



WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY

THE TRUE LUMEN

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Editor: David Rigberg, M.D., President-Elect WVS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dr. David Rigberg, President Elect Western Vascular Society



David Rigberg, MD

Program Director
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Editor, True Lumen

President-Elect
Western Vascular Society

Dear Western Vascular Society Members,

We are all very excited for the upcoming meeting in Ojai! Picture brilliant science, meaningful mentorship, oak trees, and a Coastal Casual Presidential Banquet show from The Dial Ups — so leave your tux at home and bring your dancing shoes! Want to sing something with us? Let me know and join us!

See you there,

David Rigberg, MD
President Elect, Western Vascular Society



Dr. Asha Kathori MD from Winnipeg got a bonus dinner from Dr. Rigberg after he was stuck in LA after the Moore course due to the Air Canada Strike.





WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY

Annual Meeting

Sept. 14–17, 2025

Ojai Valley Inn
Ojai, CA



SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP

Program Chair **Dr. Karen Woo** is using her platform in *True Lumen* to highlight the leadership and mentorship strengths of the Western Vascular Society. In this issue, she features an interview with Past Program Chair **Dr. Jade Hiramoto** and **Dr. Colleen Flanagan** from UCSF, discussing their innovative work being presented at the upcoming meeting.

Tell us about yourselves.

Colleen Flanagan is a fourth-year resident in the UCSF Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency program and recently completed a fellowship in Clinical Informatics during her 2023-2025 professional development period. She is interested in the use of AI/machine learning to augment vascular surgery practice, clinical research, and efficiency in care-delivery. Jade Hiramoto is a Professor in Vascular Surgery at UCSF and the Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs in the Department of Surgery. Both are passionate about the responsible application of AI/ML to transform unstructured clinical data (e.g. notes, images) into structured data to improve administrative efficiency, research database quality, and ultimately, clinical care.

What motivated you to do this project?

Recently, there has been a move towards procedure-based post operative pain control, despite evidence that pain varies significantly from person to person. Data has shown that a non-individual approach to post operative pain control on discharge is associated with increased long term opioid use, so we felt that it was important to investigate this among our vascular patients.

How do you hope that the results of your work will impact clinical practice/future research?

While we want to limit the amount of postoperative opioid pain medications, we feel that there is a range in the amount of pain experienced by patients who undergo similar procedures. This may lead to unnecessary suffering in scenarios of under-prescription as well as needless prescription of opioids in scenarios of over-prescription. We are hoping to establish a more tailored, individualized approach and improve the quality of care for our patients.



Dr. Jade Hiramoto



Dr. Colleen Flanagan



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF MEMBERSHIP CHAIR DR. MAHMOUD MALAS, ON BEHALF OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS; DRS. JC JIMENEZ AND JENNI ANN YI

As we prepare for our upcoming annual meeting, I'm pleased to provide a membership update and share important reminders regarding dues and roster maintenance.

MEMBERS WHO WILL BE PRESENTED THEIR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

Hamad Amer, MD
American Vascular Specialists

Rumi Faizer, MD
UP Medical

Clara Gomez Sanchez, MD
University of California
San Francisco

Benjamin Greif, MD
University of Oklahoma

Spencer Hansen, MD
UC Health Heart and
Vascular Center

Jake Hemingway, MD
University of Washington

Melissa Keller, MD
University of California, Davis

Donald Jacobs, MD
University of Colorado

Afshin Molkara, MD
Riverside University
Health System

Neil Reddy, MD
Vascular Surgery Associates

Mel Sharafuddin, MD
UC Health – Memorial
Hospital Central

Jesús Ulloa, MD
West LA VA/UCLA

Thank you to all the Western members who helped to bolster the membership by sponsoring their colleagues.

2025 Active New Member Applicants

2025 Candidate New Member Applicants

Dues Reminder – Special Opportunity

For those who have not yet paid, we are offering a limited-time opportunity to catch up on overdue dues at the historic 1990 rate of \$150 per year. This discounted rate is available through the conclusion of the annual meeting. After that time, dues will revert to the new rate of \$250 per year, and any outstanding balances will be calculated at the updated rate.

Membership Roster Update – Per Bylaws

Following the meeting, we will conduct a bylaws-mandated update of our membership roster. Any member who:

• Has not paid dues for two consecutive years, and

• Has not attended any of the past three annual meetings

will be subject to removal from active membership. This ensures that our membership reflects those who are currently engaged in the life and mission of our society.

If you are uncertain of your dues status or need assistance, please contact [insert email or administrator name] to confirm or submit payment.

Thank you for your continued support of our society and your commitment to our shared mission. We look forward to seeing you in person at the annual meeting.

