The recent meeting of the SAVS in Marcos Island Florida was a resounding success. The scientific agenda was of the highest quality and the addition of special programs such as a “hands-on” course on carotid angioplasty and a practice oral examination for vascular surgery residents increased the educational scope of the event. As always the camaraderie of the membership and the opportunity to interact with each other in a beautiful setting with friends and colleagues is a hallmark of our society. Arizona is the site for the next gathering and the program committee is already hard at work to make the next meeting an enjoyable and educational for the membership and their families.

Most SAVS members were disappointed by the recent decision of the American Board of Medical Specialists to reject the application for an independent board of vascular surgery. However, a primary certificate in vascular surgery has been approved and this will have a tremendous impact on the training of future vascular surgeons and the type of graduates recruited by established vascular groups. Applicants to vascular residency programs will have multiple options for their pre-vascular training ranging from the traditional “5 plus 2” background to those entering a program directly out of medical school. All trainees will be expected to have some instruction in “core general surgery” but not all will be eligible to obtain general surgery board certification. It is not yet clear how those individuals certified only in vascular surgery will fit into existing practices. This will undoubtedly be a subject of discussion at the next meeting.

One of the virtues of our Society is to enter into respectful discussion of important issues without the hostility and political discord that exists in other arenas. Most of us regard the SAVS convocation as the “best meeting we attend” and the high member attendance level and increasing number of applications for membership attest to this fact. I look forward to seeing you in Arizona.
Southern Association for Vascular Surgery
Highlights of the 29th Annual Business Meeting
January 22, 2005 / Marco Island, Florida

The minutes of the 2004 Business Meeting at The Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico were approved. President Goldman expressed his sincere appreciation to the members of the Association for the privilege of the presidency.

Secretary-Treasurer Hansen provided the following summary of the Executive Council meeting on January 19, 2005.

The minutes from the Executive Council meeting held June 3, 2004 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California were approved without revision.

PR/RI Meeting Manager, April Abenilla provided both a written and oral report. ACCME Accreditation for the meeting has been secured through the American College of Surgeons. This has been one of our best attended meetings to date. Registration for the meeting has been 164 members, 63 guest physicians, 95 spouses/guests and 92 exhibitors, for a total of 227 physicians and a total attendance of 414.

Last year, Past President Snyder and President Goldman created a Resource Development Committee, chaired by Alan Lumsden, to identify industry sources for unrestricted educational grants. A method of recognizing different levels of industry support was adopted. Compared with the 2004 Annual Meeting, unrestricted sponsorship increased by more than $35,000 for this meeting. A total of twenty-seven exhibitors participated and were integral to the success of the Annual Meeting. Simulators for the carotid angioplasty and stenting post-graduate course were provided by Boston Scientific Vascular and Cordis Endovascular. (A complete list of sponsors and exhibitors appears on page 5.)

Online abstract submission allowed the Program Committee to review and grade 115 abstracts. Online meeting registration; more than half of the registration process occurred online.

Current membership stands at 168 active members and 35 candidate members, with 210 senior members (99 of whom are retired members) and 22 honorary members. One new honorary member, Kevin G. Burnand, M.D., will be added this year. Since January 2004, one active member resigned his membership citing practice changes, five senior members retired, two active members forfeited their membership after failure to attend five consecutive Annual Meetings, three candidate members forfeited membership due to relocation out of the Association’s region. Ten members will advance to senior status at this meeting; 19 will advance in January 2006, and 12 will advance in January 2007. There are currently 13 active members residing out of the geographic area, representing 7.7% of the total active membership, which is within the 10% allowed by the Constitution and Bylaws.

There were five requests for excused absences from the 2005 Annual Meeting. Two requests were granted.

Eighteen members have failed to pay their 2004 dues despite several reminders from the Secretary-Treasurer that their memberships will be terminated unless they pay their dues by March 30, 2005. One member requested that his dues be deferred for this year due to illness resulting in disability. This request was discussed by the Council and granted.

