FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 31st Annual Meeting in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico was one of our Association’s best. Attendance was outstanding, as were the plenary papers, special sessions, and postgraduate course. These successes were coordinated by our hardworking Secretary-Treasurer Spence Taylor and the efforts of Program Committee Chair Mike Freeman, Research and Resources Committee Chair Scott Stevens, and Recorder Tom Huber. The quality of these programs was balanced beautifully by the warm weather and social activities each evening.

Several years ago, efforts to involve our young colleagues beginning their careers in Vascular Surgery included the creation of a Candidate members group and practice oral examinations. The intent of these efforts is to introduce young Vascular Surgeons to the benefits of our Association and its Annual Meeting. The quality of presentations, both plenary and special session, combined with the collegiality of our social activities, is unmatched by any other vascular society. Through the efforts of Secretary-Treasurer Taylor and Resource Development Chair Sam Money, our treasury, unlike most other regional societies, allows for the support of these activities and the young Vascular Surgeons involved. In so doing, we continue the long held SAVS tradition of embracing the young Vascular Surgeons of the future and welcome them on the path to Active membership. These young men and women are the future of our Association and our specialty.

Next year’s Annual Meeting will convene at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Naples, Florida, January 16 through 19. Plans for another outstanding meeting are well underway. Please make your arrangements to attend at this beautiful “gateway to the Everglades”. I look forward to seeing you in Naples.

Kimberley J. Hansen, M.D.
Southern Association for Vascular Surgery

Highlights of the 31st Annual Business Meeting / January 20, 2007 / Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

The Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 11:55 a.m. at the Westin Rio Mar Beach Golf Resort & Spa, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico with President R. James Valentine presiding. The minutes from the 2006 Annual Business Meeting at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa, Phoenix, Arizona were approved unanimously without revision as written in the spring newsletter.

Secretary-Treasurer Taylor provided the following summary of the Executive Council meeting held on January 17, 2007:

The minutes from the Executive Council Meeting of June 1, 2006 held at the Marriott Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania were approved.

April Abenilla, Meeting Coordinator from PR/RI, Inc., reported that once again the 2007 meeting entertained abstracts through electronic submission and received 173 abstracts. The Program Committee met in Atlanta, Georgia on October 2, 2006.

The final registration numbers for the meeting are as follows: 132 members, 10 candidate members, 26 guest physicians, 24 nomenon presenting authors, 10 residents, 14 allied health/misc, and 86 spouse/guests for total attendance of 302. In addition 43 exhibit personnel attended. The total physician count was 216. This compares favorably to the 191 physicians who actually attended the Annual Meeting in 2006 in Phoenix and exceeds the total number who attended the 2006 Annual Meeting (259 total).

This year, we have attained pledges from industry of over $140,000 (our budget was $95,000). This favorable response is attributed to the outstanding work of Resource Development Committee Chair Samuel Money. Dr. Money was able to secure a new Platinum Sponsor in Abbott Vascular and elevate the sponsorship of Cook, Inc. to the Platinum level. Other Platinum Sponsors include Boston Scientific Vascular and W.L. Gore and Associates. Medtronic is participating as a Silver Sponsor. Cordis Endovascular is participating as a Bronze Sponsor and Vascutek is sponsoring The Founders Award. There were 14 other industry sponsors participating at the meeting with exhibits.

The 2008 Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 16-19, 2008 at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples, Florida. The 2009 Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 14-17, 2009 at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona. Based on the current pattern of the Association, the 2010 meeting is scheduled to be "off-shore." Meeting Coordinator Abenilla presented three hotel properties for consideration: The Fairmont South Hampton, Bermuda, Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach, Cancun, Mexico, and The Sheraton Hacienda del Mar Resort & Spa, Cabo del Sol, Los Cabos. After much discussion, consensus on a location was not obtained. Ms. Abenilla was instructed to look at locations on Grand Cayman Island and in Nassau. The Executive Council instructed President-Elect Hansen and Secretary Taylor to work with Ms Abenilla to secure a meeting site prior to the June Executive Council meeting.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the current membership stands at 159 active members and 69 candidate members, with 248 senior members (100 of whom are retired members) and 23 honorary members. One new honorary member, Gregorio A. Sicard, M.D., was added this year. Since January 2006, 3 active members resigned their membership, one senior member retired, 3 senior members and 1 active member died, and three candidate members forfeited membership due to relocation out of the Association’s region. Thirteen members will advance to senior status at this meeting; 3 will advance in January 2008, and 11 will advance in January 2009. There are currently 10 active members residing out of the geographic area, representing 6.0% of the total active membership, which is within the 10% allowed by the Constitution and By-Laws.

