

Celebrating John (Jerry) R. Bartholomew, MD in his 2023 Retirement



Dr. Bartholomew is a giant in the field of vascular medicine and a must-know leader of the SVM

After training in internal medicine (at Maryland General Hospital now part of University of Maryland Medical System) and hematology (at Johns Hopkins University), Dr. Bartholomew started his clinical practice at St. Joseph Hospital at Michigan State University. He was then recruited by Dr. Jess Young (SVM's founding President) to the then Department of Vascular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic in 1988. The rest, as they say, is history. He spent the next 35 years building one of the largest, preeminent vascular medicine programs in the world as a faculty member and ultimately its Section head.

Among Dr. Bartholomew's academic achievements, he was a co-editor of one of the first textbooks of vascular medicine, *Peripheral Vascular Diseases*, with Drs. Jess Young, Jeffrey Olin, and Robert Graor. He authored dozens of peer-reviewed research manuscripts and even more educational reviews. Up until the time of his retirement, Dr. Bartholomew remained a highly effective medical educator, lecturing vascular medicine specialists on Euclid Avenue and worldwide about different aspects of vascular disease, including venous thromboembolism (VTE), heparin induced thrombocytopenia, unusual vascular disorders, peripheral artery disease (PAD), and all causes of the swollen leg (including a late career passion for understanding lipedema). Dr. Bartholomew is an internationally recognized expert in VTE, and he served as a consultant on VTE prevention for the US Department of State. In recognition of his leadership, he received the "A Teacher, Leader, And Scholar" (ATLAS) award from VIVA in 2021, and he has been honored with both the Jess R. Young Teaching Award and the Master designation (MSVM) of our Society.

Although no formal tallies exist, during his 35 years at Cleveland Clinic, I believe Dr. Bartholomew has trained more vascular medicine specialists than any other individual in the United States (and perhaps the world). He trained an average of four vascular medicine fellows per year as well as innumerable cardiology, vascular surgery, and interventional cardiology fellows who had a chance to learn from him. Some of his trainees including physicians from the Philippines (former SVM Trustee Maria Teresa Abola, MD, MSVM), as well as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, and Ireland, among other countries.

Dr. Bartholomew was the 14th President of SVM and served in this role from 2015-2017. During his tenure, SVM solidified its membership and financial status and continued its preeminent role in vascular medicine education. In addition, with his leadership, SVM broadened its profile and partnership with other professional societies in advocacy efforts, including participation in Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) panels on PAD and chronic venous disease.

Beyond all of his academic and leadership achievements, Dr. Bartholomew is the consummate physician and the physician any of us would want as our own or for our loved ones. He has the best vascular physical exam skills of anyone I know, and uses them often (see his From the Master's piece on the H&P in Vascular Medicine <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1358863X211022807>). One would often catch Jerry late in the hospital after clinic (even when not on service) running up to check in on one of his patients admitted for non-vascular reasons. Jerry is also an amazing mentor and boss. Many of us think fondly of our Saturday morning conversations with Jerry when the office was quiet and he had come in to catch up on paperwork and check in on his junior colleagues, sometimes even with a Starbucks coffee in hand. Dr. Bartholomew is the ultimate "serving leader"; and so many of us learned so much about compassionate, "in the trenches" leadership from Jerry's example.

Dr. Bartholomew has many interests outside of medicine (including travel and fishing) and an amazing family (wife Kathy Bartholomew, three children, and one grandchild). The SVM wishes Jerry all of the best on his well-deserved and hopefully very long retirement. All of us at SVM hope he stops in for a future annual meeting to catch up with his many, many friends and mentees and to meet some of our early career members.

-Heather Gornik, MD, MSVM, Past President