As of December 1, 2004, assets in the treasury included $240,998.36 in a money market checking account at Wachovia Bank and Trust, N.A. PR/RI, Inc. held $149,440.38 in a checking account and $2,643.69 in a Scudder investment account. Therefore, the total financial assets of the Association were $393,082.43, which compares favorably to the $343,290.37 in January 2003.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman and Past President Robert B. Smith, III introduced a bylaws change, which was, discussed at the June 2004 Executive Council Meeting. The proposed bylaws changes were presented after revision, discussed, and unanimously approved by the Executive Council. These bylaws changes create a new Corresponding Membership for vascular surgeons residing outside the United States. The proposed change is as follows:

Revisions of Article I, Section 1:

Change first sentence to: The membership shall consist of active, senior, honorary, candidate, and corresponding members.

Add the following as last sentence to paragraph 2. Corresponding membership shall be limited in number to 25% of the active membership.

Change last sentence of paragraph 3 to: Candidate and corresponding members shall not be eligible for election as officers or councilors.

Revision of Article I, Section 2:

Change first sentence to: Members who have paid their dues and now practice in states or countries outside the area comprising the Association membership, and honorary members as tendered by the Association will be regarded as members with all the duties and privileges thereto pertaining, except as herein otherwise provided.

Revisions of Article I, Section 3:

Change first sentence to: A member in good standing of the organization who wishes to sponsor a new active, corresponding, or candidate member should obtain an application from the office of the Secretary.

Change third sentence to: The application must be signed by the sponsor and must be accompanied by letters from the sponsor and two endorsers for applicants for active and corresponding membership.

Change sixth sentence to: If the applicant for active or corresponding membership is not elected, he/she may be considered the following year.

Change eighth sentence to: An applicant for active or corresponding membership in the Association shall be dropped from the roster if the applicant has not been elected after 3 consecutive years of consideration by the Executive Council.

Revision of Article I, Section 5:

Add as subsection (e): Corresponding Members. Corresponding membership shall be conferred upon physicians residing outside the United States of America, who meet the requirements for active membership as described in Article I, Section 5(a), Paragraph 1. Applicants for corresponding membership in The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery must have had specific training in vascular surgery. Certification in Vascular Surgery from the American Board of Surgery or its equivalent is highly desirable. Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons is not required. Corresponding members shall be bound by the same annual dues and annual meeting requirements as active members.

Revision of Article I, Section 6:

Change second sentence to: Those certificates shall designate active, honorary or corresponding members.

Revision of Article I, Section 7:

Change second sentence to: Active and corresponding members who fail to attend three consecutive annual meetings without just cause as judged by Executive Council shall forfeit their membership in the Association.

Revision of Article VII, Section 2:

Change section to: Annual Membership Dues. Annual membership dues for active members, for corresponding members, and for senior members, until they retire from active practice, shall be determined yearly by the Association in its Business Meeting, based upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee as approved by the Executive Council.

These changes were read at the Opening Session and accepted unanimously.

Archivist Daniel S. Rush provided an oral report for the Archives Committee. Materials relating to the 2004 Annual Meeting were (continued on next page)
transferred to the Atlanta History Center. A template for a photographic record of the Annual Meeting has been created. Past Presidents Wheeler, Trout and Archie nominated Dr. Garland D. Perdue, Jr. for the 2005 Rudolph Matas Lifetime Achievement Award and was accepted unanimously by the Executive Council. The award was announced at the Opening Session and a presentation will be made to Dr. Perdue at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

**Budget and Finance Committee** Chairman Richard L. Feinberg, reviewed the finances of the Association over the past year and found them to be in order.

**Representative to the Society for Vascular Surgery** Executive Council Bruce A. Perler noted that a significant amount of SVS reorganization is ongoing. The interface and relationships with the SVS and AVA will become better defined with time.

