



NEWSLETTER

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13 Elm Street
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(978) 526-8330
(978) 526-4018 / FAX
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Message from the President



Jeffrey W. Olin, D.O.

It is an exciting time for vascular medicine! The field of vascular medicine and vascular biology are exploding with new information and technology. There is a growing need for clinical vascular medicine specialists, yet there is not adequate manpower to provide academic medical centers and private practices with invasive and noninvasive vascular medicine specialists. At the American Heart Association meetings in New Orleans from November 11-15, 2000, a number of committees of the American College of Cardiology have met as well as other committees representing the vascular community. Following is a summary of some of these meetings.

(continued on page 3)

www.svmb.org



The Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology has completely renovated and reorganized its web site: www.svmb.org. Take a moment to check it out. Aside from the new graphics, and easy navigational tools, the web site has added some interesting new features. Perhaps the most innovative is the employment bulletin board. This is a unique location which allows vascular medicine physicians looking for a job, and sites looking for vascular medicine physicians, to post information. We already have some entries, so take a look!

In addition, the address book has been updated and improved. And, if you have a meeting that you would like to post on the website, please let us know (svmb@prri.com.)

12th Annual Meeting of the Society for Vascular Medicine & Biology

June 8-9, 2001

Hyatt Regency Hotel / Baltimore, Maryland

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: March 1, 2001



Highlights of the SVMB Annual Business Meeting

June 9, 2000 / Toronto, Canada

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Olin provided an update on the many issues confronted by the Trustees throughout the course of the year and the highlights of the past two meetings:

- ♦ The SVMB is working on a training guidelines document in vascular medicine.
- ♦ The PAD Primary-Care Monograph and Audio-conference Series continues with the recently released sixth production in the series. The series is available to the membership, either by request through the administrative office or through the web site.
- ♦ On April 28 –29, 2000, the SVMB participated in the Second Annual Vascular Centers of the Excellence Conference held in Chicago, Illinois.
- ♦ The Society continues to be in strong financial shape as the Trustees begin to explore the formation of a foundation to help endow fellowships for vascular residents.
- ♦ The Trustees have approved a budget of \$40,000 to help support the Society's web site.
- ♦ The SVMB continues to participate in a number of collaborative relationships. Dr. John Gocke is the current President of the ICAVL. The SVMB is exploring continued relations with the International Union of Angiology, and a possible future integrated program will be explored in the years to come.
- ♦ Dr. Cooke is exploring the formation of a Government and Industry Relations Committee.
- ♦ The SVMB is also exploring the endorsement of new publication entitled "*Periphery*" which will be a scientific pamphlet outlining current developments in peripheral arterial disease for general internists and primary-care physicians.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Current membership as of May 17, 2000: 35 Members, 9 Seniors, 17 Associates and 200 Fellows for a total of 261.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

For the period January 1, 2000 - March 31, 2000, total assets for the Society through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2000 are \$1,292,902. Through the first quarter of fiscal year 2000, the Society had total receipts of \$41,558 versus total disbursements of \$241,281 for a first quarter surplus or deficit of \$199,723.

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Michael Bacharach reported on the continued development of the PAD Monograph & Audio-conference Series. The Society continues to explore collaborative educational opportunities with the Society for Vascular Surgery, the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery, the American College of Cardiology, the Society for Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology and most recently with the Asian Vascular Society. The SVMB is also exploring the Transatlantic Vascular Medicine Conference for June, 2002 in Boston, Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE JOURNAL *VASCULAR MEDICINE*

The *Journal* continues to grow and is receiving roughly two original articles per week. The *Journal* is also exploring the possibility of publishing a "grand round" series and additional editorials, highlighting important issues involving vascular medicine and news from the Society.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ICAVL

Dr. Gocke reported that the primary activity at ICAVL is finalizing the electronic accreditation application for vascular laboratories. The entire application process has now been placed in a CD-ROM format with entry of data into searchable database with pull-down menu and other user-friendly options. It is the goal to have this pilot program fully analyzed and in final production in the latter half of this year. Dr. Gocke also reported that the SVMB recommendation of including the choice of "*Vascular Medicine*" as a listed practice specialty was fully accepted by the ICAVL Board.

