



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2023



## DEAR COLLEAGUES:

It's hard for me to believe that this is my final Presidential newsletter! When I began serving in this role 2+ years ago, the term length seemed daunting. Now, as I look back, I'm not sure where the time went. Serving as your President has been one of my greatest honors and privileges, and I appreciate that you've entrusted me with this great responsibility. In this issue, I'd like to recap many of the amazing happenings at the Society for Vascular Medicine. I believe there's something offered for everyone in our vascular medicine community.

### SOCIETY BUSINESS

**The SVM Annual Business Meeting** will be held at the Vascular Scientific Sessions on Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. At this meeting, SVM Membership will vote on the 2023 Slate of Nominees and proposed amendments to the SVM Bylaws, both sent to the SVM Membership in late July. Thank you to the SVM Nominating Committee (Raghu Kolluri, Chair, Herb Aronow, Ido Weinberg, and Daniella Kadian-Dodov) and the SVM Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee, (Diane Treat-Jacobson, Chair, Mary McDermott, and Geno Merli) for your efforts.

[Click here to view the communication.](#)

### ANNUAL MEETING

We hope to see you all at our Vascular Scientific Sessions, September 7-10, 2023, at the Grand Hyatt, Washington, D.C., where the vascular medicine community will gather to learn, teach, network advance their careers reunite with friends and forge new relationships. The lineup for this year's meeting is exceptional, reflecting the latest science, innovation, and recipes for clinical and professional success. We've also built in plenty of opportunities for networking and socializing with colleagues. Special thanks to Ido Weinberg for chairing and Elizabeth Ratchford for co-chairing the VSS Program [Committee](#). [Learn more here.](#)

**Updates in Vascular Disease** hosted by SVM, is full day of lectures and hands-on experiences to learn about the diagnosis and management of vascular disease, intended for primary care and hospital medicine physicians. Please help us spread the word to those at your institution and elsewhere who might benefit from this educational opportunity. Updates in Vascular Disease will be held in conjunction with our Vascular Scientific Sessions on Saturday, September 9, at the Grand Hyatt Washington D.C. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**SVM's Speed Mentoring Event** will be held on Thursday, September 7 (5:00 - 6:00 pm) at the 2023 Vascular Scientific Sessions in Washington, DC. Each table will have 3 mentors and will focus on a topic. Mentees will visit 3 tables and discuss various career development topics, including negotiation, transitions, and finding success in vascular medicine. The theme for this year's event is "What I Wish I Had Known." [Click here to register.](#)

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

SVM is thriving! Through the dedication and collaborative efforts of its committees and task forces, we are advancing vascular medicine every day. Over 200 members served on committees and task forces this year and the response to our "Call for Volunteers" was again overwhelming. If you missed the opportunity to nominate/self-nominate for committee/task force membership, and would like to get involved, please let us know.

The following is a brief synopsis of our committee and task force activities and accomplishments:

**APP Committee [\*NEW\*]:** The APP Committee is our newest member affinity committee chaired by Katherine Hays and co-chaired Alexandra Moran, formally launching at our Annual Business Meeting in September. It aims to address the unique needs and challenges faced by Advanced Practice Providers in the field of vascular medicine. The committee will focus on promoting education, networking, and advocacy opportunities for APPs.

**Audit, Finance, and Fundraising Committee:** Chaired by SVM Treasurer, Esther Kim, with Bryan Wells serving as the Co-Chair, this committee has implemented a new investment strategy, which was approved by the Board of Trustees. The strategy aims to enhance financial stability and support the Society's various initiatives. SVM continues to be in a strong financial position. As of the writing of this report, SVM has experienced a nearly 4% return on its investments YTD and we have more dollars in reserve and cash on hand than ever before.

**Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Committee:** Under the leadership of Diane Treat-Jacobson (Chair), Mary McDermott (Co-Chair), and Geno Merli (Past Chair), the Bylaws Committee has conducted a comprehensive review of the Society's Bylaws and its Policies and Procedures Manual. Proposed changes resulting from the Bylaws review will be presented for a membership vote at during the Annual Business Meeting at our upcoming Vascular Scientific Sessions (see link above).