Considerable discussion concerned the 2004 residency match in Vascular Surgery. There were 23 unfilled positions. Foreign medical graduates comprised one-third of the applicants. It was noted that, while fellowship positions have doubled over the past 15 years, there has been no increase in the number of applicants. Recognizing resident recruitment as a top priority, the SVS will budget funds for 100 general surgery residents to attend the 2005 SVS Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The SVS has been active in CMS coverage, training and credentialing for carotid artery angioplasty and stenting. The SVS has participated in an FDA panel, which provided recommendations to CMS with respect to reimbursement for carotid angioplasty and stenting in the high risk setting. In addition, the SVS will sponsor six cerebral angiography courses in the upcoming year. Dr. Craig Kent is participating in a writing group with The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) regarding a joint publication with the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology (SVMB) regarding training and credentialing for carotid angioplasty and stenting.

The strategic plan of the AVA was presented, which focuses on professional development in basic and clinical research, expanded public outreach, and fund raising. The AVA budget was approved with an operating deficit of $320,000.

The SVS PAC received $29,700 in contributions from 82 members and distributed $40,800 to political campaigns, with a current residual balance of $19,000. The SVS Board approved the hiring of a full-time Washington staff member to support Dr. Zwolak and these PAC activities.

A new vascular surgery society entitled, The International Federation of Vascular Societies, is being organized by SAVS member, Dr. Lazar Greenfield. This new organization will contact the regional vascular societies for input regarding future development.

The SVS commissioned an internal study of the Society’s operations. The study report recommended creation of a media relations infrastructure, the development of a media newsroom at the Annual Meeting, and the expansion of media relations associated with the AVA Screening Program. The SVS Board approved a Director of Communications to implement these recommendations.

**Communications Committee Chairman** and Newsletter Editor William D. Jordan, Jr. provided a written and oral report. There were two editions of the Association’s newsletter published in the past year. The spring edition highlighted the 2004 Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico and reported the minutes from the Business Meeting. The second newsletter, mailed in December, highlighted our plans for the 2005 Annual Meeting. Chairman Jordan recommended that the semi-annual newsletters continue in their current format.

**Government Relations Committee** Chairman and Past President Hugh H. Trout, III noted that there will be a 1.5% increase in Medicare reimbursement for all vascular codes in the upcoming year. He also noted that an increase in technical fee for vascular labs was anticipated. In addition, a Zenith CPT code had been approved. Chairman Trout recognized Dr. Zwolak’s congressional activities to obtain support for an aortic aneurysm screening. A letter from the SAVS to Dr. Zwolak supporting an abdominal aortic aneurysm screening bill was proposed and adopted by the Executive Council.

**Mock Oral Examinations** - Councilor-at-Large Spence M. Taylor provided an oral report on this year’s mock oral board examinations. He noted the contributions of the Chairman of the Research and Resources Committee, Mark R. Jackson. As before, the program directors of each accredited program within our region were notified of a planned mock oral examination in conjunction with our annual meeting. This year, eighteen examiners, with one alternate examiner, volunteered to participate in the program. There were twelve examinees, with one alternate examinee. The pass rate was 66%, with a 33% failure rate. Councilor Taylor graciously agreed to provide oversight for next year’s mock oral examination.

(continued on page 7)
Highlights of the 29th Annual Meeting
January 19-2, 2005
Marco Island Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa / Marco Island, Florida

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE
Kevin G. Burnand, FRCS
St. Thomas Hospital London, England
“Surgery of the Head and Neck Vessels: Is Stenting Going to Put Us Out of Business?”