REPRESENTATIVE TO VASCULAR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Jeffrey Olin reported that the Vascular Centers of Excellence Conference, held on April 28-29, 2000, at the Hyatt O'Hare Hotel was very successful with over 800 registrants. The two day course offered discussions on specific Vascular Centers and how they are managed; business and legal strategies for Vascular Centers; quality improvement in the multiply disciplinary Vascular Center setting; Vascular Centers of Excellence in-depth case studies from four specific centers; the role of Vascular Centers and public awareness.

New Members

James Crowley, M.D., Durham, North Carolina
Randolph Guzman, M.D., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Muredach Reilly, M.D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Joel Rosenfeld, M.D., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Gary Roubin, M.D., Ph.D., New York, New York
Chitra Sekaran, M.D., New York, New York
John Terry, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Roekchai Tulyapronchote, M.D., Birmingham, Alabama
Paul Tunick, M.D., New York, New York
Safi Bassai, M.D., Dubai, United ARAB Emirates
Tova Chajek-Shaul, M.D., Jerusalem, Israel
Susan Begelman, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio
Teresa Carman, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio
Richard To, M.D., Shaker Heights, Ohio

New Fellows

David L. Brown, M.D., Bronx, New York
Robert T. Eberhardt, M.D., Boston, Massachusetts
Robert D. McBane, M.D., Rochester, Minnesota
Thomas O. McNamara, M.D., Los Angeles, California
Richard F. Neville, M.D., Los Angeles, California
Roberta K. Oka, M.D., Los Angeles, California
Paul Tanser, M.D., Hamilton, Canada
Paul W. Wennberg, M.D., Rochester, Minnesota

The Cardiovascular Subspecialty Leadership Group

Dr. Jon Halperin and myself attended this meeting on behalf of the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology. This was also attended by the President of the American College of Cardiology (George A. Beller, M.D., F.A.C.C. and the President Elect of the American College of Cardiology, Douglas P. Zipes, M.D., F.A.C.C.). Also in attendance were the Presidents and President Elect of the American Society of Echocardiography, the American Society of Nuclear Cardiologists, the Heart Failure Society of America, NASPE, the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Intervention, the Society for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, the Society for Geriatric Cardiology and the Society for Thoracic Surgery. A number of issues were discussed at this meeting including the accreditation of laboratories that perform imaging modalities. In the vascular laboratory, we have been ahead of the times in that vascular laboratories have been accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL) for a number of years. Other issues that were discussed were certification of individuals in various subspecialties (i.e., electrophysiology, cardiac intervention, etc.). With the initiatives that have begun within the American College of Cardiology regarding training and competence in Vascular Medicine (see below), there will be a time when Vascular Medicine is a recognized subspecialty of Cardiovascular Medicine. This will require further discussion, but your elected officials in the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology are very involved in all of these initiatives. A web site is currently under development by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association. Each individual society will have opportunities to provide input into this web site and to have links between the society's own web site and the ACC/AHA mega web site.

The American College of Cardiology's Payer Advocacy Retreat Group

I represented the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology and Dr. Emile Mohler represented the Peripheral Vascular Disease Committee of the American College of Cardiology. Issues that affect reimbursement in cardiovascular medicine are brought before this committee. One of the issues that was discussed was reimbursement for renal angiography at the time of cardiac catheterization.

The American College of Cardiology Peripheral Vascular Disease Committee

This meeting was chaired by Kenneth Rosenfield, M.D. and a number of issues which were relevant, to not only the American College of Cardiology but the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology, were discussed. Issues such as training standards for vascular medicine, clinical competency in vascular medicine, the Vascular Disease Foundation, Legs for Life, Vascular Centers of Excellence were all discussed by this committee, many of whose members are also members of SVMB.

