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Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pride that I write to you as the new President - Elect and Editor of the True Lumen of the Western Vascular Society. Our recent 2025 Annual Meeting celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WVS in beautiful Ojai, California, was a tremendous success. I would like thank the outstanding efforts of our President Dr. Ahmed Abou-Zamzam, the program committee, presenters, and attendees. The scientific program reflected the exceptional clinical and academic strength that defines our Society.

#### Highlights from the 2025 Meeting in Ojai:

- Record attendance and vibrant participation from trainees and faculty across our region.
- Excellent podium and poster sessions showcasing innovation in vascular surgery research and clinical care.
- Outstanding historical presentation from the WVS historian, Dr. Gene Zierler and two of the founding WVS members, Dr. Jerry Goldstone and Dr. Wesley Moore.
- A unique presentation on the history of the Annals of Vascular Surgery cover art by invited guest, Dr. Timothy Sullivan.
- Memorable social events that fostered collegiality and lifelong friendships—hallmarks of our Society.

In this edition of the True Lumen we highlight the leadership of our **Canadian members**, who will be hosting the **2026 Annual Meeting in Whistler, British Columbia**, next September. This promises to be an unforgettable gathering—combining world-class scientific exchange with the breathtaking setting of Whistler's alpine landscape.

- A detailed summary of the 2025 Ojai meeting proceedings and award winners
- Updates from the Executive Council and committee reports
- Announcements regarding upcoming educational opportunities and regional collaborations
- A preview of plans for the Whistler 2026 meeting

As we move forward, my goal is to continue strengthening our community—bridging academic and clinical practice, mentoring the next generation of vascular surgeons, and expanding our collaboration across the Western region and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of the Western Vascular Society. I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead as we build upon our proud tradition of excellence, scholarship, and camaraderie.



With warm regards,

**Niten Singh, MD, FACS**

President-Elect, Western Vascular Society  
University of Washington



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## Welcome Our New Executive Council



**President:**

David Rigberg



**President-Elect:**

Niten Singh



**Secretary Treasurer:**

Jason Lee



**Recorder:**

Venita Chandra



**Historian:**

Gene Zierler



**Program Chair:**

Benjamin Brooke



**CCC Chair:**

Sherene Shalhub



**Membership Chair:**

Juan Carlos Jimenez



**VSIG Chair:**

Nikhil Kansal



**Past President:**

Ahmed Abou-Zamzam



**Past President:**

Roy M. Fujitani



**Past President:**

Wei Zhou



**WVS Secretary-Treasurer-Elect:** Misty Humphries

This new role was created to best prepare the incoming member to take over the duties of the secretary-treasurer, by participating in a year-long shadowing period to ensure a smooth transition.



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## Welcome Our New Members!