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Mitchell S. Goldman, M.D.
“On Mentoring Masters and Commanders”

THE S. TIMOTHY STRING PRESIDENT’S AWARD
W. Anthony Lee, M.D. (right)
“Endovascular Repair of Ruptured and Symptomatic AAA: Comparison of Early Results with Open Surgical Repair”

THE 2004 FOUNDER’S AWARD
Shelly L. Bledsoe, M.D. (left)
Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
“The Effects of Pravastatin and Clopidogrel on Intimal Hyperplasia in a Rat Model of Carotid Endarterectomy”. The award was presented by Dr. Randolph L. Geary (right)

Several Past Presidents of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery
THANK YOU to thank the following companies:

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**
- Boston Scientific Vascular
- Cook Incorporated
- W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

**SILVER SPONSORS**
- Cordis Endovascular
- Medtronic, Inc.

**BRONZE SPONSORS**
- Bard Peripheral Vascular
- Vascutek, a Terumo Company

**TELEPHONE SPONSOR**
- InterVascular Inc.

**SPORTING CLAYS SPONSORS**
- Hancock Jaffe Laboratories, Inc.
- InterVascular Inc.

For Support as exhibitors:
- AngioDynamics, Inc.
- Artegraft, Inc.
- Atrium Medical Corp.
- Cordis Endovascular
- Cook, Inc.
- Cordis Endovascular
- CryoLife, Inc.
- Edwards Lifesciences
- Endologix, Inc.
- Foxhollow Technologies
- Hancock Jaffe Laboratories
- Implantable Devices
- Intervascular Inc.
- Le Maitre Vascular, Inc.
- Medtroni, Inc.
- SSI Ultra-Specialty Surgical Instrumentation
- Vascular Architects
- Veinsolutions
- W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

NEW FOR 2005 - MOCK ORALS
To prepare Candidate Members and Vascular Surgery Fellows in training from the SAVS region for the Vascular Surgery Certifying Examination, Mock Oral Examinations were held at the 2005 Annual Meeting, under the organization of Councilor-at-Large, Spence M. Taylor, M.D.

Sporting Event Winners - Congratulations.....

**5K FUN RUN**
- 1st Place Male: Eric Endean
- 1st Place Female: Tammy Goff
- 2nd Place Male: Karthik Kasirajan
- 2nd Place Female: Cora Passman

**SPORTING CLAYS**
- 1st Place: Daniel Fisher
- 2nd Place: Hermann Kaebnick
- Most Improved: Robert Patterson

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**
- 1st Place Foursome: David Rosenthal
- Closest to the Pin: Paul Collins
- Longest Drive: Mark Rheudasil

Dr. Goldman and Dr. Burnand share a dance during the Annual President's Banquet on Saturday evening.
2006 Annual Meeting

The 30th Annual Meeting of The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery will be held January 18-21 at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass, Phoenix, Arizona. Details regarding the meeting and hotel registration information will be mailed in the Fall. We encourage you to make your airline reservations early in order to secure the best possible fares and itinerary to this beautiful resort.

Abstracts

All abstract submission will be on-line at http://savs.vascularweb.org. For additional information please contact the Association’s Administrative Office, 900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 927-8330 / Fax: (978) 524-0498. Submission deadline for abstracts for the 2006 Annual Meeting is September 9, 2005.

Case Reports Accepted for Panel Presentation at the 2005 Annual Meeting

Case Reports will be solicited for panel presentation during the 30th Annual Meeting. In addition to an abstract, a maximum of four images may be submitted for the Program Committee to review. If selected for presentation, a manuscript is optional and will not be required.

S. Timothy String President’s Award

The S. Timothy String President’s Award will recognize the best overall paper presented during the 2006 Annual Meeting. The award consists of $5000 and will be presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico. This paper will also represent The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery during “The Best of the Regionals Session” at the 2006 SVS Annual Meeting.

Founders’ Award

The Founders’ Award is for original clinical or basic science papers presented by a trainee (Residents, Fellows or Students). This award, which consists of $5000, will be presented at the 30th Annual Meeting in Phoenix Arizona. Three copies of an extended abstract (not to exceed 1500 words) should be submitted on-line at http://savs.vascularweb.org. Eligibility is extended to programs located in states comprising the membership of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery.