Peripheral Vascular Disease Mini Summit

This is the second such meeting in which there is a collaboration of five societies: The American College of Cardiology (representatives Mark Creager, M.D., Kenneth Rosenfield, M.D. and John W. Hirshfeld, Jr, M.D.), the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology, (representatives Jeffrey W. Olin, D.O. and Jon Halperin, M.D.), the American Association of Vascular Surgeons and the Society for Vascular Surgery (representative Ramon Berguer, M.D.) and the Society for Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology (representative John Kaufman, M.D.). Discussions ensued on how the various societies could collaborate better. A proposal was put forth to put together a "Bethesda-type Conference" with a major goal of working through some of the areas of contention among various vascular societies. An outline of a proposed program was suggested by the members of the committee and representatives of each society will initially plan and assign working groups and a task force for each question that is raised. Extensive research will be undertaken before the meeting and writing groups will prepare statements regarding each area. One such area that was discussed in detail was how the vascular specialist will look ten years from now.

We can all be proud of the progress that our Society has made in the last several years. With the hard work and dedication of all of our members, I am certain that even greater things will come in the future.

The ACC/AHA/ACP-ASIM Writing Committee on Clinical Competence in Vascular Medicine

This meeting was chaired by Mark Creager, M.D. with co-chairs of Barry Katzen, M.D. and Jerry Goldstone, M.D. There were representatives from the various societies that are sponsoring the meeting as well as representatives of the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology, the American College of Physicians and American Society of Internal Medicine. Internists, radiologists, cardiologists, vascular surgeons, and vascular medicine specialists will put together a writing document on competency in vascular medicine. An outline was proposed and writing groups were proposed. More details regarding this will be put forth to the members of the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology. No manuscript will be published with our name supporting it without the approval of the Board of Trustees of the SVMB.

The Vascular Centers of Excellence meeting will take place in April, 2001 in Atlanta, Georgia. More details on this will be forthcoming.

The mid winter Board of Trustees meeting will take place in early January. Elections for new officers and trustees will take place at the national meeting in Baltimore in June, 2001.

We can all be proud of the progress that our Society has made in the last several years. With the hard work and dedication of all of our members, I am certain that even greater things will come in the future.

Profile of ... Jonathan L. Halperin, M.D.

President-Elect of the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology



Jonathan L. Halperin, M.D. is Director of Clinical Cardiology Services and Associate Director of the Cardiovascular Institute at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. Educated at Columbia University, he received his A.B. degree in 1971 and then returned to his native Massachusetts, where he was awarded the M.D. degree at Boston University in 1975. After internship and residency training in internal medicine at Boston University Medical Center, he undertook clinical and research

fellowship in peripheral vascular diseases at the Evans Memorial Foundation. During fellowship training in cardiology at University Hospital and Boston City Hospital, he was named the Howard B. Sprague Fellow of the American Heart Association. Part of this training included a vascular medicine fellowship with Dr. Jay D. Coffman. In 1980, Dr. Halperin joined the faculty of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and served for five years as liaison to the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He assumed the role of Director of Clinical Cardiology Services in 1983, and advanced to Associate Professor of Medicine in 1985 and to the rank of Professor of Medicine in 1993. Under the leadership of Dr. Valentin Fuster, Dr. Halperin played a key role in the formation of the Cardiovascular Institute at Mount Sinai Medical Center, one of the nation's leading centers for integrated cardiovascular research, education and patient care, and has served as Associate Director of the Institute since its inception.

Widely recognized as an academic clinician, Dr. Halperin has served as a role model for resident and fellow trainees in internal medicine and cardiology. He has been the recipient of two of Mount Sinai's most distinguished teaching awards, the Simon Dack Award, presented by the Fellows of the Division of Cardiology and the Solomon R. Berson Award, presented by the House Staff of the Department of Medicine. His skills as an educator were crystallized with the publication of *BYPASS* (Times Books-Random House, 1986), critically acclaimed as the most comprehensive treatment of the subject of coronary artery bypass graft surgery — the most commonly performed major surgical procedure in the nation — addressed to the layman but suitable for medical professionals as well. He has been identified repeatedly in both regional and national publications for providing high quality patient care, and engages in an active clinical practice, emphasizing traditional bedside skills and judicious application of modern invasive and noninvasive cardiovascular technology.

