

**The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery  
Minutes of the Business Meeting  
Saturday, January 11, 2020  
Ponce de Leon 4, Breakers  
Palm Beach, FL**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order at 11:50 AM with President Charles Sternbergh presiding.

The minutes for the 2019 Annual Business Meeting at the Boca Raton Hotel, Boca Raton, as written in the Spring Newsletter were approved without dissent

### **Secretary-Treasurer Report of the Executive Council**

The Executive Council of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order on **Wednesday, January 9, 2020** at 401 PM with President W. Charles Sternberg presiding. The minutes from the Executive Council meeting held at the Gaylord Resort in National Harbor, MD from June 2019 were approved.

#### **PR/RI Report:**

Attached is a summary of registration figures for the past thirty-four years (Attachment A) and a financial report for this Annual Meeting (Attachment B)

#### **Registration**

As of January 3, we had 145 members, 38 candidate members, 20 guest physicians, 39 non-member presenting authors, 44 residents, 8 allied health, and 67 spouse/guests pre-register for a total of **361 pre-registrants**. Since January 3 our registration increased to **406** registrations (22 on-sites). We now have 153 members, 42 candidate members, 23 guest physicians, 43 non-member presenting authors, 46 residents, 8 allied health, and 90 spouse/guests. This is RECORD attendance with a close second to last year's meeting.

In addition we have **46 exhibit personnel** (21 companies one being complimentary) pre-registered. The Registration Desk opened this morning and will remain open through Saturday morning.

#### **Hotel Contract**

The contracted room block at The Breakers was **977** sleeping room nights. On January 3 we had picked up **1,071** room nights. We obviously do not anticipate any attrition problems for 2020. Attached is a summary of the hotel pick up versus the block from 2000 to 2020 (Attachment C).

## Development

This year we have successfully generated unrestricted educational grants for meeting support and marketing support as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Boston Scientific	\$10,000	\$10,000
Cook Incorporated	\$20,000	\$25,000
Endologix, Inc.	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Medtronic	\$20,000	\$20,000
Punumbra	\$ 3,000	\$ 0
Terumo Aortic	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
W.L. Gore & Associates	<u>\$30,000</u>	<u>\$30,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$93,000</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>

## Exhibits

We have obtained contracts from 21 companies (*1 complimentary*) to exhibit at this year's meeting vs the budgeted amount of 24 companies. It is important that members of the Executive Council make every effort to visit the exhibit area to visit the following companies:

Abbott Vascular	Olympia Pharmaceuticals
Angio Advancements	Osborn Medical Corporation
Artegraft, Inc.	Medtronic *
BD	Olympia Pharmaceuticals
Boston Scientific	Osborn Medical Corporation
Cook Medical	Shockwave Medical
Cordis Corporation	Silk Road Medical
Cryolife Inc.	Terumo Cardiovascular Group
Digisonics	Vascular Quality Initiative/SVS PSO (comp
Endologix, Inc.*	W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc
Getinge	

\* *Waiting on executed agreements*

## FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

### 2021: ARIZONA

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be **January 27-30, 2021** at **The Westin Kierland** in Scottsdale, Arizona. We have a guaranteed room rate of **\$319.00** single/double occupancy night plus 12.27% state and local taxes bringing the rate to **\$358.14** per night.

### 2022: Puerto Rico

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was contracted for **January 26-29, 2019** at the **El Conquistador** in Las Croabas, Puerto Rico. Unfortunately we had to **CANCEL** the contract with the El Conquistador under the force majeure clause without any penalty as the hotel and meeting space is still not up and running. The Council agreed to explore the options at another Puerto Rico resort – Rio Mar.

## **2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be Florida. The hotel will be determined at a later date.

### **Secretary-Treasurer Report on Membership and Finance:**

#### **Current Membership:**

348 active members

186 of whom are senior members

159 retired members

150 candidate members (9 candidate members “converted” to active members in last 5 years)

22 honorary members

9 members will advance to senior status in January after the 2020 Annual Meeting.

The membership Committee will be recommending 15-18 members (17-20% female) for active membership (11 of whom were previous candidate members) and 40 candidate members.

#### **Geography:**

There are 38 active members currently residing out of the geographic area of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery, representing 10.9% of the total active membership, slightly above the 10% allowed by the Constitution and Bylaws. The bylaws change to 15% recommended by the EC will be presented for vote at the business meeting.