Post-Graduate Course in Carotid Artery Stenting

Based on the enthusiastic response to last year’s course, a postgraduate course in carotid stenting will be organized by Scott Stevens. Registration will be limited. Please contact the SAVS office at (978) 927-8330 or savs@prri.com for further details.

Mock Oral Board Examinations

Mock oral board examinations will be offered to individuals preparing for the Vascular Surgery Certifying Examination. Examinees should reside in the states comprising the SAVS region. Interested individuals should contact Dr. Spence Taylor at (864) 455-7886.

Guests

Members who wish to invite non-member physicians as their guests should contact the office of Kimberley J. Hansen, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer, The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery, Department of General Surgery, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1095, Telephone: (336) 713-5256, Fax: (336) 716-5414, E-Mail:kjhansen@wfubmc.edu. Invited guests will receive a letter of invitation and the necessary reservation forms, as well as meeting information.

Active, Candidate, and Corresponding Memberships

Deadline for new member application and supporting information is October 1, 2005. Application forms must be requested from the Secretary-Treasurer by the sponsoring member.

Qualifications for Active Membership: 1. The active membership consists of those surgeons recommended by the Executive Council from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, DC; 2. Applicants must be certified by the American Board of Surgery and/or the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, with Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons; 3. Applicants must document at least fifty (50) major peripheral vascular reconstructive procedures in each of the three years preceding application, exclusive of residency and fellowship training; 4) The application must be accompanied by letters of sponsorship (1) and endorsement (2) by three members in good standing of the Association. One of these members must be from the Applicant’s home state.

Qualifications for Candidate Membership: 1. The candidate membership consists of Fellows in approved Vascular Surgery training programs, General Surgery residents accepted into approved Vascular Surgery training programs, or Vascular Surgeons who do not yet meet the requirements for active membership within the region of the SAVS; 2. A letter of sponsorship is required from either the applicant’s Program Director or a member in good standing of the Association from the applicant’s home state; 3. Candidate membership has a maximum term of five years.

Qualifications for Corresponding Membership: 1. Corresponding membership consists of those surgeons residing outside the United States recommended by the Executive Council. 2. Applicants must meet the requirements for Active Membership in Article I, Section 5(a) of the bylaws. 3. Certification in Vascular Surgery from the American Board of Surgery or its equivalent is highly desirable. 4. The application must be accompanied by letter of sponsorship (1) and endorsement (2) by three members in good standing of the Association.

All application materials should then be returned to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Kimberley J. Hansen, M.D., SAVS, Department of General Surgery, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1095.
Membership Committee Report: The Membership Committee met by teleconference on December 23, 2004. Fifteen applicants were reviewed for Active membership and 14 were recommended and accepted for membership.

Program Committee Report: The committee reviewed a total of 115 abstracts submitted for presentation at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Twenty-three abstracts were accepted as free papers to be presented at the scientific session, four abstracts were chosen as case reports for panel discussion, four abstracts were chosen for a special case conference regarding endovascular intervention, and four abstracts were chosen for a special conference regarding basic science research. The endovascular case conference was held on Friday morning at 7:00 a.m. prior to the scientific session and was moderated by Dr. Charles Sternbergh. The special basic science session was held at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and was moderated by Membership Committee Chairman Dr. Keith Ozaki. The special topics session on medical management of vascular disease and integration of vascular medicine in the vascular surgery practice. Program Committee Chairman Dr. Thomas Huber moderated this session, which included presentations from Councilor-at-Large Dr. Samuel Money, Dr. Russell Samson and Councilor-at-Large Dr. Spence Taylor. President Goldman delivered his Presidential Address entitled “On Mentoring Masters and Commanders” on Friday morning. Dr. Kevin G. Burnand from London gave the Distinguished Guest Lecture entitled “Surgery of Head and Neck Vessels: Is Stenting Going to Put Us Out of Business?”

