The 30th annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona was a great success. Attendees were exposed to a superb scientific program while enjoying the amenities of a five-star resort. Meeting highlights included well-balanced plenary sessions and an outstanding postgraduate course on lower extremity endovascular technology. The practice oral examinations were over-subscribed and continue to be a big draw for vascular residents and young surgeons. With the beautiful Arizona desert as a backdrop, the camaraderie of our society was never more evident. The warm days and cool evenings provided a perfect opportunity for members to interact with friends and colleagues. For our next meeting, we will be trading the dry desert air for the warm ocean breezes of Puerto Rico. Planning is already underway to make it educational and enjoyable for the membership and their families.

The past year has witnessed the formal emergence of vascular surgery as an independent discipline. The approval for a primary certificate in vascular surgery represents the crowning achievement in a decade-long evolutionary process, but the cost of change has been high. Our specialty faces many new challenges, and there has never been a more crucial time for unanimity. Graduate medical education has emerged as a top issue in vascular surgery, one that affects our patients as well as our colleagues who are recruiting new partners. Vascular surgeons must ensure that the multiple proposed training pathways lead to an adequate finished product: a surgeon who is proficient in open and endovascular skills and competent to treat all aspects of vascular disease. Many SAVS members are involved in the training of young surgeons and will have a direct influence on this outcome, but the issue will affect everyone. Because of the far-reaching implications for all members of our organization, the issue is certain to be a topic of discussion at our next meeting.

The SAVS remains devoted to its members, and collegiality has always been a main focus. The quality of submitted abstracts, high meeting attendance, and applications for membership attest to the importance of the SAVS as a regional vascular society. However, the real strength of our organization lies in the energy and loyalty of the membership. Excellent educational programs and camaraderie are the hallmarks that make the annual meeting a favorite among SAVS members. I look forward to seeing you in Puerto Rico.
The Annual Business Meeting was called to order on January 21, 2006 at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa, Phoenix, Arizona at 12:17 p.m. by President Blair A. Keagy. The minutes of the 2005 Business Meeting at Marco Island Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, Marco Island, Florida were approved unanimously with revision.

Secretary Treasurer Hansen provided the following summary of the Executive Council meeting on January 18, 2006.

PRRI Meeting Coordinator April Abenilla provided a written and oral report. ACCME Accreditation for the meeting has been secured through the American College of Surgeons. The flow of funds for the various activities supported by our sponsors has been directed through PRRI, Inc. to conform with ACCME requirements. Registration for the meeting: 142 members, 50 guest physicians, 76 spouses/guests and 74 exhibitors, for a total of 192 physicians and a total attendance of 342. Abstract submission was through the SAVS website: 110 abstracts were submitted, reviewed and graded by the Program Committee online.

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

Current membership: 170 active members, 57 candidate members, 229 senior members (103 of whom are retired members) and 22 honorary members. One new honorary member, George F. Sheldon, M.D., will be added this year. Since January 2005, one active member resigned his membership, one senior member retired, and three candidate members forfeited due to relocation out of the region. Nineteen members will advance to senior status at this meeting: 12 will advance in January 2007, and 3 will advance in January 2008. There are currently 12 active members residing out of the geographic area, representing 7.0% of the total active membership, which is within the 10% allowed. Fourteen active members have missed two consecutive meetings; two will be advancing to senior status at this meeting. Seven are pre-registered for this Annual Meeting The remainder were notified they must attend the 2006 Meeting to maintain membership.

Eight active members have missed three consecutive meetings; one will advance to senior status at this meeting. Four are pre-registered for this Meeting and the remainder have been notified that they must attend the 2006 Meeting to maintain membership.

One person elected to membership has failed to attend the Annual Meeting since his election in 2003. He has been notified by the Secretary-Treasurer that failed attendance at three meetings after election to membership will result in forfeiture of his membership.

Thirty-one members have failed to pay their 2006 dues and their memberships will be terminated unless received by March 30, 2006.

As of December 31, 2005, the total financial assets of the Association were $436,145.28, which compares favorably to the $393,082.43 in January 2005. Since 2001, this reflects an increase of approximately $150,000. Past President Seeger and President-Elect Valentine suggested that investment strategies other than a money market account should be explored.

