within two years, nearly all of the senior surgeons will be retired. And, afterwards, who would ever know about how it all started?

So, during the pandemic of 2020 I assigned myself the task of chronicling who we are, where we came from and how we ended up here. The book is a historic account from 1978 to this has shaped the way inceptions of vascular surgery in Vancouver, the battles we won and lost and how this has shaped the way things are done in Vancouver. Many of you will recognize the same issues that crop up wherever you are.

The book is written for everyone, even lay people who may be drawn into medicine and surgery. For medical students and residents, there are dedicated appendices describing things neither medical school or residency taught me. Finally, it also has an old high school yearbook feel with descriptions of the attending surgeons and graduates. **The names of many Western Vascular members pop up throughout the book with heartwarming stories of how they interlaced with the Vancouver group.**

Try it out! Maybe you will be inspired to record the important events that affected you and your institution. The book can be ordered through most large bookstores as hard cover or paperback. There is also an eBook version. Proceeds of book sales will be donated to my Hospital Foundation.



WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY

#### 2022 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President  
VINCENT ROWE, MD

President Elect  
WEI ZHOU, MD

Secretary-Treasurer  
AHMED ABOU-ZAMZAM, MD

Recorder  
MATTHEW MELL, MD

Program Chair  
OMID JAZAERI, MD

Membership Chair  
ALI AZIZZADEH, MD

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair  
LEANN CHAVEZ, MD

Vascular Surgery Interest Group Chair  
NITEN SINGH, MD

Past President, Councilor  
MICHAEL CONTE, MD

Past President, Councilor  
BENJAMIN W. STARNES, MD

Past President, Councilor  
YORK N. HSIANG, MB, CHB, MHSC, FRSC

Local Arrangements Chair  
YORK N. HSIANG, MB, CHB, MHSC, FRSC

#### 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

[westernvascularsociety.org](http://westernvascularsociety.org)