#### **Missed Meetings:**

Thirty-six (36) active junior members have missed two or more consecutive meetings. They were notified that they must attend the 2020 Annual Meeting to maintain their membership. Sixteen (16) of these active members are currently registered or plan to register for the conference, eight (8) members have requested excused absences, and twelve (12) have not responded.

The Council considered the request of 8 members who asked for an excused absence and granted the requests. Further efforts will continue to clarify the status of the other non-responding members

#### **Necrology:**

Three senior members died during the last year: William H. Edwards, Sr., William S. Houck, and John A. Mannick. The members stood and observed a moment of silence.

**Treasury:**

As of December 31, 2019, the total financial assets of the Association were: **\$702,564.60**

Treasurer's Fund:     \$434,445.87 Wells Fargo Checking (December 31, 2019)  
                              \$145,922.22 TD Bank Checking (November 30,2019)  
                              \$121,796.51 Jesse Thompson CD (April 2019)

The total Association assets last year were \$64,922 more but this not reflect the additional December meeting revenue. TD account was \$103,793.48 more in December 2018

This compares to:

\$514,339.61 on April 30, 2019  
**\$767, 486.91 on December 31, 2018**  
\$535,953.57 on April 30, 2018  
**\$712,91.25 on December 31, 2017**  
\$563,550.62 on March 31, 2017.  
**\$589,035.54 on December 31, 2016**  
**\$523,602.30 on April 30, 2016**

**Local Arrangements Committee:**

Local Arrangements Committee Chair Dillavou was present and provided an oral and written report. Working with April Abinella, arrangements were made for a 5K run (Thursday morning 630), Women's Tennis (Thursday 10 am), Men's Tennis (Friday 1 pm), and Golf Tournament (Friday afternoon). Welcome reception is planned for Wednesday, Cocktail reception for Thursday; and Presidents banquet on Friday.

**Archives Committee Report:**

Chair Moore was absent and did not provide a report.

**Budget Committee Report:**

Budget Committee Chair Malas was absent and did not provide a report

**Communications Committee Report:**

Ravi Veeraswamy, Chair of the Communications Committee was present and provided a written report. The written newsletter continues to be sent out in the Spring and the Fall. Content designed by PRRI and edited by the communications committee, the Secretary and the President.

As of January 2, 2020, we follow 28 other accounts (25 last year). We have 450 followers (211 last year) so the growth is positive. Kim Kardashian has 59, 300,000 followers.

Our top tweet was announcing the new officers with over 3300 impressions.

**Representative to SVS Executive Council:**

Representative Freeman was present and provided an oral and verbal report. The SVS Board of Directors Strategic Meeting was recently held in New York on November 20, 2019. This report summarizes highlights of this meeting focusing particularly on those relevant to the Southern Association and its members.

1. Regional Vascular Society Representatives and SVS Leadership Meeting
2. Vascular Care Verification and Quality Improvement Programs
3. SVS PSO/VQI update – 620 active sites
4. Branding Campaign for Vascular Surgery – including a marketing plan
5. SVS Valuation Study – a consulting firm has been engaged to provide data
6. Wellness Task Force-Peer Support Update
7. Educational Council Update – plans for skills course at SVS headquarters
8. Financial report – the SVS remains financially sound with a 2% operating margin

#### **Government Relations Committee Report:**

Chair Tracci was present and provided an oral and written report. She reported on several important issues that are pending for 2020.

1. Physician Payment
2. Reducing Physician Administrative Burden
3. Surprise billing
4. Regulatory Response for Proposed Rules
5. Participation in Alternative Payment Models (APMs)
6. GME workforce, including debt repayment for trainees

#### **Ad Hoc Diversity Committee Report:**

Chair Shortell was absent but provided a written report. The SAVS Diversity Committee met via phone conference call on December 10, 2019. This report outlines the recommendations of the committee that were brought forward from that meeting.

The meeting was initiated by introduction of Secretary-Treasurer Jordan who reminded the attendees of the committee's formation by President Dr. Sam Money in 2016 with the charge of optimizing diversity and inclusion in our society. Dr. Jordan then presented statistics acquired by the SAVS in response to questions previously posed by this committee.