As the administrative physician overseeing all clinical operations involving adult cardiology at the Mount Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Halperin has served on numerous committees of the school of medicine and the hospital. He has been instrumental in the evolu-

tion of the Joseph H. Hazen cardiology clinics as a model of ambulatory care, preventive medicine and professional education, and the Cardiac Care Center, which integrates and unifies inpatient cardiovascular services. In 1999, he became President of the New York City Affiliate of the American Heart Association as well as President-Elect of the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology.

The son of a physician, Dr. Halperin has maintained a continuous stream of productivity in clinical investigation. His studies of cardiovascular hemodynamics contributed to the development of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibition as an effective therapeutic strategy for patients with chronic congestive heart failure. And, in collaboration with colleagues in Boston and New York, his quantitative studies of regional circulation provided important insights influencing the hemodynamic management of patients with Raynaud's Disease, mitral valve disease, and intermittent claudication. He has been the principal cardiologist responsible for the design and execution of the Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation (SPAF) clinical trials, which have received over \$25 million in grant support from the National Institutes of Health. These multicenter studies, which have involved 3,600 patients and over 100 investigators, have helped develop antithrombotic strategies to prevent stroke among the estimated 1.5 million North Americans with atrial fibrillation. Hailed as the most important advance in medical stroke prevention over the past decade, the results of this research prevent tens of thousands of strokes each year, saving hundreds of millions of dollars in the cost of acute and convalescent stroke care, and an inestimable toll in human terms.

Presently, Dr. Halperin is Co-Chairman of the Executive Steering Committee of the SPORTIF clinical trials, which are comparing the safety and efficacy of a novel orally administered direct inhibitor of thrombin for prevention of ischemic stroke and systemic embolic events in patients with atrial fibrillation. These international trials, involving over 6,000 patients randomized at over 600 clinical centers, represent the most aggressive single effort ever mounted against thromboembolism in atrial fibrillation and introduce an innovative antithrombotic strategy with broad potential application in a wide array of cardiovascular disorders.

Dr. Halperin and his wife, Dr. Michelle Copeland, who is Assistant Professor of Surgery and a member of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Mount Sinai, reside in Manhattan with their two children, Robert, 17, and Libby, 13

On a personal note, Dr. Creager has known Dr. Halperin since Dr. Creager's junior resident year and Dr. Halperin's intern year at University Hospital at the present Boston University. During his training, Dr. Halperin impressed his colleagues as an outstanding, tireless, comprehensive intern. Often writing his notes at midnight, he had a gift for synthesizing data and a highly thoughtful approach to patient care. After fellowship training, he became a collaborator of Dr. Creager who regards him amongst the most creative collaborators that he has worked with. This seems a general consensus opinion, and so we welcome Dr. Halperin with great enthusiasm as president of the SVMB.

Periphery

Dr. Hiatt reports that his editorial group has published two issues of *Periphery*, one distributed in the fall and the other in early January. The editorial board consists of several members of the SVMB including Mark Creager, Michael Jaff, and Alan Hirsch. Additional editors include Dr. Fernandez from the Vascular Section of the Cleveland Clinic in Florida, Dr. Lipsky of Family Medicine at Northwestern University, Dr. McDermott of General Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University, Mark Nehler of Vascular Surgery from the University of Colorado, and Eileen Walsh, a vascular nurse from Jobst Vascular Center.

The content of the first issue of *Periphery* focused on the purpose of the journal, recent literature addressing the epidemiology of peripheral arterial disease, and some of the major presentations from our SVMB meeting last June. The second issue has a very nice review on the evaluation of leg pain and claudication written by Michael Jaff. This included much of the historical features of the vascular disease patient, as well as the appropriate evaluation with the ankle/brachial index. Dr. Comerota wrote a case presentation that included questions and answers regarding risk modulation in this patient. Finally, there was a review of several abstracts and presentations from the American Heart meeting in November, and review of recent literature including an article by Jeff Olin on Berger's Disease.

The Vascular Medicine Council

The initial objective of the Vascular Medicine Council (VMC), initiated by Dr. Emile Mohler at the University of Pennsylvania, is to develop a national membership of vascular thought leaders that would be linked by a virtual collaborative network. The virtual network will leverage the power of the internet to help facilitate communication amongst its members. A formal letter of agreement has been developed and agreed to by the VMC and the SVMB. In addition, the VMC has initiated discussions with a company to develop web-based programming and a CME program to implement on the web. Dr. Mohler reported that the VMC will offer CME credit through the CME office at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and the project will be supported through an unrestricted educational grant from Merck and Co.

The Vascular Disease Foundation

Currently, public awareness of vascular disease remains relatively low in spite of varied efforts to provide such education. The Vascular Disease Foundation (VDF) was formed several years ago by Dennis Newman, former owner of the IMEX company (maker of Dopplers). The primary goal of the VDF is public education in vascular disease. Recently the VDF developed a web page to provide information to the general public. The VDF will collaborate with the VMC as well as other vascular societies to achieve its goals. Dr. Alan Hirsch is president of the VDF; other SVMB members on the VDF Board include Drs. William Hiatt and Judith Regensteiner.

The PAD Primary Care Series

The PAD Primary Care series is nearing completion. Many of the SVMB members participated in writing contributions for the series which covered topics ranging from treating claudication to the vascular laboratory and vascular disease in women. This series, funded by Otsuka American Pharmaceutical, has been very well received. All slides from PAD audioconferences 1-4 have now been sent to members on disk. The whole series of 8 monographs is to be reprinted in a bound volume for distribution to members and inclusion in all biomedical libraries.



An Office-Based Approach to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Peripheral Arterial Disease

- I. **The Epidemiology and Practical Detection of PAD**
Jeffrey W. Olin, D.O.
- II. **Recognizing and Treating Systemic Atherosclerosis**
Mark A. Creager, MD.
- III. **Severe PAD: Limb Salvage and Revascularization**
J. Michael Bacharach, MD.
- IV. **Morbidity of PAD: Medical Approaches to Claudication**
William R. Hiatt, MD.
- V. **Management of Peripheral Arterial Disease: Moderate Claudication**
Emile R. Mohler, III, MD.
- VI. **A Primer to the Vascular Laboratory for the Primary Care Physician**
Michael R. Jaff, D.O.
- VII. **Women and Peripheral Artery Disease**
Marie D. Gerhard-Herman, MD, MMSc
Judith G. Regensteiner, PhD.
- VIII. **Peripheral Artery Disease in Risk Factor Management**
Alan T. Hirsch, MD.

The entire PAD Primary Care Series "An Office-Based Approach to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Peripheral Arterial Disease" and the affiliated slide series is available on-line at the SVMB website www.svmb.org. A CD-Rom version of the series and specific individual slide sets are also available for a nominal fee through the SVMB Administrative Office, (978) 526-8330.

(continued on back page)

PARTNERS Program

The PARTNERS program was represented at the American Heart Association with two abstracts presented by Drs. Hirsch and Regensteiner. This national program, sponsored by Sanofi and Bristol-Myers-Squibb, sought to evaluate the prevalence and ramifications of peripheral arterial disease in a community setting. These abstracts represented the work of many on the PARTNERS team. The abstract with Dr. Hirsch as the first author described the demographic and risk factor status of the PARTNERS population. The abstract with Dr. Regensteiner as the first author discussed the effects of PAD on quality of life and functional status in the PARTNERS population. Other authors on both abstracts included Drs. Criqui, Treat-Jacobson, Olin, Cooke, Comerota, McDermott, Creager and Hiatt. Many of these individuals will be presenting abstracts at the American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando in March.

CPT Code for PAD Rehabilitation

Dr. Hirsch and others, after valiant efforts, have succeeded in obtaining a CPT code for PAD rehabilitation. This is a very exciting development and hopefully further efforts will lead to the establishment of PAD rehabilitation as a reimbursable treatment.

ICAVL

John Gocke, M.D. became the President of the ICAVL at the Annual Board meeting in January, 2001.

If you have NEWS you would like to share with the SVMB Membership, please send it to the SVMB Administrative Office, Attn: Newsletter, 13 Elm Street, Manchester, MA 01944 Fax: (978) 526-1703 / E-Mail: svmb@prri.com



Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology
13 Elm Street
Manchester, MA 01944