Archivist Daniel S. Rush reported that all of the appropriate published material, award presentations, and photographs from 2005 SAVS Annual Meeting were collected and will be transferred to the Atlanta History Center. Archivist Rush plans to visit the Atlanta History Center this year to work with the AHC Special Collections Staff to organize the SAVS Archives. A project of the Archives Committee is to complete the individual files of the SAVS Founders and Presidents started several years ago by Past President, Dr. Joseph Archie.

Archives materials relating to the founding of the SAVS and its earliest meetings are still incomplete. The Committee requests that Senior Members of the Association consider donating their relevant papers, letters and photos to the SAVS Archives. A major contribution was made by Laird Foster, wife of Founding President Dr. John H. Foster, and their son. Two hundred pages of original documents and correspondence relating to the Founding Meeting of the SAVS in Nashville, Tennessee on January 24, 1976 were located through the efforts of Mrs. Martina Hailey, a secretary in Vascular Surgery at Vanderbilt University.

The 2005 Rudolph Matas Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Past President Garland Perdue by Past President and senior member of the Archives Committee Hugh Trout. The past presidents of the Archives Committee nominated Dr. Calvin B. Ernst for the 2006 Matas Award and this nomination was adopted unanimously by the Executive Council.

Archivist Rush proposed a change in the composition of the SAVS Archives Committee to add a second SAVS member to serve as Co-Chairman to assist with the photographic needs. Appointments of the two SAVS members should be staggered such that the Co-Chairman becomes the Archivist (Chairman) after 2 or 3 years at which time the senior member rotates off and a new member of the Committee is appointed.

SVS Representative Bruce A. Perler reported on the issues being addressed most recently include the relationship of the SVS to the regional vascular societies, the organizational structure of the SVS and its relationship to the American Vascular Association, and a number of clinical practice, educational, and communication initiatives. A strategic planning retreat is scheduled for February to include the presidents of the regional vascular societies.

SVS President Enrico Ascher has made strengthening the relationship between the SVS and the regional societies a major focus. A meeting was held in October with the presidents of the regional societies, their SVS representatives and the Board to identify opportunities for solidifying these relationships. It is the stated goal of President Ascher that such a relationship will allow vascular surgery to speak with a unified voice on issues of common interest and concern to the members of the specialty. It is his hope that this outreach to the regional and local level will encourage applications for membership in the SVS. Specific opportunities for the SVS to strengthen the regional societies included support for educational programs at annual meetings, central management of meeting logistics, and providing benchmarks for meeting expenses. The formal organizational structure of this national/regional relationship was discussed without resolution. While President Ascher suggested that the regional societies become affiliates or chapters of the SVS in a federation structure, there was no enthusiasm for this approach. It was unequivocally communicated that this would not be an attractive structure for the SAVS, a position that was supported unanimously by members of the Executive Council.

The current status and future direction of the AVA has received considerable atten-
tion. During the past fiscal year, there has been a shortfall in meeting fundraising targets by the Association. The von Liebig Foundation has informed the AVA that it will no longer fund the K08 awards after 2007. This has stimulated an assessment of the Public Outreach/PVD Screening component of the AVA organization. This initiative has been extremely successful in carrying out very well attended and highly publicized screening programs in centers throughout the country under the leadership of Dr. William Flinn. This past year 200 centers participated in 40 states and more than 8000 individuals were screened. However, the primary strategic goals and the cost/benefit aspect of this program are being assessed. A number of AVA activities have now been transferred to the oversight of the SVS. This includes the annual NIH Research Initiatives Conference; AVRO, the corporate-clinical research initiative, and the carotid stent/carotid endarterectomy registry, which will now be under the oversight of the SVS Research Council. In addition, the SVS Board approved funding for a third K23 award for 2007, with the expectation that continuation of this award will be dependent upon adequate fundraising by the AVA. It has been recommended that a professional fundraiser be recruited.