Nineteen active members have missed two consecutive meetings; 3 will be advancing to senior status at this meeting. Eleven are pre-registered for this Annual Meeting and the remainder have been notified by the Secretary-Treasurer that they must attend the 2007 Annual Meeting to maintain their membership.

The membership observed a moment of silence for our deceased members:

Jose Alvarez, M.D., Miami, Florida
Holt McDowell, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Michael Rudko, M.D., Fayetteville, Arkansas
Gardner Smith, M.D., Deer Isle, Maine

Seventeen members have failed to pay their 2007 dues despite several reminders from the Secretary-Treasurer and their memberships will be terminated unless they pay their dues by March 30, 2007.

As of December 31, 2006, asset in the treasury included: $355,654.22 in a money market checking account at Wachovia Bank and Trust, N.A., $185,832.16 in an account held by PR/RI, Inc., and $2,840.05 in a Scudder investment account. Therefore, the total financial assets of the Association were $554,326.43, which compares favorably to the $445,472.00 in January 2006. Secretary Taylor reported that there has been an annual trend where the treasury in the past five years has increased by approximately $70,000 a year. Financial strategies were discussed.

Secretary-Treasurer Taylor reviewed the need for two bylaws changes. The first is a change to Article I, Section 5b. This section defines the number of Honorary Members allowed in the organization. It states that there will be a limit of 25 living Honorary Members. Currently there are 23 living honorary members. In order to accommodate growth, a bylaws change will be proposed to raise the total number of Honorary Members to 50. The second bylaws change is needed for Article III, Section 7. This section addresses the appointed position of representative to the national vascular society. In the bylaws, the name of the national society, as written, is the American Association for Vascular Surgery. Of course, the national society name has been changed to The Society for Vascular Surgery. The proposed bylaws change will change the name accordingly.

Archivist Dan Rush reported that the archives have been bolstered by numerous donations over the last year. Archivist Rush extended his thanks. This year the Rudolph Matas Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented in absentia to Dr. Calvin B. Ernst. Archives Committee Chair Joe Archie informed the membership that G. Melville Williams of Baltimore, Maryland will be honored with the Rudolph Matas Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Naples, Florida.

Archivist Rush has agreed to serve as Archivist until 2009. He will

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be succeeded by Communications Committee Chair Stuart Myers. At that time a new Communications Committee Chair will be named.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair AbuRahma reported his committee has reviewed all contracts and budgets which were supplied by Secretary-Treasurer Taylor. The financial health of the Association is good.

Representative to the SVS, Bruce Perler, was present and gave a detailed report. His report was based on the Executive Council meetings of the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) held in June, 2006 in conjunction with their annual meeting and in October 2006 at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress Meeting. To summarize, the SVS continues to pursue an aggressive course towards advocacy, influence of health policy, education, research, quality, and marketing as it pertains to branding vascular surgeons.

The Membership Committee of the SVS has addressed the issue of criteria for membership. The Committee proposed changes consistent with becoming more inclusive. Due to lack of consensus on the Board, the matter has been tabled pending further discussion.

There has been considerable discussion with respect to participation of the SVS in the generation and publication of evidence-based practice guidelines manuscripts. To date these manuscripts have been produced by other sub specialists who speak for our specialty. The SVS is moving forward with plans to produce its own consensus clinical practice guideline manuscripts.

The Communications Committee of the SVS has continued to actively pursue the initiative of branding vascular surgery; i.e., establishing vascular surgeons as leaders in the field of peripheral vascular disease and the only practitioners to provide the entire spectrum of vascular care. They have retained the services of a public relations firm, L.C. Williams and Associates to assist with this.

The SVS continues to work at the level of government to address the proposed reductions in reimbursement that will affect vascular surgeons. Energy has been specifically expended to address the 30% proposed reduction in the technical component of the revenues rewarded to free-standing vascular laboratories.

The SVS continues to market the vascular registry for capturing outcomes of carotid stenting and other cases. They continue to work closely with CMS on this initiative. It is the goal of the organization to be viewed by CMS as the organization responsible for vascular interventional outcomes.

The SVS through the International Relations Committee continues to pursue greater international involvement. There is a proposal to develop a World Federation of Vascular Societies in which the SVS will participate. In this regard, the Haimovici Endowment will provide funding for three international physicians to attend the Annual Meeting.

The 2007 Annual Meeting will be in Baltimore. Future meetings will be in San Diego, Denver, and Boston for 2008, 2009, and 2010, respectively.

The Journal of Vascular Surgery continues to thrive. The Journal is the major contributor of the SVS annual operating budget, anticipated to be $4.7 million for fiscal year 2007. Representative Perler informed us that the SVS plans to increase its annual dues by $100 and will increase the Annual Meeting registration by $100 as well.

Communications Committee Chair Myers reported that the state of the newsletter, which is managed by PR/RI, was satisfactory.

In the absence of Resources Development Committee Chair Money, Secretary-Treasurer Taylor reported Dr. Money has raised in excess of $140,000 in pledges from vascular industrial vendors for the Annual Meeting. President Valentine commended Chairman Money for his outstanding service.

Government Relations Committee Chair and Past President Trout reported that the finances of medicine in Washington remain a concern. He forecasts a tumultuous future.

As new business, Past President Blair Keagy informed the group of several developments after attending the American College of Surgeons meeting in the fall. He gave an update on the Advisory Assembly of Vascular Societies. In summary, the SVS desires to continue to reach out to the regional societies. Past President Keagy informed us that a faction of the SVS membership strongly desires making the pursuit of an independent Board of Vascular Surgery the main objective of the SVS.

Past President Keagy has also been approached by members of industry soliciting assistance from our Association to petition CMS for funding of specific technology CPT codes. After much discussion, it was decided that the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery should probably limit, at this time, pursuing a mission of advocacy, and should probably leave this to our proactive national society, the SVS.

Secretary-Treasurer Taylor, who was instructed by the Executive Council in June to work with our management company, PR/RI, Inc., to develop a long-term contract, reported that a contract had been drafted. The terms of the contract were discussed. In short, PR/RI will continue its current level of service which includes management of the meeting and the mock oral boards. The contract covers the 2007, 2008, and the 2009 meeting and does not cover the expense of the newsletter, the roster registry, the web site and the cost of industrial sponsorship recruitment. It was the recommendation of Secretary Treasurer Taylor to accept the contract. The Executive Council voted unanimously to accept the contract.

Secretary-Treasurer Taylor informed the Executive Council that the SVS has made several requests over the year to attain the roster of The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery. After discussion the Council unanimously voted not to submit the roster to the SVS.

There being no further business, the Executive Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

At the completion of the Secretary-Treasurer’s report, President Valentine asked, and received, a motion for approval. New member Julie A. Freischlag informed the membership that a foundation has been established at the Johns Hopkins University for Dr. Gardner Smith, our recently deceased member. Members wanting to contribute to the foundation should contact her. Following this addition, the Secretary-Treasurer’s report was unanimously approved.

Program Committee Report: Program Committee Chair Freeman was present and provided an oral report. He reported that this year’s program had been highly competitive with 173 abstracts submitted for the open program, roughly half being case reports. In addition, 33 papers were submitted for the Founders’ Award. Therefore, there were 206 abstracts overall, making this one of the largest submissions in recent history. Thirty-six abstracts were accepted for an overall acceptance rate of 17%. Prior to the meeting, one abstract was withdrawn and had to be replaced. Another was removed by the Program Committee after publication of the identical manuscript by the same authors in the October edition of the Journal of Vascular Surgery.

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Mock Orals Held

The SAVS once again offered Mock Oral Board Examinations during this year’s Annual Meeting. The format included three half hour sessions and was based on that used for the actual Certifying Examination. The Mock Orals welcomed any current Vascular Surgery Residents from the programs comprising the geographic regions of the SAVS. Additionally, any recent graduates from the same programs that have not completed the requirements for Board Certification were welcome to participate.
2008 ANNUAL MEETING

The 32nd Annual Meeting of The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery will be held January 16-19 at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Florida. 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 2008 Annual Meeting is September 7, 2007.

Case Reports Accepted for Panel Presentation at the 2008 Annual Meeting

Case Reports will be solicited for panel presentation during the 32nd 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 2008 Annual Meeting. The award consists of $5000 and will be presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Arizona.

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 32nd Annual Meeting in Florida. Eligibility is extended to programs located in states comprising the membership of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery.

Postgraduate Course on a Current Vascular Topic

A postgraduate course will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 and will feature a current vascular topic to be decided. Registration will be limited. Please contact the SAVS office at (978) 927-8330 or www.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, 2007. 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 S. Timothy String Presidential Award was presented to Matthew A. Corriere, M.D. from Vanderbilt University for his paper presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting entitled “Risk Factors and Angiographic Technical Considerations to Guide Carotid Intervention”. This year The Founders’ Award Paper was presented by Eric C. Scott, M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, Virginia and was entitled “Subintimal Angioplasty for the Treatment of Claudication and Critical Limb Ischemia: Three-Year Results”.

Our program this year included the Honored Guest Lecture by Dr. Gregorio Sicard entitled “Evidence Based Medicine and Its Impact on Vascular Surgery”. It also included President Valentine’s Presidential Address entitled “Mind the Gap”.

**Recorder’s Report:** Recorder Thomas Huber was present and reported that, 32 out of a possible 37 manuscripts from the 2006 Annual Meeting were submitted to the Journal of Vascular Surgery. To date 63% have been accepted and 13% are in review. Our Association continues to enjoy one of the highest regional society acceptance rates to the Journal.

Recorder Huber reported that 18 fellows and young vascular surgeons participated in the Mock Oral Board examination at this Annual Meeting. He expressed thanks to the 18 examiners who administered the examination. He also reported that the examination continues to increase in popularity. This popularity was enhanced this year by W.L. Gore and Associates, who provided a grant to the Association of $1000 for each vascular fellow who participated in the examination. These grants will be disseminated back to the home programs by the Secretary-Treasurer to help offset the cost of travel and meeting accommodations. The Gore Company also sponsored a reception for participants of the examination the night before the test. Recorder Huber expressed his appreciation to the W.L. Gore Company for their assistance.

In order to help prioritize potential examinees for the Mock Oral Board examination in the future, consideration will be given first to Candidate Member second-year fellows, followed by Candidate Member first-year fellows, followed by any other Candidate Member, followed by second-year fellow non-Candidate Members, followed by first-year fellow non-Candidate Members.

**Resource and Research Committee:** Resource and Research Committee Chair Stevens was present and reported that he had presided over our annual Post Graduate Course which was devoted to thoracic endovascular stent grafting. Attendance was excellent and the quality outstanding. Chairman Stevens thanked The Council for its support. President Valentine commended Chairman Stevens for his outstanding service.

**Audit Committee:** The audit committee, named at the beginning of the Annual Meeting by President Valentine, consisted of Robert P. Winter of Maitland, Florida, Mark R. Jackson of Greenville, South Carolina and M. Burress Welborn of Huntsville, Alabama. Committee Chairman Winter reported that the Committee had met with Secretary-Treasurer Taylor to review the Association’s finances. The Committee concurred with the audit report from Jennings Cook & Co., CPA’s, PA of Greenville, South Carolina, that the financial status of the Association is healthy, with all matters of finance having been transacted in good-faith and in an ethical manner.

**Unfinished Business:** President Valentine read the bylaws changes before the membership as presented earlier in the meeting by Secretary-Treasurer Taylor. A motion for approval was asked for and received. Both bylaws changes were unanimously approved as written. President Valentine instructed Secretary-Treasurer Taylor to amend the bylaws accordingly. There was no other unfinished business.

**New Business:** Audit Committee Chairman Rob Winter officially invited the membership of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery to attend the annual meeting of the Florida Vascular Society to be held May 6-9, 2007 in St. Petersburg, Florida. There was no other new business.

**Recognition of President Valentine:** Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee Stanley O. Snyder recognized President Valentine’s contributions to the SAVS as outgoing president. He presented President Valentine with an inscribed paper weight and plaque. A captain’s chair was mailed directly to Dr. Valentine’s office to commemorate his presidency.
2007 NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP
Matthew S. Edwards, M.D., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Ross Milner, M.D., Atlanta, Georgia
Marc E. Mitchell, M.D., Jackson, Mississippi
Stephen J. Motew, M.D., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Frank M. Parker, D.O., Greenville, North Carolina
Mark A. Patterson, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Geoffrey L. Risley, M.D., Jacksonville, Florida
Albert D. Sam, M.D., Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Murray L. Shames, M.D., Tampa, Florida

CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP
Paul A. Armstrong, D.O., Tampa, Florida
Carlos F. Bechara, M.D., Houston, Texas
Robert S. Brumberg, D.O., Tampa, Florida
Charlie Cheng, M.D., Houston, Texas
Teresa A. Crutchley, M.D., Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Charles S. Joels, M.D., Greenville, South Carolina
Michael H. Lebow, M.D., Knoxville, Tennessee
Paul M. Schumacher, M.D., Nashville, Tennessee
Ehab E. Sorial, M.D., Lexington, Kentucky
Patrick A. Stone, M.D., Tampa, Florida
Britt H. Tonnesen, M.D., New Orleans, Louisiana
Andrea E. Yancey, M.D., Louisville, Kentucky

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
Gregorio A. Sicard, M.D., St. Louis, Missouri

Deadline for new member application and supporting information is October 1, 2007. 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.