Recorder’s Report: Thirty manuscripts were submitted from the 2004 Annual Meeting to the Journal of Vascular Surgery. Eighteen were accepted for publication and 9 were rejected. Three manuscripts remain under revision. Considering the three manuscripts yet under revision with eventual acceptance, this rate of acceptance better reflects our usual rate of publication from the Annual Meeting.

The 2004 Annual Meeting utilized electronic manuscript submission to the Journal of Vascular Surgery from our Association’s scientific sessions. Recorder Naslund reminded the membership that written invited discussion and discussion from the floor will be returned to the discussants and encouraged their prompt review, revision, and resubmission to facilitate prompt publication.

Research and Resources Committee Report: A post-graduate course in Carotid Angioplasty and Stenting was conducted Wednesday afternoon prior to the Annual Meeting. This course included didactic presentations by members of the Association on Wednesday afternoon and was supplemented with simulator training. The membership has urged the Program Committee to reconsider a second similar post-graduate course at next year’s annual meeting. Chairman Stevens has graciously agreed to coordinate next year’s post-graduate course.

Audit Committee: The members of the Audit Committee, Dr. Donald L. Akers, Jr. and Dr. Karthikeshwar Kasirajan, reviewed the financial information provided to them by the Secretary-Treasurer. Audit Committee member, Dr. Karthikeshwar Kasirajan, found the finances and monies of the Association appropriately accounted for and invested.

Recognition of President Goldman: Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee David Rosenthal recognized President Goldman’s contribution to the SAVS as outgoing President. He presented Dr. Goldman with an inscribed paperweight and plaque. A captain’s chair will be mailed directly to his office to commemorate his contributions.
2005 NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERS
Omran R. Abul-Khoudoud, M.D., Memphis, Tennessee
Frank R. Arko, M.D., Dallas, Texas
William Z. H’Doubler, M.D., Roanoke, Virginia
Tam T. Huynh, M.D., Houston, Texas
Lois A. Killewich, M.D., Galveston, Texas
Alan M. Levy, M.D., Riverdale, Georgia
Daniel T. McDevitt, M.D., Riverdale, Georgia
Nils Peter Neglen, M.D., Flowood, Mississippi
Peter R. Nelson, M.D., Gainesville, Florida
Lewis V. Owens, M.D., Charlottesville, Virginia
Fred W. Rushton, M.D., Jackson, Mississippi
Bauer E. Sumpio, M.D., New Haven, Connecticut
Robert L. Wilson, M.D., Cookeville, Tennessee
M. Burress Welborn, M.D., Huntsville, Alabama

Wantzy Cooper, D.O., Birmingham, Alabama
Victor J. D’Addio, M.D., Dallas, Texas
Hosam F. El Sayed, M.D., Norfolk, Virginia
Dion L. Franga, M.D., Augusta, Georgia
Seth H. Fritcher, M.D., Gainesville, Florida
Oscar H. Grandas, M.D., Knoxville, Tennessee
Susan M. Hancock, M.D., Augusta, Georgia
Tod M. Hanover, M.D., Greenville, South Carolina
Robert W. Heidepriem, M.D., Memphis, Tennessee
Wilmer T. Jones, III, M.D., San Antonio, Texas
Li Sheng Kong, M.D., Atlanta, Georgia
Amy L. Lipscomb, M.D., Knoxville, Tennessee
Douglas P. MacMillan, M.D., Atlanta, Georgia
Ajay P. Patel, M.D., Memphis, Tennessee
Mark A. Patterson, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Ralph B. Pfeiffer, III, M.D., Jackson, Mississippi
Trent L. Prault, M.D., Knoxville, Tennessee
Gilberto C. Russo, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Steven M. Taylor, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Sarat K. Vaddineni, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Franklin S. Yau, M.D., Dallas, Texas

CANDIDATE MEMBERS
Mark P. Androes, M.D., Greenville, South Carolina
Juan Ayerdi, M.D., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Charles W. Bouch, M.D., Gastonia, North Carolina
David C. Cassada, M.D., Knoxville, Virginia

Southern Association for Vascular Surgery
900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915