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force:** Chaired by Carmel Celestin, Co-Chaired by Rafael Cires-Drouet, and with Past Chair Olusegun Osinbowale, the committee is pleased to announce that all members of the Board of Trustees and all committee/task force leaders have successfully completed implicit bias training. The committee is also in the process of surveying vascular medicine fellowship training programs to identify opportunities to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in vascular medicine.

**Education Committee:** Gaurav Parmar (Chair), Randy Ramcharitar (Co-Chair), and Kamal Gupta (Past Chair) are leading the Education Committee in developing a Board Review Course question bank. This resource will aid vascular medicine professionals in preparing for certification and recertification exams.

**Fellowship Training Committee [\*NEW\*]:** Chaired by Aditya Sharma, with Robert Eberhardt as Co-Chair, this newly launched committee is working on developing a comprehensive VascularMedicine Curriculum toolkit. Additionally, the committee is conducting surveys to assess and enhance existing Vascular Medicine Fellowship Training programs.

**Vascular Medicine Journal:** Under Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Heather Gornik, SVM has renewed its contract with SAGE, publisher of Vascular Medicine Journal (VMJ). The Editorial Board continues to uphold the high standards of academic excellence in vascular medicine research and publications. VMJ Metrics include: 3.7 impact factor, 600-700 submissions/year, 17% acceptance rate, 500k+ downloads/year, and 11k annual circulation (including ~600 SVM member subscriptions).

**Marketing & Communications Committee:** Stan Henkin (Chair) and Kevin Cohoon (Co-Chair) are spearheading the website redesign project to create a more user-friendly and informative online platform. This committee is also responsible for creating the [SVM Blue Pages](#) for *Vascular Medicine Journal*.

**Membership Committee:** Chaired by SVM Secretary, Elizabeth Ratchford, with Eugene Zierler as Co-Chair, the committee has led efforts to increase membership in the Society. The committee launched a new student member category. SVM has experienced a nearly 10% increase in membership, including substantial gains in post-doctoral trainees and advanced practitioners. The committee is organizing the Annual Speed Mentoring program, which will take place prior to the Vascular Scientific Sessions in Washington DC. This initiative aims to foster mentorship and networking opportunities for SVM members. The Membership Committee has also led efforts to garner momentum in [SVM Pulse, our online DocMatter community](#) in which we collaborate and discuss clinical topics.

**NextGen Committee:** Chaired by Merry Ellen Barnett, with Alex Solomon as Co-Chair and Aaron Aday as Past Chair, the NextGen Committee is tasked with engaging and supporting early-career professionals in vascular medicine. NextGen Committee leadership actively recruited new members at our Fellows/APP Course this past March. Recently the NextGen committee assumed responsibility for supporting the SVM Pulse initiative, SVM's private online vascular community for learning, collaborating, mentoring, and networking, in collaboration with Nicole Brunton, who is championing the effort.

**Vascular Medicine Practice Task Force:** Hady Lichaa (Chair), Jessica Curcio (Co-Chair), and Jay Bishop (Past Chair) are leading the Practice Task Force in developing a comprehensive slide repository for Vascular Medicine education. This resource will serve as a valuable tool for practitioners and educators in the field. In July Dr. Lichaa presented at the American Podiatric Medical Association meeting in a multi-disciplinary panel discussion in limb salvage. The Committee is planning to submit educational programs to other societies in the coming year.

**Research, Quality, and Publications:** Under the direction of Daniella Kadian-Dodov (Chair) and Beau Hawkins (Co-chair), the Research, Quality, and Publications committee is drafting a manuscript on research priorities in peripheral artery disease with a focus on lower extremity atherosclerotic vascular disease. The purpose of the paper is to highlight gaps in PAD knowledge and opportunities for research that may aid in allocation of funding and other resources and motivate investigation in areas less well studied. The Committee is also developing an SOP for SVM documents (e.g., position papers, white papers, guidelines, etc.).

**Vascular Medicine Specialty Recognition Task Force:** Chaired by Josh Beckman and Raghu Kolluri as Past Chair, the SVM Specialty Recognition Task Force along with the SVM Research, Quality & Publications Committee launched a Request for Proposals for quality and research projects that provide evidence supporting the value of vascular medicine specialists within institutions, health systems, or in the management of specific disease states. The below four proposals were funded, and we look forward to sharing their findings soon.