SAVS Applicant Summary Data			
Year	Total Applicants	Female	
2016	14	1	7%
2017	9	4	44%
2018*	13	5	38%
2019	26	6	23%
2020	18	3	17%

The attendees also discussed the importance of focusing on our candidate members as a resource for diversifying our society.

The meeting adjourned with Dr. Shortell praising the work of the committee and the commitment of our society to enhancing the diversity of our society and its members, and expressing her pride in our society.

### Ad Hoc Committee for Student and Resident Scholarships:

Committee Chair Sheahan was present and provided a written and oral report.

The SAVS has annually awarded a total of ten \$1,000 travel scholarships for medical students and general surgery residents to attend the annual meeting. The scholarship grant is funded by W.L. Gore through the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery. To be eligible, applicants must be either a medical student (years 1-3) or general surgery resident (PGY 1-3) interested in vascular surgery and able to attend the meeting for a minimum of three days. For the 2020 meeting, 28 completed applications were received and the following recipients were selected:

Last Name	First Name		
Elder	Craig	Resident	U. Florida
Sundaram	Saranya	Med Student	U. South Florida
Rooney	Emma	Resident	Emory
Parker	Michael	Med Student	INOVA
Mize	Brandi	Med Student	Arkansas
Panchal	Ramola	Resident	U Mississippi
Watson	Jacob	Med Student	UT Houston
Johnson	Margaret	Resident	UAB
Burton	Victoria	Resident	UNC
Sheppard	Kyle	Med Student	McGovern

The Council agreed that the planned bylaws revision would incorporate much of this activity into the membership committee to continue the positive work that Dr. Sheahan had done for the last 4 years. After review of this successful program, the Council pledged matching funds of \$10,000 to increase the number of scholarship recipients for the 2021 meeting.

## **New Business**

**Skills Competition:** After an invitation from the SCVS to send a trainee champion to represent our society as a preferred seed in the Top Gun competition, we initiated the program to provide a skills assessment and competition among the residents and fellows who were attending the conference. The program is scheduled for Thursday afternoon at 4:00 pm and is coordinated by Dr. Ben Pearce with financial support and models provided by Terumo Aortic. The Council agreed to assess this program at the June meeting and decide about the future use of this time.

**Society of Vascular Surgery request for a Memo of Understanding:** to help strengthen the relationship between the SVS and the regional societies. The overall stated goal is for the two societies to work together on shared interests. The Council agreed to sign the non-binding agreement with a yearly assessment to collaborate with the SVS

**BEST-CLI Funding request:** After the NIH denied the request of the BEST-CLI study an extension on the funding request, the lead team of the study sent a letter soliciting funds from all the regional and national vascular societies. After debate and discussion about this request, the Council agreed to provide \$5000 in funds to the trial management team.

There were no further questions or discussion from the members regarding this report.

## **Constitution and Bylaws Committee**

President Sternbergh then summarized the work of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. After the June 2019 EC meeting, the Committee had conference calls and numerous emails to complete the requested revisions to update the bylaws. The major changes included removing the need to supply a case list for applicants who are Board certified in Vascular Surgery, increasing our out of region limit on the membership to 15%, streamlining the work of the Nominating Committee for non-officer positions, and improving the committee structure. He also noted that the attention to diversity and recruitment of young members will be incorporated into these committees and bylaws. The revised bylaws have been circulated to the membership, have been announced in the fall Newsletter to the general membership in preparation for a vote at the business meeting Saturday. Copies were also provided at the registration desk for the meeting.

There were no questions and no discussion from the floor. The bylaws changes were approved by assent with no dissenting votes or opinion.

## **Membership Committee**

Chair Minion was absent but Secretary Jordan provided his report:

The committee reviewed 42 applications for Candidate Membership. The committee concluded that the following 40 applicants, as current trainees at regional vascular surgery training programs or recent graduates practicing in the SAVS region, meet the appropriate criteria for Candidate Membership and recommend their approval:

