The 37th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery (SAVS) at the Atlantis was another resounding success. The quality of the academic program, the educational opportunities and the fellowship were all spectacular as one would expect given the overall quality of our organization. The attendance was very good and rivaled the largest registration from past years. The Atlantis resort did a nice job and a special recognition is due to the Local Arrangements Chairman, Jacob Robison, and our management organization, PRRI, for their attention to the overwhelming number of details required to assure that the meeting and all of the associated activities ran smoothly. The Mock Oral Examinations continue to be an integral part of the meeting and the organization’s commitment to the education of our trainees. A total of 28 Examinees participated in the exercise and a comparable number of Examiners graciously dedicated their time and expertise. It is worth emphasizing that this is the largest number of Examinees that has ever participated.

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Southern Association for Vascular Surgery

Highlights of the 37th Annual Business Meeting / January 26, 2013 / Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas

The Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 11:24 a.m. at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas with President Spence Taylor presiding. The minutes from the 2012 Annual Business Meeting at the Hyatt Regency at Gainey Ranch, Scottsdale, Arizona were approved unanimously without revision as written online in the spring newsletter.

As directed in Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution and Bylaws, Secretary-Treasurer Endean submitted the following report of the Executive Council meeting held on January 23, 2013 to the membership:

The Executive Council of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order on Wednesday, January 23rd at 4:04 p.m. with President Spence Taylor presiding. The minutes from the Executive Council Meeting held on June 7, 2012 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland were approved.

PRRI Report

April Conti, Meeting Manager from PR/RI, Inc., presented a written and oral report. The 2013 meeting entertained abstracts through electronic submission and received 147 total abstracts by the August 31st deadline and the Program Committee was able to review and score on-line. The Committee met via phone conference on September 26th and selected the program.

As of January 15, 2013, there were 124 members, 30 candidate members, 35 guest physicians, 34 non-member presenting authors, 14 residents, 5 allied health, and 105 spouse/guests pre-registered for a total of 347 pre-registrants. 55% of the attendees registered on-line. There were 61 exhibit display personnel pre-registered. The contracted room block at the Atlantis includes 1,172 room nights. On January 9th we had picked up 1,229 room nights and thus do not anticipate a problem with room attrition.

This year, the Association attained pledges from industry of $93,000. This year represents continued success for corporate sponsorship for the Association. Platinum sponsors include Cook, Inc and W.L. Gore and Associates ($30,000 each). Other contributors include Medtronic ($15,000), Endologix, Inc. ($10,000), Vascutek ($5,000) and Atrium ($3,000).

The 38th Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 15-18, 2014 at the Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida. We have a guaranteed room rate of $355.00 single/double occupancy. The 39th Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 14-17, 2015 at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, AZ. We have a guaranteed room rate of $289.00 single/double occupancy.

The Council discussed options for the 40th Annual Meeting which, based on the current pattern, will be off-shore. After discussion, the Council instructed April Conti to investigate venues in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Los Cabos, Mexico. A detailed report will be presented to the Council at the June Executive Council meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Secretary-Treasurer Endean gave a written and oral report. The current membership stands at 173 active members and 68 candidate members, with 281 senior members (123 of whom are retired) and 26 honorary members. One new honorary member, George Andros, will be added this year.

Secretary-Treasurer Endean read the names of members who had passed away during the past year: William Holloway of Greenwood, SC, Harold Harrison of Bartow, GA, and Hal Urschel of Dallas, TX. President Taylor asked the membership to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of these members.

Since January 2012, no active member has resigned his membership and 2 senior members retired. Fourteen members will advance to senior status at this meeting; 9 will advance in January 2014 and 13 will advance in January 2015.

There are 13 active members currently residing out of the geographic area, representing 7.5% of the total active membership, which is within the 10% allowed by the Constitution and By-laws.

Thirty-one active members have missed two consecutive meetings; 2 will be advancing to senior status at this meeting. Fourteen are pre-registered for this Annual Meeting and the remainder have been notified by the Secretary-Treasurer that they must attend the 2014 Annual Meeting to maintain their membership.

Eight active members have missed three consecutive meetings; one will advance to senior status at this meeting; four are pre-registered for this Annual Meeting and the remainder have been notified by the Secretary-Treasurer that they must attend the 2014 Annual Meeting to maintain their membership.

Two members have missed four consecutive meetings, one is pre-registered and following final registration, the second member will be notified of pending membership termination if he does not attend. One request has been made for an excused absence from the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Thirty-two members have failed to pay their 2013 dues despite several reminders from the Secretary-Treasurer. The trend for dues payments by credit cards has increased to 19.4% (55 of 283 payments) for 2012.