Warm regards,

Mahmoud Malas, MD

PROGRAM CHAIR UPDATE

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. ROBERT HYE

Each year, the Western Vascular Society proudly recognizes outstanding presentations by medical students and residents through the **Dr. Robert Hye Awards**. Selected by judges appointed by Program Chair Dr. Karen Woo, these awards celebrate excellence in research, presentation, and contribution to the field.

Three cash prizes—\$500, \$250, and \$100—along with official commemorative certificates are awarded for the best full presentations. In addition, the top Rapid-Fire Presentation receives a certificate and a \$100 award. These prizes are made possible through generous donations from our members and sponsors, collected at registration.

Dr. Hye was a dedicated and prolific researcher, and his impact on Western Vascular was profound—not as a ceremonial figure, but as a dedicated mentor who personally sponsored residents to present at our meetings every single year. His unwavering commitment has left a lasting mark on our society, reflected in the work and achievements of countless members.

ROBERT HYE RESIDENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Sustained Impact of a “Just in Time” Educational Intervention for Opioid Overprescribing in Dialysis Access Surgery

Riley Brian, MD, MAEd,
Elizabeth Lancaster, MD, MAS,
Jade Hiramoto, MD

Department of Surgery,
University of California,
San Francisco, CA



Riley Brian, MD, MAEd

WESTERN SHOWDOWN COMPETITION

Western Vascular Society Resident Showdown Competition: Road to SCVS Top Gun

The Western Vascular Society is proud to host a high-energy Resident Competition that will showcase the technical skills, precision, and speed of our rising stars in vascular surgery through a three-part challenge.

PART 1

Penumbra 

Thrombectomy Simulator

Participants will have the opportunity to treat deep vein thrombosis (DVT) using the Flash 2.0 Thrombectomy System in a simulated case.

PART 2

GETINGE 

Suturing Event

A skills competition to help residents and medical students enhance their suturing skills of an abdominal aneurysm and build confidence.

PART 3

COOK MEDICAL 

Planning & Sizing

Physicians-in-training evaluate their ability to accurately size aortic aneurysms, choose the right grafts, and explain their decisions clearly and quickly.

Official Rules for the Western Showdown (aka Dr. Tran's Not-So-Serious Resident Competition)

The legendary Dr. Tran is at the helm of our pilot program's fun competition—bringing with him his time-honored rules:

• No whining.

• Swearing is permitted—but only if it's impressively creative.

• Canadians may use elbows.

Eligibility:

• Open to residents from the Western region only.

• Medical students may assist or try out the simulators—but only after the event (no cutting in line, future surgeons).

• To be eligible to win, residents must compete in all three events.

• The grand prize? A coveted **\$1,800 scholarship** to represent Western Vascular Society at **SCVS**.

Meet the Judges

(These are the people you might want to bake cookies for in advance): Drs. Goshima, Kansal, Herscu, and Hemingway will be judging across all three days.

Competition Schedule:

• Sunday – Part 1: During the Welcome Reception

• Monday – Part 2: Before the Western Family Dinner

• Tuesday – Part 3: After the VSIG Leadership Lunch

Sharpen your skills, flex your creativity, and remember it's all fun and games... until someone gets the elbow.

Annual Meeting PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday Sept 14th Highlights

• Rapid-Fire Session

• Welcome Reception & Networking

• Part 1 of the Trainee Showdown Competition: **Penumbra's Thrombectomy Simulator** - participants will have the opportunity to treat deep vein thrombosis (DVT) using the Flash 2.0 Thrombectomy System in a simulated case.

Monday 15th Highlights

• Trainee Breakfast Symposium

• Scientific Sessions

• Guest lecturer – Dr. Timothy Sullivan

• 40th Anniversary Historical Session with Founding Members, Dr. Wesley Moore and Dr. Jerry Goldstone

Gore & Associates Luncheon Symposium

• Part 2 of the Trainee Showdown Competition: **Getinge Suturing Event** - a skills competition to help residents and medical students enhance their suturing skills of an abdominal aneurysm and build confidence.

• Western Family Dinner

Tuesday 16th Highlights

• Penumbra Breakfast Symposium

• Scientific Sessions

• Presidential Address – Dr. Ahmed Abouzamzam

• Leadership Roundtable Luncheon Symposium

• Cook Medical Luncheon Symposium

• Part 3 of the Trainee Showdown Competition: **Cook Medical Aortic Planning and Sizing** - The goal is to evaluate physicians-in-training on their ability to accurately size aortic aneurysms, choose the right grafts, and explain their decisions clearly and quickly, showing both technical skills and critical thinking in vascular care.

• Presidential Banquet with the Dial Ups

Don't miss the 40th Anniversary Historical Session with Founding Members, < Dr. Wesley Moore and Dr. Jerry Goldstone >

Session Host:

R. Eugene Zierler, MD





Annual Meeting

ADVANCE PROGRAM

40th Anniversary

Sept. 14–17, 2025

Ojai Valley Inn | Ojai, CA

View the FLIPBOOK



40th anniversary

What to wear is the most asked question to the SCS team leading up to the meeting!

Here is a fun guideline if this is on your mind.



THEME: Effortlessly polished, breezy, and relaxed — think California coast meets elevated resort style. Suitable for a professional setting with a touch of laid-back sophistication.

Coastal Casual Dress Code

Surgical Meeting Edition

FOR MEN

• **Linen button-down shirts** in soft tones (white, sand, pale blue, sage)

• **Lightweight chinos** or tailored shorts in khaki, stone, or navy

• **Unstructured sport coats** (optional for evening events)

• **Loafers, boat shoes, or leather sandals**

• Accessories: minimalist watches, woven belts, sunglasses

FOR WOMEN

• **Mid/maxi dresses** in breathable fabrics (linen, cotton, silk)

• **Wide-leg trousers** with tucked-in blouses

• **Jumpsuits or wrap dresses** in coastal prints or soft solids

• Flat sandals, espadrilles, or block-heel mules

• Accessories: straw bags, light jewelry

COLOR PALETTE

• Seafoam green

• Warm sand

• White linen

• Navy and driftwood grey

• Coral accents

SEE MORE

WHAT TO AVOID:

Suits and ties (unless presenting or by preference) • Athletic wear • High heels (Ojai terrain and venue may include grass and gravel)

PLANNING AND PACKING TIPS:

Ojai in September is coastal perfection—warm days in the low 80s, cool evenings in the 60s. Think **light layers, sun protection, and comfortable shoes** for strolling the grounds.

Hiking, walking, town, riding the free bikes, golfing, pickleball and tennis are all possibilities onsite. You can also call and arrange beekeeping, artisan cottage crafts, and the best spa day you have ever had.

During scientific sessions most present in business casual attire – collared shirts for men and business attire for women – think less formal than VAM and more formal than scrubs.

Western attire is welcome for the Western Family dinner you can wear khakis or jeans and family dinner outfits for women – basically no work out gear! If you have a cowboy hat and boots... go for it!

For the **Presidential Banquet**, we're keeping it **coastal casual**: linen, light fabrics, and relaxed elegance. Whites and Dr. Azizadeh recommended pocket squares are optional, good vibes are not.

GETTING THERE:

The Santa Barbara Airport (SBA) is your best bet—easy to navigate and scenic from the moment you land. From there, it's about a 75-minute drive to Ojai through beautiful mountain and valley roads. If you're carpooling, it's a great chance to catch up with friends or discuss which cases were hardest to crack this year.





NEED SOME TIME?

Spa Ojai: This Spa is wide open for appointments.

Artist Cottage: The Artist College an open studio concept — guests can walk in (no reservations necessary — unless they are coming in as large group).

Our Experience Planners can assist with all activities.

Email: discoverojai@ojaivalleyinn.com or call 805.640.3562

Be sure to register your companions so that they may enjoy the welcome reception, breakfast daily, Western Family Dinner and the Presidential Banquet all for a low price.

Contact Fin at admin@surgicalcs.com to make sure they have a badge from day one. Kids are welcome too!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Southern California Vascular Surgical Society

44th Annual Meeting

MAY 1-3, 2026

JW MARRIOTT, SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO | BCS, MEXICO

Photos submitted by the Southern California Vascular Society to highlight their upcoming meeting **May 1-3, 2026** at JW Marriott in Cabo.

Abstracts accepted until February for this great meeting. Presenters may be eligible for a travel stipend.



Congratulations to Dr. Khoury on his final day of fellowship at Loma Linda! Pictured here with Dr. Abou-Zamzam WVS President

OHSU Vascular enjoying a celebration of graduation with a little help from WWVF?





NORTHWEST VASCULAR SOCIETY

PNWVS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Oct 23-24, 2025

ARCTIC CLUB, SEATTLE, WA

Sarah Zettervall is the program chair and this promises to be an exceptional meeting. For out of town students stipends are available to help with travel costs. Apply today: <https://fs21.formsite.com/surgicalcs/q2lwxcu9w/index>

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP



WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY 2025 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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EUGENE ZIERLER, MD

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KAREN WOO, MD, PHD, FACS

Membership Chair
MAHMOUD B. MALAS, MD, MHS, FACS

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