The SVS Board voted unanimously to reject thoracic endograft credentialing guidelines document proposed by the Society for Thoracic Surgery, requiring the presence of a cardiothoracic surgeon for the performance of thoracic endografting. The Clinical Practice Council is also working on a number of issues, such as the credentialing of Vascular Centers, coding, and professional liability including definitions and possible regulation of appropriate expert witnesses.

The SVS Board voted to assume management of the UCLA Vascular Review Course, commencing in 2007. The venue will not change. The Endovascular Committee continues to offer a multi-tiered series of endovascular carotid stent courses. A new course on expanded endovascular procedures is being planned.

The SVS Communications Committee has undertaken several initiatives targeting medical students, residents, the primary care physician, and the public. Representing a professional media company, Jill Goodwin and Rick McGuire interviewed a number of SAVS members during our Annual Meeting to create a DVD communicating the attractiveness of a career in vascular surgery. The material will be exhibited at the March 2006 meeting of the American Medical Student Association. A Speakers Bureau will be developed to provide educational talks at the local hospital level under the auspices of the SVS. A public relations “rapid response team” will be developed to provide SVS spokespersons for the media when there is breaking news. The AVA will conduct a screening program at the 2006 AMA meeting.

The Journal of Vascular Surgery continues to be extremely successful, and an important source of financial support for the SVS. Changes for 2006 include an online option for CME credit, introduction of a focused review clinical update section, publishing of author roles for each article, and reviewers of at least six articles in the last three years will receive a summary of their quality of reviews.

Communications Committee Chairman and Newsletter Editor William D. Jordan, Jr. was absent but provided a written report. There were two editions of the Association newsletter published in the past year. The spring edition highlighted the 2005 Annual Meeting in Marco Island and reported the minutes from the Business Meeting. The second newsletter, mailed in late November, highlighted our plans for the 2006 Annual Meeting. This latter newsletter included announcements of our mock oral examination, as well as the post-graduate course in lower extremity intervention. Chairman Jordan recommended that the semi-annual newsletters continue in their current format. In the future, advanced web-based applications for the SAVS website will be assumed by the Recorder of the Association.

Government Relations Committee Chairman and Past President Hugh H. Trout, III noted that screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and is currently in reconciliation. Included in this bill is the elimination of the 4.4% proposed Medicare reduction in physician reimbursement. In 2007, a 30% reduction in the technical component of non-invasive vascular laboratory examination performed in an in-office setting can be expected. Efforts from the vascular surgery community will be required to reverse this proposed decreased reimbursement.

Unfinished business included:

Councilor-at-Large Spence M. Taylor reported on the mock oral board examination - there were 18 examinees, including 4 examinees out of our region; 18 examiners, with one alternate. The pass rate was 62%, with a 38% failure rate. Councilor Taylor will summarize the performance of each individual and provide a summary to both the examinee and the appropriate program director. The merits of the mock oral board program were discussed and it was agreed to continue them on an annual basis. Future oversight will be assumed by the Recorder.

(continued on page 7)
Highlights of the 30th Annual Meeting
January 18-21, 2006
Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa, Phoenix, Arizona

Dr. Spence Taylor, organizer of the 2006 Mock Orals and newly elected SAVS Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Keagy and his family

SAVS President Dr. Blair Keagy and Dr. George Sheldon

Some of the Past Presidents of the SAVS

Mock Orals Examiners 2006

2006 Distinguished Guest Lecturer Dr. George Sheldon
THANK YOU to thank the following companies for their support:

EXHIBITORS
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SSI Ultra Specialty Surgical Instruments Surgical Imaging

5K FUN RUN
1st Place Male: Stuart Harlin

TENNIS TOURNAMENT
1st Place Male: Jim Drougas
1st Place Female: Kathy Parent

SPORTING CLAYS
1st Place: Hermann Kaebnick
2nd Place: Joseph P. Archie, Jr.
1st Place Female: Carol Fogartie

Honorable Mentions:
Randolph L. Geary
Todd F. Early

GOLF TOURNAMENT
1st Place Foursome
Jerry Light
K. Madsden
Kenneth McIntyre
Bauer Sumpio

Closest to the Pin: Julie Bosher & Jan Rubin (tie)

Longest Drive: Ken Madsden

Some of the new SAVS members

2006 Founder's Award Recipient Dr. Venkat Kalapapatapu

President Dr. Jim Valentine, immediate Past-President Dr. Blair Keagy, and President-Elect Dr. Kim Hansen

Past-President Dr. Garland Perdue recipient of the 2006 Rudolph Matas Lifetime Achievement Award
FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Spence M. Taylor, M.D.