As of December 31, 2012, the total financial assets in the treasury were: $807,958.95. This compares favorably to $735,867.82 in the treasury as of December 2011. Treasurer’s fund: $609,108 ($111,010 Central Bank checking; $108,427 Jesse Thompson Educational Endowment CD; and $389,671 Money Market); PR/RI Inc. Account: $198,851.

Of note: $139,000 was transferred from the PR/RI Account in June 2012 to the interest-bearing Money Market account. Interest earned for calendar year 2012 was $2,775.00 from the Money Market Account ($671) and the Jesse Thompson CD ($2,105).

The Council passed a motion authorizing the Secretary-Treasurer to transfer funds to a money market account.

Local Arrangements Committee

Local Arrangements Committee Chair Jacob Robison was present and provided a written and oral report. This year’s meeting continues to offer the 5K run, Women’s Tennis, Golf Tournament, and Men’s Tennis. Sporting clays was not done at this meeting. As was done in the past meeting, Event Captains were assigned for the Association activities.

(continued on next page)
Annual Business Meeting (continued from previous page)

Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report

Constitution and By-Laws Committee Chair Mitch Goldman was present. He stated that the Constitution and By-Laws were revised last year and there was nothing new to report.

Archives Committee Report

Archivist Myers was present and gave an oral report. As is customary, the Association donated $1000 to the Atlanta History Center for the excellent work that they have done managing the Association’s archives. President Taylor stated that he has recently sent material to the Atlanta History Center including files of the founding members, files of the past-presidents, the original checkbook, and the original sign-in book. Secretary-Treasurer Endean will work with the Archives Committee chair to make sure that all appropriate materials are submitted to the Atlanta History Center for recent years.

Budget Committee Report

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Nancy Harthun was present and gave an oral and written report. The current (as of the end of calendar 2012) monetary assets of the Society total $807,958.95. This represents an increase of $72,091.13 or 10% from December 31, 2011.

The 37th annual meeting is projected to lose $58,000 which had been reviewed and approved by the executive council.

Due to the financial health of the Association an increase in membership fees was not recommended.

Report of Representative to the SVS Executive Council

Representative Stevens was present and gave an oral and written report. The SVS is growing and strong. The total assets of the SVS are $13,536,027, with revenue of $7,147,646 and an operational surplus of $8,504 predicted for fiscal year 2014. Membership has increased to 4,018, making the SVS the largest and most respected vascular surgical society in the world. There are now 266 international members from 39 countries and five international chapters in Brazil, Columbia, Egypt, Hungary, and India.

The president of the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery reported to the SVS Board that there are a total of 40 programs for 0+5 and 104 programs for 5+2. Once again, the Integrated Vascular Residency was listed as one of the most competitive fields for medical student applicants. The Integrated Vascular Surgery Match had 35 participating programs, and 41 positions were offered. US seniors filled 92.7% of the slots. Since 2007, the number of total applicants has steadily increased. This year, 90% of the 117 certified fellowship positions were filled. Between 2007 and 2012, the percent of females in vascular surgery training has increased to 23% in integrated residencies. This represents a 40% increase from 2007, and this residency program now ranks as the 13th largest for female residents out of all specialties. Four new integrated programs were approved in 2012.

There has been discussion between the Society of Thoracic Surgery and the SVS regarding the development of a combined training program to establish a pathway for education, training, certification, and credentialing in both vascular and cardiothoracic surgery. These discussions were initiated from the thoracic side. Although skeptical, the members of the SVS Board have agreed to discuss the topic of implementing an interdisciplinary workforce to determine whether or not to move forward.

In an update from the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Mills reported that interventional radiology has resubmitted a Primary Certificate application. The ABS asked the SVS to comment; the SVS communicated concerns that this would have a negative impact on patient care.

The SVS has been an active leader in the TASCIII project and instituted important changes for the new edition. These changes require that independent professional organizations, not individuals, lead the TASCIII effort and that an independent steering committee provide oversight and direction for the planning, development, and dissemination of guidelines.

Based on attendee evaluations, the Program Committee will make changes for the Vascular Annual Meeting in San Francisco, including simulation, an international forum, and a joint aortic course to be offered in collaboration with the STS and the AATS. Also being planned for the next meeting is more content of interest to community surgeons and content related to the Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI). This year, a $50 fee increase will be implemented for the annual meeting and additional fees to attend the postgraduate courses.

Two hundred and three centers now participate in VQI, with 18 new sites having been added during the fourth quarter of 2012. Every month, 3,500 procedures are entered, and the current total is 69,000 procedures. Updates include new modules for IVC filter, amputation, and risk-adjusted reports.

The Governing Council of the Vascular Quality Initiative recently negotiated in collaboration with the American Venous Forum (AVF). A new Venous Quality Committee has been created to develop venous data forms for venous outcomes reporting and benchmarking. The data points created for the first venous module on IVC filters are nearly complete, and the module will be showcased at the annual AVF meeting in February. Two additional modules will be developed for percutaneous mechanical thrombectomy and venous stenting. Also, the American Venous Registry will be deconstructed and incorporated into the VQI. New regional groups are being developed in addition to the existing 13 regional groups.

Sean Roddy reported to the SVS Board on government relations’ activities. Key points include delineation of principles for replacement of the SGR formula for surgeons, development of elements for a more cost-effective physician payment system, and proposal of alternative payment demonstration projects. A letter from the SVS to Honorable Dave Camp, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, outlined critical positions for the SVS, stating that the most important role for our society is to encourage and facilitate quality and efficiency for its members in their daily practice.

Sean Roddy also outlined important coding changes for the 2013 cycle. New bundled codes will include foreign body retrieval, carotid artery imaging, and endovascular thrombolysis infusion. Carotid endarterectomy and AV access thrombectomy have been identified as high expenditure procedures by CMS and will receive a RUC screen in 2014. Also scheduled for 2014 is the bundling of all remaining endovascular stent codes, all embolization therapies, and fenestrated graft placement. Of positive note was that bilateral extremity venous ultrasound, bilateral lower extremities arterial scan, and unilateral arterial scan were approved for higher RVU values as compared to those of 2012.

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The third edition of the SVS coding manual is due for release this month. It remains web-based and uses an interactive system that allows for updates mid-year as needed. This year, it will feature year-to-year comparisons, and it will remain downloadable for offline use.

The International Relations Committee of the SVS plans to host four international scholars from Serbia, Sweden, Greece, and Scotland. The committee has developed an International Forum Session at the 2013 Vascular Annual Meeting and will publish an International Relations supplement in the February JVS, 2013. A clear priority for the SVS leadership is to expand international collaborations.

The SVS Board approved the FY2014 budget that will include JVS-Venous and Lymphatic Disorders as a member benefit. It also includes monies for developing an online CME-tracking function for members, a health policy consultant, a mobile app for VascularWeb, two additional trainees for ICD-10, and the development of an IDE protocol for endograft modifications. Due to financial constraints, funding will be discontinued for the online Learning Management System portal, additional interviews for the vascular history project, and self-assessment for the 2013 VAM. The $80,000 vascular branding campaign for selected U.S. airports has been stalled and will be resumed if funding becomes available. The main sources of revenue for the SVS include publications, the Annual Meeting, and membership dues, while the main expense for the SVS is the Annual Meeting.

The SVS Foundation continues to support vascular disease research. More than $250,000 was presented to leaders for vascular research at the 2012 Annual Meeting. This funding covers clinical seed grants that support pilot projects with the potential for growth into larger fundable studies; a clinical studies planning grant; medical student and resident awards; and partner grants with the NIH to vascular surgeon scientists in the early stages of their careers. This year, a new $100,000 Multicenter Clinical Studies Planning Grant was awarded. The primary sources of revenue to the Foundation are industry, society, and individual contributions.

The SVS Political Action Committee (PAC) continued to gain access to Congressional members who serve on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. All contributions are used for campaign donations. The PAC goals are to prevent Medicare pay cuts, secure positive physician payment reform, repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board, and prevent additional cuts to non-invasive vascular studies.

The SVS Research Council continued to focus on increasing the role of vascular surgery in research and overseeing the clinical research activities of the SVS. The Council has implemented initiatives that increase the emphasis on clinical research without reducing the longstanding commitment to basic science research and career development. These include publication of the SVS priorities in clinical research, the SVS Foundation Multicenter Clinical Studies Planning Grant, the SVS Clinical Research Study Approval Program, and the SVS Foundation Clinical Research Seed Grants. Other activities under the direction of the Council include comparative effectiveness research, research partnership with the American Podiatric Medical Association, and the annual Vascular Research Initiatives Conference.

The SVS Outcomes Committee evaluates the outcomes in terms of advances in vascular therapy. Current priorities for the committee include collaboration with the FDA, the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), and the Society of Thoracic Surgery to evaluate the safety of thoracic endografts to treat acute, Type B aortic dissections. Also, the SVS is collaborating with the FDA and the Society of Interventional Radiology to evaluate the safety of retrievable IVC filters. This collaborative work related to IVC filters is based on efforts to address the concerns made by the FDA in 2010 related to filter, migration, embolization, fracture, and perforation. The FDA communicated that a 522 Post Market Surveillance study order will be issued if convincing data is not provided demonstrating safety and efficacy for IVC filters. A 522 order would essentially eliminate CMS payment for any IVC filter not placed under study conditions.

In order to provide real-world data on IVC filters, an IVC Filter Task Force with representation from the FDA, AHRQ, CMS, NIH, and IVC filters manufacturers has been developed, and a pre-IDE protocol titled “Predicting the Safety and Effectiveness of Inferior Vena Cava Filters (PRESEVERE)” has been submitted. To date, five IVC filter manufacturers have committed to participate in the PRESEVERE protocol. These manufacturers will be responsible for funding the trial.

Highlights from the SVS Community Practice Committee include a completed member survey and forthcoming publication supporting outpatient endovascular centers, a published memo on VascularWeb titled “Negotiating a Compensation Plan”, a session at the 2013 Annual Meeting called “Economics 101 – Achieving Balance Between Practice Expenses, Income and Future Employment Options”, and a publication in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, “Work, Effort, Productivity, and Compensation Trends in Members of the Society of Vascular Surgery”.

The 2012 AAMC data, reporting 2,853 active vascular surgeons in the United States, indicates the importance of an increase in the number of vascular surgeons. The document also calculates one active vascular surgeon per 115,564 people, the largest ratio of all medical specialties. Although the integrated residency program has improved the shortage, 39.8% of vascular surgeons are over the age of 55, and our population is aging, thus exacerbating the problem. The SVS Board voted to approve expansion of the candidate membership category of the SVS to include general surgery residents and medical students. This bylaws amendment will be forwarded for approval at the 2013 SVS Business Meeting.

Ongoing activities of the SVS Education Council include the annual spring and fall Coding and Reimbursement Courses, the Vascular Research Initiatives Conference in cooperation with the Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology Council of the American Heart Association, the Vascular Annual Meeting, Postgraduate Courses, the Comprehensive Vascular Review Course, the Vascular Education and Self-Assessment Program (VESAP2), the JVS Online CME Program, the JVS Manuscript Reviewer Program, and ACCME reaccreditation.

In 2012, 1,723 manuscripts were submitted to the Journal of Vascular Surgery. This represents a 6% increase from the number of manuscripts submitted in 2011. The most frequent submissions are clinical series (41%), followed by case reports (27%), basic science studies (7%), and vascular images (5%). The journal has become an international instrument within this field. Only 36% of the submissions this year originated from the United States, and 49% of submissions were from Asia and Europe. In 2012, the Editorial Office manuscript processing time was approximately 11 weeks. The overall

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Annual Business Meeting (continued from previous page)

acceptance rate was 40%, compared to 46% in 2008. The leading acceptance rate was from the SAVS at 75%, followed by the NESVS and the SVS at 71% and 69%, respectively. The Impact Factor for JVS in 2012 was 3.21. This is down from 3.85 last year, which was the highest Impact Factor earned in the 27-year history of the JVS. The JVS continues to be ranked #1 among all vascular surgery journals.

Communications Committee Report

Communications Committee Chair Maureen Sheehan was present and gave an oral and written report. The semiannual newsletter was sent in both the spring and the fall. The current newsletter as well as the archived newsletters can also be accessed through the SAVS website.

Government Relations Committee Report

Government Relations Committee Chair Hugh Trout was not present and no report was given.

Old/Unfinished Business

President Taylor informed the Council that Dr. George Andros who had been scheduled to give the Jesse Thompson, MD, Distinguished Guest Lecture was unable to attend due to a serious family illness. Dr. Joseph Mills, who originally introduced Dr. Andros to President Taylor, has graciously agreed to give the Distinguished lecture. President Taylor asked the Council to consider giving honorary membership to Dr. Andros, despite his inability to present the lecture. A motion was made to bestow honorary membership to Dr. George Andros at this meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

1. Request for financial support: The council discussed how to respond to potential requests for financial support. Such potential causes include support of the Vascular Quality Initiative and a competency-based curriculum being developed by the Vascular Board called V-SCORE. The Council recommended that the Association’s mission to education direct such decisions as they come up. No action was needed.

2. Industry request: President Taylor informed the council that a request had been made by an industry to video one of the podium presentations. This request was denied by both President Taylor and Secretary-Treasurer Endean. The Council affirmed that the scientific presentations are for the members and guests and therefore should not be videoed.

3. President Taylor suggested that the Association fund the expense of bringing the Secretary-Treasurer’s staff assistant to the annual meeting to assist with the meeting. A motion was made to fund the staff assistant’s attendance during the first year that the Secretary-Treasurer is in office as well as at the end of the term. This was to apply retroactively to President Taylor’s staff assistant. The motion was approved.

