



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Ahmed Abou-Zamzam, Jr. M.D., President Elect Western Vascular Society



Dear Members of the Western Vascular Society,

As the President Elect of Western Vascular Society and Editor of the True Lumen newsletter, I present to you this summer edition — celebrating the exceptional quality of the upcoming 39th Annual Meeting held from September 7-10, 2024, at the magnificent Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. I hope you enjoy this edition of the True Lumen — our guiding light in the complex vascular system. This newsletter, named by Dr. Vincent Rowe in 2021, is a perfect metaphor for our shared pursuit of clinical precision, innovation, and patient care. In surgery, finding and navigating the true lumen is crucial. It represents clarity, direction, and the path to optimal outcomes. Similarly, our careers are marked by the pursuit of our own "true lumen," where our expertise, passion, and dedication converge to make a significant impact on the lives of our patients.

Our Program Committee, led by Dr. Jade Hiramoto of UCSF, has done an extraordinary job of arranging a great program. Of course, the committee had the benefit and difficult task of selecting from so many outstanding submissions from the membership. The breadth and depth of the presentations selected will undoubtedly inspire discussions that underscore the unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care that defines the Western Vascular Society. We hope the sessions at this year's meeting will illuminate new pathways in vascular surgery, offering insights and knowledge that will help us all stay on course and continue to push the boundaries of what is possible.

As we look forward to the event, knowing it will carry the momentum and inspiration from our time in Colorado Springs into our daily practice, we can continue to strive for excellence, innovate with purpose, and find our true lumen in the ever-expanding landscape of vascular surgery.

Thank you for your dedication, passion, and participation in making the 39th Annual Meeting a success!

Warm regards,

Ahmed M. Abou-Zamzam, Jr., MD, FACS
Professor, Department of Surgery
Program Director, Integrated Residency & Fellowship
Medical Director, Vascular Laboratory
Wilden Family Endowed Chair
Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH

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September 7 - 10, 2024 | The Broadmoor | Colorado Springs, CO

Be sure to book your room at the Broadmoor by August 12th by using this link:

https://book.passkey.com/go/WVSAM24

https://www.broadmoor.com

Questions on accommodation?

Group Block Contact: Michelle Derges

mderges@broadmoor.com



Download the meeting app Whova

for all live stream options for the 2024 meeting!



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

1:00 PM - 8:00 PM REGISTRATION
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EXHIBIT SET UP
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM RAPID FIRE SESSION
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM SPONSOR WELCOME RECEPTION
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

6:30 AM - 1:00 PM REGISTRATION
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM BREAKFAST
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM COMPANION BREAKFAST
7:00 AM - 11:45 AM EXHIBITS
7:45 AM - 8:00 AM CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS
8:00 AM - 9:50 AM SCIENTIFIC SESSION I
9:50 AM - 10:20 AM COFFEE BREAK WITH EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITORS
10:20 AM - 11:00 AM PRESIDENTIAL GUEST LECTURE
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM SCIENTIFIC SESSION II
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM DEI/VSIG LUNCH ROUNDTABLE MENTORSHIP LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM GOLF TOURNAMENT
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS: PICKLE BALL, COG RAILWAY
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM WESTERN FAMILY DINNER

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

6:30 AM - 1:00 PM REGISTRATION
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM TERUMO AORTIC BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM COMPANION BREAKFAST
7:00 AM - 11:45 AM EXHIBITS
7:30 AM - 9:20 AM SCIENTIFIC SESSION III
9:20 AM - 9:45 AM COFFEE BREAK WITH EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITORS
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
10:30 AM - 11:50 PM SCIENTIFIC SESSION IV
11:50 AM - 12:30 PM WVS BUSINESS MEETING
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM CORE LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM OPTIONAL EVENTS: TENNIS ROUND ROBIN OR HIKING
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PRIVATE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

7:00 AM - 7:30 AM BREAKFAST WITH SPONSORS
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM EXHIBITS
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM SCIENTIFIC SESSION V
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM SVS UPDATE
9:15 AM - 9:45 AM COFFEE BREAK WITH EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITORS
9:45 AM - 11:00 AM SCIENTIFIC SESSION VI
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM AWARDS
11:30 AM MEETING ADJOURNS

BRING YOUR DANCING SHOES!