2006 Annual Meeting

The 31st Annual Meeting of The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery will be held January 17-20 at the Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort & Spa, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. 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 2007 Annual Meeting is September 8, 2006.

Case Reports Accepted for Panel Presentation at the 2007 Annual Meeting

Case Reports will be solicited for panel presentation during the 31st 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 2007 Annual Meeting. The award consists of $5000 and will be presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Florida. This paper will also represent The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery during “The Best of the Regionals Session” at the 2007 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 31st Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico. 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.

Postgraduate 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. Thomas Huber at (352) 273-5515.

Guests

Members who wish to invite non-member physicians as their guests should contact the office of Spence M. Taylor, MD, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Academic Department of Surgery, 701 Grove Road, Greenville, South Carolina 29605, (864) 455-5795 / staylor2@ghs.org. 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, 2006. 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, Spence M. Taylor, MD, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Academic Department of Surgery, 701 Grove Road, Greenville, South Carolina 29605.
The Program Committee met in September and reviewed a total of 110 abstracts submitted for presentation at the 2006 Annual Meeting. This included 29 abstracts submitted for case reports and 75 abstracts submitted as free papers. Twenty-three abstracts were accepted as free papers, four abstracts were chosen as case reports for panel discussion and four abstracts were chosen as endovascular case reports and were presented early Friday morning prior to the scientific session and moderated by Dr. Alan Lumsden. A special topics session concerning AV access for hemodialysis was held on Saturday morning and moderated by Dr. Thomas Huber. Chairman Sykes noted that the program also included President Blair Keagy’s Presidential Address entitled “Gunfight at the OK Corral or Murder Near the OK Corral - What Actually Happened” and the Distinguished Guest Lecture given by George F. Sheldon, M.D., “Vascular Manpower Issues in the 21st Century”.

The Research and Resources Committee reviewed the six abstracts submitted for the 2006 Founders’ Award and chose the paper entitled, “Toradol Effects on Post-Operative Intimal Hyperplasia In A Rat Carotid Endarterectomy Model” by Venkat R. Kalapatapu, M.D. from the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and the University of Missouri-Rolla. Chairman Stevens presented Dr. Kalapatapu with a plaque and a $5000 cash award.

Recorder Thomas C. Naslund reported that from the 29th Annual Meeting in Marco Island, Florida, 31 manuscripts were submitted to the Journal of Vascular Surgery. Twenty-three (23) were accepted with six (6) rejected and two (2) are still listed under revision. The acceptance rate is 74%, above the customary rate of acceptance.

The S. Timothy String Presidential Award recipient was Dr. Mark A. Farber from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for his paper entitled, “Endovascular Repair of Lesions Involving the Descending Thoracic Aorta.” This paper was presented as part of the “Best of the Regionals” session at the SVS Annual Meeting in June 2005 in Chicago.

Chairman of the Committee on Research and Resources Scott L. Stevens reviewed this year’s post-graduate course dealing with percutaneous lower extremity revascularization with carotid artery update. More than fifty members and guest physicians participated in the didactic lectures that were accompanied by benchtop experience in both mechanical thrombectomy and catheter-based athrectomy. In addition, Boston Scientific made available a simulator suite for renal, iliac, lower extremity, and carotid simulation instruction. The benchtop and simulator experience was conducted with the assistance of both Active and Candidate members. Chairman Stevens recruited the Candidate members that participated in the Mock Oral Board Examination for assistance in hands-on experience.

Chairman Stevens recommended that the post-graduate course continue on a yearly basis, with a topic to be chosen during the meeting of the Executive Council in June. This suggestion was accepted by the Executive Council.

Audit Committee: The members of the Audit Committee reviewed the financial information provided to them by Secretary-Treasurer Hansen and found the finances and monies of the Association appropriately accounted for and invested.

Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee James M. Seeger recognized President Keagy’s contribution to the SAVS as outgoing President. He presented Dr. Keagy with an inscribed paperweight and plaque. A captain’s chair was mailed directly to Dr. Keagy’s office to commemorate his contributions.

Dr. Keagy recognized Secretary-Treasurer Hansen’s contribution to the SAVS with a plaque and expressed his appreciation for the privilege to serve the Association.

UPCOMING SAVS ANNUAL MEETINGS

JANUARY 17-20, 2007
The Westin Rio Mar Beach Resort and Spa
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

JANUARY 16-19, 2008
The Ritz Carlton Resort
Naples, Florida

2006-2007 Committees

Archives Committee
Daniel S. Rush, M.D., Archivist
Joseph P. Archie, Jr., M.D.
David Rosenthal, M.D.
James M. Seeger, M.D.

Budget and Finance Committee
Ali F. AbuRahma, M.D., Chair
Ryan T. Hagino
Marc A. Passman, M.D.

Committee on Research & Resources
Scott L. Stevens, M.D., Chair
Randolph L. Geary, M.D.
George H. Meier, III, M.D.
Mohammed M. Moursi, M.D.
W. Charles Sternbergh, III, M.D.

Communications Committee
Stuart I. Myers, M.D., Chair

Constitution & By-Laws Committee
Robert B. Smith, III, M.D., Chair
Spence M. Taylor, M.D.

Government Relations Committee
Hugh H. Trout, III, M.D., Chair

Local Arrangements Committee
Daniel F. Fisher, Jr., M.D., Chair

Membership Committee
Eric D. Endean, M.D., Chair
Frank L. Arko
Mark A. Farber, M.D.
Spence M. Taylor, M.D.

Program Committee
Michael B. Freeman, M.D., Chair
Thomas S. Huber, M.D.
William A. Marston, M.D.
J. Gregory Modrall, M.D.
Spence M. Taylor, M.D.

Resource Development Committee
Alan B. Lumsden, M.D., Chair
2006 NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Julie A. Freischlag, M.D., Baltimore, Maryland
John W. Hallett, M.D., Charleston, South Carolina
John A. Hupp, M.D., Annapolis, Maryland
Stephen G. Lalka, M.D., Charlotte, North Carolina
Daniel F. Neuzil, M.D., Seattle, Washington
Mark W. Shelton, M.D., Nashville, Tennessee
Cynthia K. Shortell, M.D., Durham, North Carolina
William P. Shutze, M.D., Dallas, Texas
Eric Daniel Wellons, M.D., Atlanta, Georgia
Jonathan D. Woody, M.D., Athens, Georgia
John W. York, M.D., Greenville, South Carolina

CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP

Grady D. Alsabrook, M.D., Cincinnati, Ohio
Eyal Ben-Arie, M.D., Atlanta, Georgia
Harshal S. Broker, M.D., Dallas, Texas
Bill K. Chang, M.D., Nashville, Tennessee
Matthew A. Corriere, M.D., Nashville, Tennessee
Jason S. Dew, M.D., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
JimBob Faulk, M.D., Nashville, Tennessee
Robert J. Feezor, M.D., Gainesville, Florida
Paul S. Fleser, M.D., Nashville, Tennessee
Dwight C. Kellicut, III, M.D., Greenville, South Carolina
Christopher J. LeSar, M.D., Chattanooga, Tennessee
Kian Mostafavi, M.D., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Deepak G. Nair, M.D., Atlanta, Georgia
Jeffrey D. Pearce, M.D., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Eric K. Peden, M.D., Houston, Texas
Christopher W. Pollock, M.D., Knoxville, Tennessee
Maureen K. Sheehan, M.D., San Antonio, Texas
Stephen T. Smith, M.D., Dallas, Texas
John K. Thompson, M.D., Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Carlos H. Timaran, M.D., Dallas, Texas
Russell Van Husen, M.D., Little Rock, Arkansas

Deadline for new member application and supporting information is October 1, 2006. Application forms must be requested from the Secretary-Treasurer by the sponsoring member. Please see page Page 6 - From the Secretary-Treasurer for additional details on SAVS Membership.