AbuRahma, Zachary  
Adams, Elliot  
Aggarwal, Ankur  
Arita, Nestor  
Aziz, Muzammil  
Bacharach, Thekla  
Beasley, Matthew  
Brathwaite, Shayna  
Bush, Charles "Beau"  
Chan, Carney  
Chang, Kevin  
Davis, Meghan  
Dayama, Anand  
Desart, Kenneth  
Fobare, Amanda  
Frye, Lauren  
Gianis, Thomas  
Hawken, Thomas  
Huddleston, Mary Kathryn  
Lavingia, Kedar  
Lee, Andrew  
Lee, Dong  
McCarthy, Cullen  
McChesney, Andrew  
Mebane, Korsica  
Meena, Richard "Anthony"  
Neill, John "Jack"  
Newton, Daniel  
Ray, Hunter  
Scott, Grant  
Shahid, Zain  
Shepherd, Benjamin  
Skibba, Afshin  
Strickland, Adam  
Sugar, II, Miles  
Sutzko, Danielle  
Treto, Kevin  
Uribe, Celso  
Virgin, Zachary  
Waldrop, Heather  
Yang, Chun



The Council approved all listed members for Candidate membership.

The committee then reviewed 18 applications for Active Membership. The committee concluded that the following 15 applicants, as ABS Board Certified vascular surgeons practicing in the SAVS region, meet the appropriate criteria for Active Membership and recommend their approval: (*italics denotes prior candidate member*)

*Alabi, Olamide*  
*Arnaoutakis, K. Dean*  
*Brandt, Collin*  
*Conlee, Thomas*  
Cooper, Michol  
*Donnavan, Melissa*  
*El Sayed, Hosam – candidate membership expired in 2010*  
*Knowles, Martyn*  
*Patton, R. Michael*  
*Ramirez, Daniel*  
*Ramos, Christopher*  
Shah, Samir  
*Tyagi, Samuel*  
Unzeitig, Andrew  
Williams, Carlin

There were three additional applicants from out of the region. Those three are:

*Glocker, Roan*  
*Hartranft, Charles*  
Paty, Phillip

The Council then approved all 18 members for Active membership.

### **Recorder Report:**

Recorder Cull was present and provided a written and oral report:

Twenty-eight manuscripts (n=22 plenary session, n= 2 posters, n=2 case reports, n=1 award paper, and n=1 presidential address) were submitted for publication to the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* from the 2019 Annual Meeting. A manuscript was not submitted by authors of one plenary session presentation. Editorial decisions by the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* have been completed for all but 6 manuscripts (4 revision, 1 pending, 1 incomplete). The overall acceptance rate (excluding those without final decision) for submitted manuscripts is 89% for the plenary session manuscripts and 83% for all manuscripts. This acceptance rate is higher than previous year SAVS acceptance rates. A complete breakdown of the submissions is provided in the table at the end of this report.

The winner of the 2019 Founder’s Award is Dr. Thomas E. Reeve, IV from Wake Forest University for his paper entitled “Outpatient Grip Strength Measurement Predicts Survival, Perioperative Adverse Events, and Non-Home Discharge among Patients with Vascular Disease”.

### Summary of SAVS Annual Meeting Manuscript Submissions in 2019

Manuscript Type	# (%) Submitted	# (%) Accepted	# (%) Rejected	# Pending/Revision
Plenary Session	22 (96%)	16 (89%)	2 (11%)	4*
Non-Plenary Clinical	2	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	1
Basic Research Plenary	3	1 (33%)	2 (66%)	0
Case Report	2	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0
Presidential Address	1	1 (100%)	0	0
Founder’s	1	0	0	1**
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19 (83%)</b>	<b>4 (17%)</b>	<b>6***</b>

\*Manuscripts not submitted, or pending/in revision were excluded from denominator of plenary % accepted/rejected calculation.

\*\*Incomplete

\*\*\*The incomplete and in review/revision manuscripts were excluded from the denominator of total % accepted/rejected calculation

The number of residents/recent graduates applying to take the SAVS Mock Oral Exam has steadily increased in recent years. The number of applicants significantly exceeded the number of available slots in 2017 so a selection process based on priority criteria was implemented. Applicants from the Southeast, recent graduates, and residents in their final year of training are assigned the highest priority. This year that priority system was overwhelmed by the number of candidates who met the high priority category. One month before the application deadline the number of high priority applications (n=36) exceeded the number of funded slots (n=30) for 30 slots. Therefore, the examination was expanded to accommodate the 36 examinees. Funding for the additional expense was covered by W.L. Gore to \$35,000. In the future, Mock Oral Exam acceptances will be made on a rolling basis to high priority applicants until all positions are filled. This process will be clearly explained on the SAVS website.