Presidential Banquet in the Penrose Room will be an evening to remember. Bring your dancing shoes as you never know when the white hat will be thrown down. We will have a four course seated dinner that requires tickets and seating arrangements from the registration desk upon arrival. Limited number of tickets are available - sponsors are welcome. BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES



COG RAILWAY

Sunday, September 8, 2024
2 - 5 PM | Ticketed Activity



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, September 8, 2024
1 - 5 PM



PICKLE BALL AND PIMS

Sunday, September 8, 2024
2 - 5 PM | Beginners Welcome
Ticketed Activity



TENNIS ROUND ROBIN

Monday, September 9, 2024
2 - 5 PM



HIKING

Monday, September 9, 2024
2 - 5 PM

HUGE THANKS TO THE MEETING SPONSORS THAT ARE LINING UP!

Abbott Vascular
Angiodynamics
Baxter
Boston Scientific

Cook Medical
Cydar Medical
Endologix
Getinge

Medtronic
Penumbra
Shape Memory Medical
Shockwave Medical

Silk Road Medical
Terumo Aortic
Vascular Technology Inc
W. L. Gore & Associates

VSIG - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER JOSHUA RIKLAN

Exposure is Everything



Exposure is everything. As an eager 1st year medical student, I came into school with an open mind. As Step 1 became pass/fail, a wave of uncertainty washed over me and many of my peers as misinformation spread about finding what you wanted to do early, as a necessity in building a strong application. As I continued along my medical training as a second- and third-year medical student, I found vascular surgery as a specialty that existed within the intersection of my interests and passions, for which I am incredibly grateful. I was able to find a strong support system and mentorship

within my home institution that not only bolstered my interest but helped to build my confidence as a student who found vascular surgery quite late in his clinical years. I had found my fit, but for many other students, pressures of picking a specialty early or fears of changing their mind may have deterred them from exploring their interests further. This is why I advocate strongly for early exposure and mentorship for medical students. Vascular surgery lends itself well to interdisciplinary teaching, as it often intersects with many primary pathologies taught during the preclinical years. As we are taught early on about atherosclerosis, hypertension, diabetes, and CKD, it wasn't until I saw

many of these pathologies on my surgery rotation that many of the basic science principles clicked. To that end, I believe the same principles could extend to earlier in the didactic years allowing for earlier exposure to a field that addresses so much physiology in the treatment of its pathology. In future years I hope to see more vascular surgery lectures in the didactic years of medical school and more avenues for mentorship for those with a budding interest in the field. I am incredibly grateful to have been awarded the VSIG grant to attend the conference this year and look forward to meeting and learning about others' paths and careers.

VSIG - COM MENTORSHIP INSIGHTS: ADVICE FOR ASPIRING VASCULAR SURGEONS FROM JOSEPH MILLS, MD, JLM

The most frequent advice I give to students or residents interested in vascular surgery is to always start with the patient; the patient should always come first. Read extensively - this is becoming a lost art. Focus on learning principles, not just factoids. Continuously ask questions as they lead to research ideas and improved patient care. Consider: Which approach is standard and why? What are the alternatives? How do we determine the best option for each patient? What are the therapy goals? How can we simplify or improve treatments?

I also emphasize the importance of becoming an expert in pattern recognition. This skill helps surgeons make diagnoses, but it's crucial to remain alert to anomalies that don't fit the pattern to avoid missing alternative diagnoses and treatments. Lastly, don't fear being your own strongest critic. Making mistakes is part of the learning process, but it's essential to acknowledge them, learn, and correct them whenever possible. Finally, always be curious and remember to have fun along the way - the learning never stops.

Joseph L. Mills, MD, FACS
Professor and Chief
Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy
Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas



READY, SET, STEP!

Register today to join the movement to get moving.



For your health!

VASCULAR HEALTH STEP CHALLENGE

An Initiative of SVS Foundation

5280 Top Vascular Surgeons



Dr. Jeniann Yi

Dr. Mark Nehler

Dr. Max Wohlauler



OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

What's New in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY



August 21-24, 2024 | The Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, California

REGISTER TO ATTEND: https://fs21.formsite.com/surgicalcs/j3spyebahz/index

Pacific Northwest Vascular Society is accepting abstract submissions.



PNWVS 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Nov. 7-8, 2024 | The Benson, Portland, OR



CLICK TO LEARN MORE: https://pacificnwvascular.org/annual-meeting-2/

IDEAS WANTED

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!



WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY 2024 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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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