### New ACTIVE Members:

**Lisa Bennett, MD**, Denver Health

**Peter Brant-Zawadzki, MD**, Providence North Everett

**Ghaleb Darwazeh, MD**, Loma Linda University

**Siwei Dong, DO**, University of California Irvine

**William Duong, MD**, Loma Linda University Health

**Sammy Eghbalieh, MD**, SoCal. Multispecialty Center

**Justin Galovich, MD**, Hawaii Permanente Med. Group

**Elizabeth George, MD**, Stanford University

**Ashley Gutwein, MD**, University of Colorado

**Lily Johnston, MD**, Scripps Memorial Hospital

**Mitri Khoury, MD**, HonorHealth Heart Care

**Sarah Koch, MD**, Pulse Heart Institute

**Harish Krishnamoorthi, MD**, OHSU

**Derek Nathan, MD**, University of Washington/VA

**Gonzalo Obnial, MD**, Bass Medical Group

**Ramola Panchal, MD**, Loma Linda University

**Rhusheet Patel, MD**, OHSU

**Margaret Smith, MD**, University of Colorado

**Kenneth Tran, MD**, Stanford University

**M. Libby Weaver, MD**, University of Utah

### New CANDIDATE Members:

**Ahmed Abdelkarim, MD**, UC San Diego

**Christian Campat, DO**, UCSF Fresno

**Anand Ganapathy, MD**, University of Southern California

**Mohammed Hamouda, MD**, UC San Diego

**Pooria Nakhaei, MD**, UC San Diego

**Lucas Phi, DO**, University of Oklahoma

**Vanessa Pohl, MD**, Rutgers Health

**Agustin Sibona, MD**, UC San Diego

**Armin Tabiei, MD**, University of California Los Angeles

**Narek Veranyan, MD**, UC San Diego Health

**Karissa Wang, MD**, University of Washington

**Sina Zarrintan, MD**, UC San Diego





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## Founders Award Winner

### ↳ **Modern Management and Outcomes of Penetrating Upper Extremity Arterial Injuries at a Level I Trauma Center**

**Nicolas A. Stafforini, MD**, Louis Darkwa, MD, Nam Tran, MD, Benjamin Starnes, MD, Elina Quiroga, MD, MPH, Niten Singh, MD, Jake Hemingway, MD

*Division of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA*



**Senior Author: Jake Hemingway, MD, University of Washington**

## WVS Resident Showdown Competition Winners



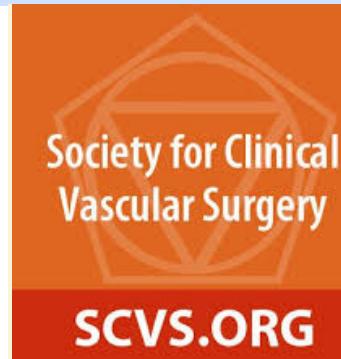
**First Place:** Emelyn Magtanong

**Second Place:** Christian Campat

**Third Place (Tie):** Devra Asah and Tony Gu

**Top Scoring Resident, Emelyn Magtanong from Loma**

**Linda University**, will receive \$1500 towards a scholarship to attend, compete and represent the Western Vascular Society at the Top Gun SCVS National Resident Competition



**Society for Clinical  
Vascular Surgery**

**SCVS.ORG**

**Mar 28 – Apr 1, 2026**

Gaylord Pacific Hotel,  
San Diego, CA

## Rapid-Fire Competition Winner

↳ **Vascular Surgery Residents and Fellows Graduate at Higher Levels of Proficiency in Endovascular as Compared to Open Aortic Operations**

**Presenter: Libby Weaver, MD, University of Utah**





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## Robert Hye Memorial Competition Winners



### ↳ 1st PLACE: VALIDATION OF THE SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA FOR MANAGEMENT OF INTERMITTENT CLAUDICATION

**Christine Mavilian, BS, MS<sup>1</sup>**, Alejandro Vega BS, MPH<sup>1</sup>, Olamide Alabi MD, MS<sup>2</sup>, Shipra Arya MD, MS<sup>3</sup>, Benjamin S. Brooke, MD, PhD<sup>4</sup>, Cassidy Chester, BS<sup>4</sup>, Micheal S. Conte, MD<sup>5</sup>, Arash Fereydooni MD, MS, MHS<sup>3</sup>, Elizabeth L George, MD, MS<sup>3</sup>, James Iannuzzi, MD, MPH<sup>5</sup>, Loay Kabbani, MD<sup>6</sup>, Mina Han Lee, MD<sup>7</sup>, Brandi Mize, MD<sup>2</sup>, Tiffany M Nguyen, MD<sup>6</sup>, Maria Tiu, BS, MS<sup>5</sup>, Karen Woo, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Leigh Ann O'Banion, MD<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of California, Los Angeles

<sup>2</sup>Emory University School of Medicine

<sup>3</sup>Stanford University School of Medicine

<sup>4</sup>University of Utah Health

<sup>5</sup>University of California San Francisco

<sup>6</sup>Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI

<sup>7</sup>University of California San Francisco-Fresno



### ↳ 2nd PLACE TIE

Vessel Level Comparative Analysis Of 5 Year Renal Branch Performance Following Fenestrated Branched Endovascular Aortic Repair Using Thoracoabdominal Multibranched Endoprotheses and Physician Modified Endografts