4. CME provider: Secretary-Treasurer Endean informed the Council that the Association plans to use a for-profit CME provider (Ciné-Med) at the 2014 annual meeting. While this will represent a small increase in cost, it is expected that it will facilitate the Association’s ability to secure CME credits.

With all business completed, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57.
Program Committee Report

Program Committee Chair Marc Mitchell was present and gave a report. A total of 146 abstracts were submitted for consideration by the program committee. This number compares favorably to last year, and to other years when the meeting was held off shore. The program committee consists of: Marc Mitchell, Muhammad Moursi, Gene Langan, Matt Edwards, Rick Endean, and President Spence Taylor. The mean score of all the abstracts reviewed was 3.16 (scale 1 – 5). Of the 146 abstracts, 6 were submitted for consideration for the Founders Award and 15 were submitted as videos. Video presentations are a new category, which was added for this year’s meeting.

A total of 48 abstracts were selected for presentation. The breakdown is as follows: 19 free papers; 4 videos; 4 basic science papers; 4 open case reports; 4 endovascular case reports; 1 Founders Award paper; and 12 posters.

The program committee considered both the score of the abstracts as well as content when putting together the program. An effort was made to ensure the program was balanced and that all areas of vascular surgery were represented on the program.

The program committee also included videos in this year’s program. Considering this was the first year videos were solicited, we feel the response from the membership was quite good. The quality of the videos was excellent, and we believe the inclusion of videos will enhance the program. Any paper receiving a score of greater than 3, which was not selected for the main program, was offered a spot on the program as a poster. A total of 12 accepted that offer, and there will be a moderated poster session at this year’s meeting. This is also a new session for the meeting.

Recorder’s Report

Recorder Edwards was present and provided a report. As of January 20, 2013 a total of 32/41 possible manuscripts were submitted for publication to the Journal of Vascular Surgery from the 2012 SAVS Annual Meeting. Notably, 20/23 of the Free Papers have been submitted. One of the papers was not submitted due to extreme health circumstances. Personal communications have occurred with the authors of the remaining manuscripts. Two of the Four Basic Science presentations were submitted to the Journal as manuscripts for review as were eight of the twelve Case Reports. Of note, all of the presentations from the Dialysis special session were submitted to the Journal in manuscript form for review.

As of January 20th, 72% of the manuscripts with an editorial decision were accepted for publication including 78% of the Free Papers. Two free paper submissions and one case report were still in varying stages of the editorial process on January 20th. Dr. Eid’s Presidential Address, the Founders’ award paper from the Ochsner clinic and the Timothy String President’s Award paper from Duke University were all accepted for publication. Four free paper submissions, three case report submissions, and one basic science submission were rejected by the Journal of Vascular Surgery following complete review. A complete breakdown of the various submissions is provided in the table at the end of this report.

All Invited Discussions and Authors’ Responses were transcribed, collected, edited, and submitted. I would like to thank my support staff (Ms. Wendy Reedy and Mrs. Johnnie Gentry) and Ms. Crystal Gilliam from the Editorial Office of the Journal for her assistance in transcribing, collating, tracking, and processing all of the submissions.

The winner of the 2013 Founder’s Award was Dr. Megan Carroll from the University of South Florida (senior author Paul Armstrong) for her paper entitled “Improved procedural, hemodynamic, and late clinical outcomes using intravascular ultrasound anatomic guidance during carotid artery stent angioplasty.” The 2013 S. Timothy String President’s Award for the outstanding paper at our annual meeting will be selected after review of the manuscripts corresponding to the best presentations from this meeting as indentified by a Committee comprised of President-elect Tom Huber, Program Committee Chair-man Marc Mitchell, Secretary Eric Endean and myself. We anticipate having that decision finalized within the next 6-8 weeks.

Earlier today, a total of 28 Examinees took the Mock Oral Examinations with an overall pass rate of 46%. This represents a 50% increase in examinees over the 2012 Mock Oral process. We again utilized the updated VSB scoring guidelines and provided immediate post exam one-on-one feedback from the examiner teams for the examinees regarding their examination performance. An itemized breakdown of the individual results will be sent to each of the Examinees and their respective Program Directors as well as a detailed summary of their performance on the examination.

The Mock Oral Examinations will again be given at the 2014 Annual Meeting. With the generous support of W.L. Gore, and with further discussion of the Council, we will determine if we should limit the examinee pool to 24 or potentially increase to 30 to keep up with the demand for the examination each of the past two years. We will continue to update the excellent examination materials assembled by Drs. Naslund and Huber and encourage any member with high quality case materials or images to please send them to me at medwards@wakehealth.edu for inclusion. Letters of invitation for the 2014 Mock Orals will be sent out to the Program Directors in the geographic regions represented by the SAVS and to all appropriate Candidate Members and/or Vascular Surgical Fellows. Anyone interested in participating as an Examiner should contact me.

I would like to again formally thank Mr. Jeff Wiggins and Mr. Mel Loftis from W. L. Gore for providing an expanded pool of scholarships to offset the Examinees travel expenses and for their continued support in 2014. Furthermore, I would like to formally thank the Examiners that participated in the exercise to allow us to examine all of the fellows who attended. Clearly, the exercise would not have been possible without their efforts.

The content of the SAVS website has been updated and all the links searched to confirm that the information is accurate. The website is being actively managed by PRRI.

Continuing Medical Education Committee

Dr. Minion, Chairman of the Continuing Medical Education Committee was present and gave a report. This year’s Post Graduate Course was entitled “New Horizons: A Review of the Latest Technol-
Annual Business Meeting (continued from previous page)

ogy, Hot Topics, and Controversies in Vascular Surgery.” The course involved 33 outstanding faculty and included the following seven sessions: Session I: Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency; Session II: Venous Thromboembolism; Session III: Renal Therapies; Session IV: Aortic Technologies; Session V: Updates On Other Technologies; Session VI: Aortic Dissections; and Session VII: Miscellaneous New Technologies.

The topics of interest were selected from surveys of the membership and selected for presentation based on their clinical importance and applicability to problems typically encountered by the practicing clinician, or likely to be encountered based on evolving trends in our field.

The presentations were uniformly excellent and our faculty should be commended for their efforts. The course is only a success because of their hard work, expertise, and willingness to participate.

Next year’s Post Graduate Course topic will be discussed at the June meeting of the Executive Council. As always, the topic will be strongly influenced by the needs assessment portion of the post-meeting survey.

President Taylor Commended Dr. Minion for his hard work and for developing such an excellent program.

Audit Committee

The audit committee, named at the beginning of the Annual Meeting by President Taylor, consisted of Fred Rushton (Chairman) of Jackson, MS, Andrea Yancey of Louisville, KY, and Carlos Timaran of Dallas, TX. Committee Chairman Rushton reported that after review of the Association’s financial statements, all was found to be in order.

Special Recognition

President Taylor next recognized and commended Councilor-at-Large J. Gregory Modrall of Dallas, TX for his three years of service. A plaque commemorating his efforts will be sent to Dr. Modrall.

Unfinished Business

President Taylor called for Unfinished Business and entertained none.

New Business

President Taylor called for New Business. Dr. Julie Freischlag rose to point out that the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery is the only regional society that does not contribute to the SVS PAC. She asked that the Executive Council consider a yearly donation. She also asked that the membership identify and encourage women to join the membership. Dr. Ali AbuRahma rose to inform the membership that the Executive Council consider a yearly donation. She also asked that the membership identify and encourage women to join the membership. She also asked that the Executive Council consider a yearly donation. She also asked that the membership identify and encourage women to join the membership.

There were no further nominations from the floor. President Taylor asked for a motion of approval and the slate was unanimously approved by the membership. Chairman Perler and President Taylor then installed Thomas Huber as the 37th President of The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery and passed him the Matas and Nashville gavels. President-elect Huber graciously accepted his role as President and expressed his thanks for the honor of serving. He recognized the contributions of President Taylor.

President Huber announced the following committee appointments for 2011-2012:

Budget and Finance Committee
Richard F. Neville (Chairman), Ali Azizzadeh, Mell Burress Welborn, III

Constitution and By-Laws Committee:
Mitchell H. Goldman, Eric D. Endean

Government Relations Committee:
Hugh H. Trout, III, Leila Mureebe

Archivist: Maureen K. Sheehan

Local Arrangements Committee:
Robert J. Feezor

Membership Committee:
Peter H. Lin (Chairman), L. Richard Sprouse II, John E. Rectenwald, Eric D. Endean

Program Committee:
Mohammed M. Moursi (Chairman), Eugene M. Langan III, Scott A. Berceli, Eric D. Endean

Continuing Medical Education Committee:
Gregory J. Pearl (Chairman), David L. Cull, Geoffrey L. Risley, Eric D. Endean

Communications Committee:
Ravi K. Veeraswamy (Chairman)

Respectfully submitted,
Eric D. Endean, MD, Secretary-Treasurer
THANK YOU to the following companies for their support:

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**
- Cook Medical
- W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

**SILVER SPONSOR**
- Medtronic

**MARKETING SUPPORT**
- Endologix, Inc.

**FOUNDERS’ AWARD SPONSOR**
- Vascutek, A Terumo Company

**CORPORATE LEVEL**
- Atrium Medical

**EXHIBITORS**
- Artegaft, Inc.
- Bolton Medical Inc.
- Boston Scientific
- Cardiovascular Systems, Inc.
- Cook Medical
- Covidien
- Endologix, Inc.
- Gore & Associates
- Implantable Devices
- Lemaitre Vascular
- Lifeline Vascular Access
- M2s, Inc.
- Medtronic Cardiovascular
- Natural Molecular Testing Corporation
- Pikeville Medical Center, Inc.
- Sanofi BioSurgery
- Terumo Cardiovascular Systems
- Trivascular, Inc.
- Vascular Flow Technologies, Inc.

**SPORTING EVENT WINNERS**

**5k RUN**
- 1st Place Female: Courtney Abedi (27:15)
- 1st Place Male: Gurpreet Gil (23:43)

**TENNIS TOURNAMENT**
- 1st Place Female: Barbara Rushton

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**
- 1st Place Foursome: S. Harlan, C. LeCoy, M. Zakutney, D. Martin
- Closest to the Pin: Stanley Crawford
- Longest Drive: Graham Buckner
FROM THE SECRETARY / TREASURER

Eric D. Endean, M.D.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The 38th Annual Meeting of The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery will be held January 15 – 18, 2014 at The Breakers, in Palm Beach, 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.

Abstracts

All abstract submissions will be on-line at http://savs.vascularweb.org. For additional information please contact the Association’s Administrative Office, 500 Cummings Center, Suite 4550, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 927-8330 / Fax: (978) 524-0498. Submission deadline for abstracts for the 2014 Annual Meeting is Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

Case Reports Accepted for Panel Presentation at the 2014 Annual Meeting

Case Reports will be solicited for panel presentation during the 38th 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 2013 Annual Meeting. The award consists of $5000 and will be presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, AZ.

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 38th Annual Meeting in Palm Beach. 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 15, 2014 and will feature a current vascular topic to be decided. 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. Matthew Edwards at (336) 713-5256 or medwards@wfubmc.edu.

Guests

Members who wish to invite non-member physicians as their guests should contact the office of Eric D. Endean, MD, Department of Surgery, University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, 800 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40536-0293, (859) 323-63466x243 / edende0@uky.edu. Invited guests will receive a letter of invitation and the necessary reservation forms, as well as meeting information.

Active, Candidate, and Corresponding Memberships

If you wish to sponsor a colleague for SAVS Membership, an application form 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 have been in practice for three years, be certified by the American Board of Surgery (ABS) and/or the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, with Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons, and, with rare exception, be graduated from an approved vascular surgery training program and be certified by the Vascular Surgery Board of the ABS;
3. Applicants not certified by the Vascular Surgery Board of the ABS 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 following completion of training.

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. Application materials should then be returned to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Eric D. Endean, MD, Department of Surgery, University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, 800 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40536-0293, (859) 323-63466x243 / edende0@uky.edu
in the exercise and the appropriate credit should be given to our Recorder Matt Edwards for his impressive efforts. David Minion and the Continuing Medical Education Committee did a wonderful job with the Post Graduate Course, focusing on controversies in our discipline. The depth and breadth of the presentations were spectacular and a special recognition should also be given to the numerous presenters. The Post Graduate Course has evolved over the past several years and the logistics and complexity of the effort parallel that of the plenary session.

The Scientific Sessions again included a wide range of topics encompassing both the clinical and basic sciences. This year Marc Mitchell and the Program Committee introduced a new Poster Session and video presentations. Both of these were well received and, importantly, gave the membership another opportunity to share their quality work at the annual meeting. It is no surprise that the SAVS continues to have one of the highest publication rates in the Journal of Vascular Surgery for papers submitted from the annual meeting. Two of the highlights of the scientific program were the Founders’ Award Paper entitled “Improved Procedural Hemodynamic, and Late Clinical Outcomes Using Intravascular Ultrasound Anatomic Guidance During Carotid Artery Stent-Angioplasty” by Megan Carroll and the Presidents’ Award winning paper by Peter Nelson entitled “Percutaneous Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair (PEVAR): Results from the First Prospective, Multicenter Randomized Trial”. Unfortunately, the invited Jesse E. Thompson Distinguished Guest Lecturer, George Andros, was unable to attend the meeting, but Joe Mills did a wonderful job filling in while reviewing the classification of vascular disease form Linnaeus to Rutherford. My own personal highlight of the meeting was Spence Taylor’s Presidential Address entitled “Vascular Surgery, Self Awareness, and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville”. Spence documented the impressive task of starting a medical school, but more importantly detailed his personal journal from “leading from the front” to “shepherding” a group of talented individuals with a common goal. I look forward to reading the final text in the Journal and highly recommend it to the membership.

The whole meeting was a nice testament to Spence and a formal recognition of his commitment to our organization over the past half decade in his role as Secretary-Treasurer and President.

The future or our organization is incredibly bright. We are financially sound, the membership roster is nearly full, and, most importantly, both the membership and leadership are committed to our ongoing success and maintaining the collegiality and fellowship emblematic of our group. A remarkable total of 22 individuals were approved for membership at the annual meeting upon the recommendation of the Membership Committee. We are incredibly fortunate to have Rick Endean “shepherding” our collective mission as the current Secretary-Treasurer and our future has been entrusted to Ali AbuRahma as the President-elect, Cynthia Shortell as Councilor, Jeb Hallet as our Representative to the SVS, and Scott Berceli as the next member of the Program Committee among other new appointments. Our next annual meeting will be held January 15 – 18, 2014 at the Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida and efforts have already been initiated by Mo Moursi and the Program Committee to assure that the meeting will be the best ever. The Breakers is an absolutely spectacular venue and I am hopeful that the weather will cooperate. I would encourage everyone to continue to submit your best work to the meeting and circle the September 3 abstract deadline on your calendar.

It has been an overwhelming pleasure to serve as the President of the SAVS and I am both honored and humbled by the privilege. The SAVS is my favorite organization and the annual meeting is the highlight of my academic year. The leadership is committed to maintaining the integrity and level of excellence that has defined our group. However, it is important to recognize that it is “our” organization and I would challenge the membership to bring forward your best ideas and suggestions so that we can continue to evolve and remain the preeminent regional society.

Regards,
Tom
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS/VIDEOS

DEADLINE: Tuesday, September 3, 2013, 11:59 p.m. EDT
Go to www.savs.org for further information and to submit your abstracts.

Abstracts can be submitted as a:
• Free Paper
• Case Report
• Video

Abstracts are limited to 500 words unless being submitted for the Founders’ Award, which allows for an extended abstract of no more than 1,500 words.

VIDEO SUBMISSION
If submitting a video, you MUST submit an abstract via the abstract submission site. All submissions must include an abstract with a maximum of 500 words. Videos may not exceed 5 minutes in length. Complete submission guidelines can be found online at www.savs.org.

RESIDENT POSTER COMPETITION
For abstracts to be considered as a part of the Resident Poster Competition, the author must meet all of the following criteria:
1. The author is a Resident at the time of submission.
2. The Resident must be the first author on the paper.
3. The author will be present at the 38th Annual Meeting should the paper be accepted.
Any abstracts accepted as a participant in the Resident Poster Competition will be eligible for cash prizes.

Abstracts not selected for the Resident Poster Competition Presentation are still eligible for inclusion within the general scientific program. Only one abstract submission is necessary.

ABSTRACT AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

■ S. TIMOTHY STRING PRESIDENT’S AWARD
The 2014 award will consist of $5,000 and will be presented at the 39th Annual Meeting, January 14-17, 2015, at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Eligibility
Eligibility for this award includes ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS. The President’s Award Committee will choose the best overall manuscript from those presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting. To be eligible for the award, an abstract must be accepted by the Program Committee for presentation during the Scientific Sessions. A manuscript, suitable for publication in the Journal of Vascular Surgery, is required at the time of presentation. Someone other than the member may present the accepted paper, but the member must close the discussion. The quality of the presentation and discussion are major considerations for the award.

Manuscript
The content of the manuscript must represent original work relating to clinical material, clinical research, or basic investigation on peripheral arterial, venous or lymphatic disease. The material must not have been presented, submitted, or published elsewhere. The manuscript should be prepared according to the Journal of Vascular Surgery guidelines.

■ FOUNDERS’ AWARD
The 2014 award will consist of $5,000 and will be presented at this year’s meeting in Palm Beach, Florida.

Submission Guidelines
An Extended Abstract not to exceed 1,500 words, representing original research on a basic science or clinical vascular subject should be submitted by a Trainee (student, resident or fellow) currently in a program located in one of the states comprising the membership of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery.
The material must concern peripheral arterial, venous or lymphatic disease and must not have been presented, submitted or published elsewhere. A manuscript suitable for publication in the Journal of Vascular Surgery will be required at the time of presentation. Judging will be based on the quality of the extended abstract and the submitting author will be notified prior to this year’s meeting.

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