- The Impact of Vascular Medicine on Inpatient Utilization and Management of Inferior Vena Cava Filters, Daniella Vlazny, Mayo Clinic Rochester
- Participation and Outcomes of Supervised Exercise Therapy for Peripheral Artery Disease, Mary Whipple, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota
- Vascular Medicine Physician Improves Diagnostic Accuracy of DVT, Elie Mousswallem and Bruce Gray, Prisma Health Upstate DVT Clinic
- Management of Severe Raynaud's Disease: A Nationwide Cohort Study, Brett Carroll, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Additionally, the Task Force continues work to develop a board certification pathway through the American Board of Medical Specialties.

**Venous Task Force:** Chaired by Syed Ahsan and Past-Chair Eri Fukaya, the Venous Task Force drafted a discussion on venoactive agents, which will be featured in the next edition of Vascular Medicine Journal Blue Pages. This contribution will provide valuable insights into venous disease management.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The SVM and Medscape Education Collaborative continues with the newly released "Improving Antithrombotic Therapy in Patients with Peripheral Artery Disease: Vascular Specialist Approaches," supported by an independent educational grant from Janssen. Over the past two years this program, made up of nine online modules and one live event, reached 120,000 learners consisting of physicians and allied health professionals. From this group, 35,000 were test takers (29%). The program has had 100% growth, and of the 9,800 physicians who participated in vascular content in 2022, over 1500 participants self-identified as Vascular Medicine Specialists. [Click here to explore the program.](#)

Mark your calendars for the 2024 SVM Fellows and Advanced Practice Provider Course. Both are being held March 16-17, 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia. The 2024 Courses will be led by Daniella Kadian-Dodov, Fellows Course Chair, Mehdi Shishehbor, Co-Chair; and Melissa Strickengloss, APP Course Chair, Katherine Hays, Co-Chair. Stay tuned for information on the agenda and faculty, coming soon.

## INTERSOCIETY NEWS

SVM recently partnered with other cardiovascular societies, including SCAI, ABC, ACC, SIR, and SVS. to emphasize the need for multidisciplinary approach to vascular diagnosis and care, and for efforts to measure and improve quality and appropriateness.

[A link to Multispecialty PAD statement can be found here.](#)

Representatives from SVM recently participated with those from other cardiovascular professional societies (ACA, AHA, ABC, SCAI, SVS, and SIR) in a Roundtable on the potential role for intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) in treating arterial and venous disease. A Joint document is forthcoming.

SVM is hosting a session at the upcoming [Societe Francaise de Medecine Vasculaire \(SFMV\) Meeting](#), September 21, 2023, in Saint Malo France. The session, Updates in Atherosclerotic and Non-atherosclerotic Arterial Disease, will be presented by SVM Representatives Daniella Kadian-Dodov, Mary McDermott, and Paul Wennberg.

The European Society of Vascular Medicine (ESVM) will host their [IX Congress of ESVM](#) in Milan, Italy, October 12-13, 2023. SVM will be represented by Aditya Sharma, who will present on Vascular Medicine in the USA; and Herbert Aronow, presenting on Peripheral Artery Disease.

SVM will also be represented at the [International Vascular Medicine Annual Conference of the 20th European Angiology Days \(EA Days\)](#), December 1-3, 2023. SVM Representative Kamal Gupta will participate in a joint session on "PAD: Attention to the Kidney."

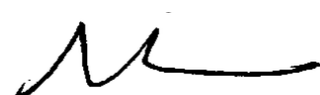
Aditya Sharma and Matt Helms represent SVM on the PAD National Action Plan Steering Committee.

Omar Esponda has been elected as the SVM representative on The American Board of Venous and Lymphatic Medicine (ABVLM) Board of Directors.

## IN SUMMARY

I want to thank each of you for your membership in the Society for Vascular Medicine and for your ongoing commitment to your patients, your colleagues, your professional home, and the broader vascular medicine community. As always, we welcome your questions, concerns, and suggestions. Please let us know how we can best serve you and our Society.

Warmest regards,



Herb Aronow, MD, MPH, FSVM

[haronow1@hfhs.org](mailto:haronow1@hfhs.org)

[@herbaronowMD](https://www.linkedin.com/in/herbaronowMD)