**Zachary Rengel, MD, USC**



### ↳ 2nd PLACE TIE

The Association Between Multimorbidity and Arteriovenous Fistula Creation Outcomes

**Jose Luis Lopez, MD, UCLA**



### ↳ 3rd PLACE TIE

Improving Discharge Opioid Prescriptions Following Elective Vascular Surgery Procedures Using Patient-Specific Data

**Colleen P. Flanagan, MD, UCSF**



### ↳ 3rd PLACE TIE

Impact of Lumen Origin and Gap Distance on Target Artery Outcomes Following Fenestrated-Branched Endovascular Aortic Repair for Post-dissection Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysms

**Armin Tabiei, MD, UCLA**

### DR. ROBERT HYE MEMORIAL COMPETITION

To honor the contribution of member Dr. Robert Hye, each year the Western Vascular Society Program Chair elects judges to evaluate the best full and rapid-fire presentation by a medical student or resident. These monetary awards are funded by donations from the members and sponsors, and we are grateful for your support and generosity.



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## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR CANADIAN MEMBERS

Vascular research in Canada stands apart for its connection to real-world practice and the realities of our vast and varied country. From coast to coast, Canadian investigators work across diverse patient populations, regional resource differences, and expansive geography—producing studies that marry rigorous methodology with practical clinical insight.

Recent work illustrates this strength. A **meta-analysis comparing endovascular and open revascularization** revisits a long-standing debate in limb preservation, grounding its conclusions in the realities of Canadian practice. Likewise, a **study examining the underuse of cardiovascular risk-modification therapies** among patients with chronic limb-threatening ischemia exposes a critical gap in care delivery.

Even as revascularization techniques advance, many patients across Canada remain undertreated when it comes to basic cardioprotective therapies. These findings reinforce a vital message: that progress in vascular surgery must include system-level improvements ensuring every Canadian patient receives comprehensive, equitable vascular care.

### Impact of Vascular Resident Involvement on Operative Variables and Outcomes in Endovascular Aneurysm Repair

[Nicholas Reitsma, BHK<sup>a</sup>](#) · [Sally H.J. Choi, MD<sup>b</sup>](#) · [Gary K. Yang, PhD, MD<sup>b,c</sup>](#)

**Dr. Gary Yang** of Kelowna, listed senior author above, is a member of Western Vascular Society.

Check the article published by UBC team [https://www.jvsvi.org/article/S2949-9127\(25\)00047-9/fulltext](https://www.jvsvi.org/article/S2949-9127(25)00047-9/fulltext)

**Did you know Thomas Forbes, MD, FRCSC, FACS, DFSVS** is one of two honorary members of Western Vascular Society?

**“Evolution of the Vascular Specialist”** is one of the best Presidential Guest Lecturers of all time! Watch Dr. Forbes as invited by President Dr. York Hsiang in 2019. Great talks don't have a shelf life ...

**CLICK TO WATCH**





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**The Pacific Northwest Vascular Society Past Presidents dinner at the Arctic Club, Seattle, WA was a highlight for our editor this fall!**



Left to right (Drs. Nam Tran, Enjae Jung, Gene Zierler, Niten Singh, Stephen Murray, Kai Johanson, Glen Roseborough and Brian Ferris)



**Shergill Brothers**, both from UBC, are regular attendees or presenters at WVS meetings in the US and Canada



**PNWVS President Dr. David Kopriva** from Regina awards **Cedric Kamani from UBC** who won the best resident competition at PNWVS was also a VSIG winner who attended WVS 2025 in Ojai, CA



**Dr. Sally Choi** and **Dr. Nicholas Reitsma**, both from UBC, competing in the WVS Distal Bypass Competition



WESTERN  
VASCULAR  
SOCIETY

# THE TRUE LUMEN

## FALL 2025 NEWS LETTER

Editor: Niten Singh, M.D., President-Elect WVS

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## SAVE THE DATE

**41st Western Vascular Society Annual Meeting**

September 26-29, 2026

Fairmont Chateau Whistler, BC, Canada



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