## **Program Committee**

Chair Beck was present and provided the following report:

A total of **153** abstracts were submitted for consideration by the program committee. Attached is a recap of the number of abstracts submitted each year from 2004-2020 with the Florida years highlighted. The program committee consists of: myself, Hernan Bazan, David L. Cull, Justin B. Hurie and Will Jordan. The mean score of all the abstracts reviewed was 3.0 (scale 1-5). Of the 153 abstracts, 17 were submitted for consideration for the Founders Award and 14 were submitted as videos

A total of 67 abstracts were selected for presentation. The breakdown is as follows:

- 25 free papers
- 9 case reports 4 videos
- 1 Founders Award paper
- 18 posters accepted (1 withdrew) 10 additional videos for a loop on a monitor in the exhibit hall (1 withdrew)

All videos not selected for the Video or Potpourri Sessions were invited to be included on the video loop. All 10 initially accepted, with one withdrawing.

## **Continuing Medical Education Committee –**

Chair Neville was absent but Secretary Jordan provided his report:

The purpose of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery is to explore the latest treatment modalities for vascular disease through a variety of learning formats. The **Current Controversies in Vascular Surgery Symposium** course consists of four lively debates regarding current controversies in vascular surgery. Each session will be comprised of a case presentation by a fellow or junior faculty chosen by the Session moderator, the case presentation will be followed by pro and con lectures regarding the clinical controversy in question.

There are 54 participants pre-registered for the course. The final which is likely to increase because historically there a number of on-site registrations. Also, there are 16 faculty participating in the post graduate course, 19% of faculty are underrepresented minorities, 25% are female and all of the faculty are from within the region.

## **Audit Committee Report:**

Member William Shutze provided an oral report. Along with the other members of the committee (Ravi Veeraswamy and Salvatore Scali), they concluded the finances were in good order with no irregular activity.

## **Recognition of Outgoing Councilor-at-Large:**

President Sternbergh recognized and thanked Councilor Charles Ross of Atlanta for his three years of service on the Council and provided him with a plaque commemorating his service. Dr. Ross was not present due to family illness but sent his regards prior to leaving the meeting.

## **Recognition of President Sternbergh and his service by Nominating Committee:**

Past President Money provided the following report:

The Nominating Committee consisting of Past Presidents Edwards, Money, and Endean met along with Ad Hoc Members President Sternbergh and Secretary-Treasurer Jordan convened on a conference call December 19, 2019. They reviewed the charge and discussed the potential officer candidates. The Committee unanimously proposed that President-elect Upchurch, Secretary-Treasurer Jordan, Recorder Cull, Councilors Stone and Kirkwood be put forward as nominees for their respective current positions. Furthermore, the Nominating Committee thanked them for their selfless effort on behalf of the organization. The Committee proposed Dr. Margaret Tracci as the next Councilor-at-large. Finally, the Committee proposed Dr. William Marston from University of North Carolina as the next President-elect in partial recognition of his tireless commitment to the organization.

Dr. Money thanked the organization for the opportunity to have served in a leadership role. Lastly, he recognized Dr. Chip Sternbergh for his collective years of service to the organization culminating this past year as our President. He has helped shaped our direction can take a great deal of pride in the current condition of the organization. He presented him with ceremonial gavel in recognition of serving as the President.

As there were no further nominations from the floor. President Sternbergh sought approval from the present members and the nominations were approved with unanimous consent without nominations from the floor. President Sternbergh then installed Gilbert Upchurch as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery and passed him the Matas and Nashville gavels. President-elect Upchurch accepted his role as President and expressed his thanks for the honor of serving. He also recognized the work of President Sternbergh for the prior year of service.

President Upchurch then announced his following committee appointments:

Archives Committee;	Erin Moore, Jacksonville, FL
Budget and Finance Committee:	William Robinson, Greenville, NC
Communications Committee:	Sam Tyagi, Lexington, KY
Constitution and Bylaws:	Mitch Goldman, Knoxville, TN
CME Committee:	Benjamin Pearce, Birmingham, AL
Government Relations:	Margaret Tracci, Charlottesville, VA

Local Arrangements:  
Membership Committee:  
Program Committee:

Claudie Sheahan, New Orleans, LA  
Ellen Dillavou, Durham, NC  
Salvatore Scali, Gainesville, FL

There being no further new business, the Business Meeting was adjourned by President Upchurch at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William D. Jordan, Jr. M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer