



Southern Association for Vascular Surgery

NEWSLETTER

<http://savs.vascularweb.org>

Spring 2009

2009 - 2010 OFFICERS

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Baltimore, Maryland

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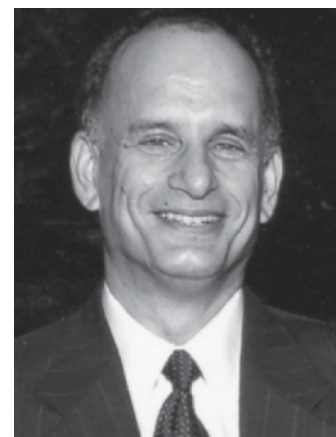
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, four months have passed since we last met in Arizona, yet wonderful memories remain. Through the leadership of President Tom Naslund and Secretary-Treasurer Spence Taylor, the 33rd Annual Meeting at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson was a tremendous success by all measures. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, the Meeting attracted nearly a record attendance of members and guests. Program Committee Chair Greg Modrall developed an absolutely outstanding scientific program, including free-standing papers and case reports. Continuing Education Chair Chip Sternbergh organized our annual Postgraduate Course, devoted to Business Issues in Vascular Practice, with approximately 50 attendees. Our annual Mock Oral Examinations, directed by Tom Huber, was again fully subscribed. Just as importantly, the warm, sunny days and cool

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Bruce A. Perler, M.D.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING



Additional photo highlights of the 2009 Annual Meeting appear inside.

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS

January 20-23, 2010

Atlantis
Paradise Island, Bahamas

January 19-22, 2011

The Ritz Carlton
Naples, Florida

Southern Association for Vascular Surgery

Highlights of the 33rd Annual Business Meeting ♦ January 17, 2009 ♦ Tucson, Arizona

The Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 11:50 a.m. at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort with President Thomas C. Naslund presiding. The minutes from the 2008 Annual Business Meeting at the Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Florida were approved unanimously without revision as written in the spring newsletter.

Secretary-Treasurer Taylor submitted the following report of the Executive Council meeting on January 14, 2009 to the membership:

- ♦ The Executive Council of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was called to order on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 3:05 p.m., with President Thomas C. Naslund presiding. The minutes from the Executive Council Meeting of June 5, 2008 at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina, San Diego, California were approved.
- ♦ Jill West and Tiana Duggan, Meeting Coordinators from PR/RI, Inc., presented a report. The 2009 meeting entertained abstracts through electronic submission and received 136 abstracts. The Program Committee met in Atlanta, Georgia on October 6, 2008 and selected the program. Meeting Coordinator West recapped the number of abstracts submitted each year from 2004 to 2008 (2004-127, 2005-116, 2006-110, 2007-206, 2008-145, and 2009-136). The 2009 submission ranks favorably with years past.
- ♦ As of January 6, 2009, we had 122 members, 14 candidate members, 20 guest physicians, 20 non-member presenting authors, 12 residents, 10 allied health, and 57 spouse/guests pre-register for a total of 255 pre-registrants.
- ♦ This year, the Association has attained pledges from industry of \$85,600 (our budget is \$95,000). This represents a continuation of the declining trend of corporate sponsorship.
- ♦ The 34th Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 20–23, 2010 at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island, Bahamas with a guaranteed room rate of \$270 for the Coral Tower and \$320 for the Royal Tower. The 35th Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 19-22, 2011 at the Ritz-Carlton in Naples, Florida with a guaranteed room rate of \$399.00. Based on the current pattern of the Association, the 2012 meeting is scheduled to meet in the western United States. Meeting Coordinators are exploring a variety of sites including Tucson, Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Palm Springs California. April Conti will bring back proposals to the Executive Council in June.
- ♦ Current membership stands at 168 active members and 83 candidate members, with 238 senior members (106 of whom are retired members) and 23 honorary members. One new honorary member, Fred A. Weaver, M.D., will be added this year. Since January 2008, 4 active members resigned their membership, 6 senior members have retired, and 3 senior members, 2 of whom were founding members, have died (Robert A. Cordell of Winston-Salem North Carolina, Michael E. DeBaakey of Houston, Texas, and Jessie E. Thompson of Dallas, Texas). Ten members will advance to senior status at this meeting; 11 will advance in January 2010, and 11 will advance in January 2011. There are currently 8 active members residing out of the geographic area, representing 4.8% of the total active membership, which is within the 10% allowed by the Constitution and By-Laws.
- ♦ Thirteen active members have missed two consecutive meetings; none will be advancing to senior status at this meeting. Ten are pre-registered for this Annual Meeting and the remainder have been notified by the Secretary-Treasurer that they must attend the 2009 Annual Meeting to maintain their membership.
- ♦ Six active members have missed three consecutive meetings. Three are pre-registered for this Annual Meeting and have been notified by the Secretary-Treasurer that they must attend the 2009 Annual Meeting to maintain their membership.
- ♦ No requests have been made for excused absences from the 2009 Annual Meeting.
- ♦ Twenty-four members have failed to pay their 2009 dues despite several reminders from the Secretary-Treasurer. Additionally, two members have failed to pay their 2008 dues and their memberships have been terminated as outlined by Article VII, section 3 of the constitution and bylaws until their dues are paid.
- ♦ As of December 31, 2008, assets in the treasury included: \$413,337.66 in a money market checking account at Wachovia Bank and Trust, N.A., \$121,032.57 in an account held by PR/RI, Inc., and \$3,057.79 in a Scudder investment account. Therefore, the total financial assets of the Association were \$537,428.02, which compares favorably to the \$529,959.90 in January 2008. Secretary-Treasurer Taylor reviewed the budget for 2009. A surplus of \$1,841 is projected.
- ♦ Local Arrangements Committee Chair Jordan reviewed the social and sporting events for this year's meeting which includes the addition of a Desert hike, sporting clays, golf, tennis, and the 5K fun run.
- ♦ Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman Robert B. Smith, III recommended no bylaws changes. This will be Chairman Smith's last Executive Council meeting. He was thanked and given a round of applause by the Executive Council.
- ♦ Archivist Dan Rush was present and provided an oral report. This has been an active year. As reported at the June Executive Council meeting, a delegation which included Archivist Rush, Secretary-Treasurer Taylor, Communication Committee Chair Myers and Past President Bob Smith visited with Mr. Paul Crater, Director of

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the Atlanta History Center, to review the archives. A decision was made to organize the archives by year and extensive inventory was taken by Mr. Crater. Mr. Crater forwarded a list of missing items to Archivist Rush and Secretary-Treasurer Taylor in October. Both Archivist Rush and Secretary-Treasurer Taylor, who have been in possession of multiple boxes of old Association files, reviewed each box for missing material. Redundant material was shredded. Archivist Rush reported that the archives are now complete for the following items:

1. A complete series of program booklets 1976-2009
2. January and June Executive Council Minutes 1978 -2008
3. Spring and Fall Newsletters 1996-2008
4. Most original organizational papers and much signed correspondence including items related to the history of the Association

A trip is planned back to the Atlanta History Center in February. The Center will not keep material related to the membership application process; they maintain only material suitable to be presented in the public domain, of which they feel membership applications do not.

A motion was passed to retain all materials related to individual potential members for 2 years after their eligibility for membership has expired. The material will then be shredded by the office of the Secretary-Treasurer.

A history of the SAVS was written and presented for review by Secretary-Treasurer Taylor and Archivist Rush. This history will be posted on the website.

The Archives Committee will announce a Rudolph Matas Lifetime Achievement Award recipient at the Annual Business Meeting.

The Association donated \$1500 to the Atlanta History Center; \$500 more than customary due to their extraordinary service this year.

Archivist Rush was praised for his dedicated service over the past years.

Representative to the SVS John Eidt was present and gave a detailed written and oral report. His report was based on the Board of Directors Meetings of the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) held in October 2008 in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress. A variety of topics was considered:

1. The SVS Board is committed to enhancing the relationship between the Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU) and the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS). A combined session between SVS and SVU at the national meeting in San Diego 2008 was highly rated and plans for additional combined events are in the works.
2. The American Vascular Association has announced the "Open the Pathway Campaign". Members are requested to consider making a substantial financial commitment to the support of the AVA. Abbott has already committed 1 million dollars. Essentially all members of the SVS Board have made substantial pledges to this fundraiser.

3. The national vascular meeting will add video sessions to each plenary session. Poster sessions with awards will be instituted. There will be a concurrent SVU/SVS session – "Beyond carotid velocities". Simulator sessions for students, residents and fellows will be added.

4. The Vascular Self Assessment Program (VESAP 1) is now available and will provide 50 hours of CME.

5. As of January 1, 2009, the new *Journal of Vascular Surgery* editors are SAVS President-Elect Bruce Perler and Antony Sidawy. A new logo / cover page is planned for the *Journal*. New features being planned include sections devoted to evidenced based practice, practice management, "How I do it", clinical trials, great debates, and vascular medicine.

6. Better coordination between SVS and APDVS was discussed. A retreat with industry in January is to be arranged. SVS may serve as an "Institute for Vascular Education" which is a proposed not-for-profit "clearinghouse" for educational funding (both GME and CME).

7. From the Vascular Surgery Board, VSITE was given in February 2008. The Vascular Surgery Board will continue to give the Certifying Exam at the American Board of Obstetrics And Gynecology testing center in Dallas. There were 190 recertification's in vascular surgery for 2008, which represents the highest ever. There will be more inclusion of phlebology and vascular medicine on future exams with a longer exam as a result. Maintenance of Certification (MOC) currently requires hospital privileges which may be a problem in the future for office-based practices. Of interest, a primary certificate in Vascular and Interventional Radiology is being submitted to ABMS by ABR.

8. There is a significant initiative to expand the vascular registry to meet the needs of MOC. Currently the registry tracks carotid operations only. There are plans to add lower extremity intervention to the vascular registry.

9. Concerning government relations, the SVS PAC continues to solicit support. In 2009, five new CPT codes, including debranching codes apparently with excellent RVUs, will be added. Plans are being made to increase RVUs such that they will be equal to those for AV graft placement. A CPT code for endovascular popliteal aneurysm exclusion was not pursued because there is no FDA approved graft for such a procedure. Component coding (such as atherectomy which has increased over 5000% during the past 5 years) is under siege and will not continue. The vascular lab code 93922 (ABI), which now has quite good reimbursement, will probably decrease. Carotid stenting coverage will not be expanded for the next year. Quality measures concerning perioperative care for carotid disease have been added this year.

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10. The Clinical Practice Council Workforce Study will not be undertaken due to expense and other issues. There is a push lead by Past President Clagett to expand the involvement of “Community Practice” and young surgeons on SVS committees.
11. Concerning the Communications Committee, podcasts recorded at SVS will be available through VascularWeb.org. This group is committed to increasing the utility of the vascular web.
12. The Research Council, chaired by Dr. Dalman, would like to increase the role of vascular surgeons in clinical trials. There will be a clinical research training course offered at the SVS National vascular meeting.
13. There is interest in growing the membership of the SVS. Consideration of adding physician assistants and extender membership categories to SVS is underway. Representative Eidt felt we should encourage all members of SAVS to pursue membership to the SVS.

As a consequence, a motion was passed by the Executive Council for outgoing President Naslund to craft a letter to the SAVS membership encouraging everyone who is not already a member to pursue membership in the Society for Vascular Surgery.

- ♦ Resources Development Committee Chair Langan reported that the Association should expect more difficulty in obtaining corporate support in the future. This is a national phenomenon. A meeting with corporate sponsors will be held on Friday morning to discuss needs between the Association and industry. Chairman Langan will report back to the Council after his meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Taylor reminded the Council that, while corporate donations are currently down, the treasury remains strong, obviating the need to change any of our current proceedings as it pertains to our relationship with industry.
- ♦ Government Relations Committee Chair and Past President Hugh Trout reported on the Medicare coding changes referenced by Representative Eidt in his report. The combination of an economy in recession, a failing healthcare industry and a new president should make for an interesting year.
- ♦ Budget and Finance Committee Chair Hagino was absent and Secretary-Treasurer Taylor reported that the financial health of the Association is satisfactory. The committee recommended no increase in dues at this time.

Secretary-Treasurer Taylor provided follow up on action items discussed at the June Executive Council.

- ♦ Membership dues may now be paid using a credit card. The expense of this service will be passed on to the member.
- ♦ The Membership Committee recommended and the Council approved a motion to eliminate the vascular case list as an applica-

tion requirement for applicants who have a vascular fellowship and a Primary Certificate or a Certificate of Added Qualifications in vascular surgery. A bylaws change will be required to accomplish this.

- ♦ Secretary-Treasurer Taylor gave a report from the AAVS meeting, which was held at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in San Francisco in October. Many of the issues discussed at this meeting have been covered by the report from Representative Eidt. Most pertinent to our Association is the SVS’ development of educational modules which may assist in our postgraduate course curriculum in future years.
- ♦ Secretary-Treasurer Taylor informed the Council that he had been approached by several individuals, including individuals from outside the Association, regarding a relationship between SAVS and the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery. Currently members of the Vascular Surgery Board are appointed through a nomination process governed by the Society of Vascular Surgery and the American Board of Surgery (ABS). As well, the Vascular Surgery Board considers nominations from three national vascular organizations. It has been suggested that the SAVS petition the ABS to allow one of its members to have a permanent representative on the Vascular Surgery Board. Discussion ensued and positive points included:
 1. It is consistent with the mission of the Association
 2. A permanent appointment adds value to becoming a member of the SAVS and thus would boost interest in membership for the future.
 3. It allows for more broad-based representation on the Vascular Surgery Board
 4. It provides a “grass-roots” endorsement of the ABS efforts to establish the American “Boards” of Surgery; capable of keeping the many subspecialties of surgery under one united board.
 5. It expands the Vascular Surgery Board, increasing its influence within the ABS to perhaps accomplish the objectives that some seek by pursuing an independent vascular board.

Several concerns were raised; especially by current members of the ABS and the Vascular Surgery Board. These included:

1. There are many logistical issues currently on going at the Board which make acceptance of any petition from our Association unlikely.
2. The SAVS currently has excellent representation on the Vascular Surgery Board
3. A petition from the SAVS would most assuredly result in a petition from other vascular regional societies, expanding the size of the board considerably.
4. Increasing the size of the Vascular Surgery Board may make the group too large and unwieldy
5. Increasing the size of the Vascular Surgery Board would increase expenses; expenses that are already excessive.

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It was concluded that any petition to the American Board of Surgery would not obtain immediate acceptance and that the process of obtaining an appointment on the Vascular Surgery Board may be a lengthy one. However, it was felt that pursuing an appointment on the Vascular Surgery Board was the appropriate action.

A motion was unanimously passed directing incoming President Perler and Secretary-Treasurer Taylor to explore the process of obtaining an appointment for the SAVS to the Vascular Surgery Board of the American Board of Surgery.

Membership Committee Report

Membership Committee Chair Arko reported that on January 5th the Committee met via conference call and reviewed 7 applications for Active Membership and 7 applications for Candidate Membership. All applications were approved. (Please see list of new members on Page 7.)

Chairman Arko reviewed the rationale behind abolishing the mandatory submission of the 3 year vascular surgery case list for vascular surgeons who have finished an accredited fellowship in vascular surgery and who have a Primary Certificate or Certificate of Added Qualifications in Vascular Surgery from the American Board of Surgery. This required task has become onerous, is unnecessary, has outlasted its usefulness and in many cases discourages qualified members to seek membership. A bylaws change will be instituted at next year's Annual Meeting.

Program Committee Report

Program Committee Chair Modrall reported that the Committee, consisting of Randy Geary, Scott Stevens, Spence Taylor, and Thomas Huber, met in Atlanta, Georgia on October 6, 2008 to select abstracts for presentation and plan the program for the annual meeting. This year's program was selected from a pool of 136 abstract submissions, which included 73 free papers, 46 case reports, 10 submissions for the Founders Award, and 7 basic science abstracts. Twenty-nine percent of the submitted abstracts were selected for the program, including 24 free papers, 12 case reports, 4 basic science papers. This year's program will feature two case report sessions, a basic science session, and a special session on Current Issues in the Treatment of Infrainguinal Arterial Occlusive Disease.

Recorder's Report

Recorder Thomas Huber Reported that a total of 36/46 possible manuscripts were submitted for publication to the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* from the SAVS Annual Meeting 2008. As of 1/13/09, 69% had been accepted for publication. Notably, these numbers reflect all the types of papers presented including the free papers, case presentations, basic science, and special session. Among the free papers, 22/23 were submitted for publication and 77% were accepted. Both the S. Timothy String Presidential and Founder's Award manuscripts were accepted.

A total of 16 Examinees took the Mock Oral Examinations. Eighteen members of the organization graciously donated their time to serve as Examiners. Upon completion of examination, 9 examinees successfully passed for a pass rate of 56%. The results of the examination will be forwarded to the Examinees and their respective Program Directors. As in years past, W. L. Gore generously provided stipends of \$1,000 to examinees to offset the cost of the examination

and hosted a reception the night prior to the exam. Chairman Huber formally thanked all of the Examiners and W. L. Gore for their generous support.

A survey was submitted to past Mock Oral Examinees and Examiners by Secretary-Treasurer Taylor. Both groups found the exercise was valuable and should be continued. Several constructive suggestions were made that will be implemented to improve the overall quality of the examination. All Examinees, Examiners and Program Directors will be surveyed prospectively.

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

Continuing Medical Education Committee

Continuing Medical Education Committee Chair Chip Sternbergh reported that our annual Post Graduate Course, devoted to Business Issues in Vascular Practice, was quite successful. This topic was picked after an on-line survey of the membership was performed. Approximately 50 participants attended, and the quality was outstanding. Next year's Post Graduate Course topic will be decided at the June meeting of the Executive Council

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee, named at the beginning of the Annual Meeting by President Naslund, consisted of Tony Katros (Chairman) of Johnson City, Tennessee, Jeff Dattilo of Nashville, Tennessee, and Michael Stoner of Greenville, North Carolina. Committee Chairman Katros reported that the Committee had met with Secretary-Treasurer Taylor to review the Association's finances. The committee concurred with the audit report from Jennings Cook & Co., PA of Greenville, South Carolina, that the financial status of the Association is healthy, with all matters of finance having been transacted in good-faith and the general ledger was in balance.

No Unfinished Business**New Business**

President Naslund recognized Archives Committee Chairman and Past President Jim Seeger who came to the podium. He announced that his Committee plans to name two Rudolph Matas Lifetime Achievement Awards. The first will be to Norman M. Rich in 2010 and the second will be to Robert B. Smith, III in 2011. The membership recognized Dr. Rich with applause.

Recognition of President Naslund

Past President and senior-most present member of the Nominating Committee James Valentine recognized President Naslund's contributions to the SAVS as outgoing president. He presented President Naslund with a plaque and mounted symbolic gavel of the Association. A captain's chair and engraved Revere bowl was mailed directly to Dr. Naslund's office to commemorate his presidency.

There being no further business, the 2009 Annual Business Meeting of The Southern Association for Vascular Surgery was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

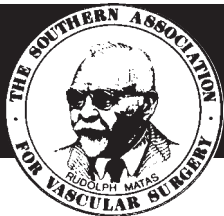


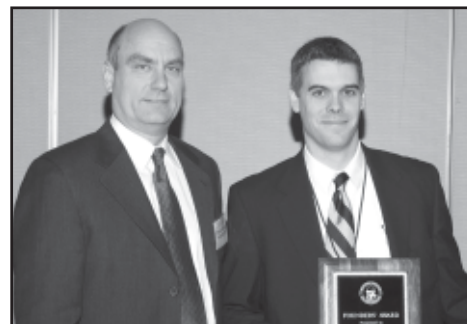
Photo Highlights of the 34th Annual Meeting
January 14-17 , 2009
Tuscon, Arizona



Presidential Address
Thomas C. Naslund, M.D.
"Science as Our Voice"



Distinguished Guest Lecture
Fred A. Weaver, M.D. (left)
 Los Angeles, California
"Endovascular Navigation of the Aorta"



2009 Founders' Award
Matthew A. Corriere, M.D.
 Wake Forest University
 Baptist Medical Center
 Winston-Salem, North Carolina
*"Restenosis following Renal Artery
 Angioplasty and Stenting: Incidence
 and Risk Factors"*



**2008 S. Timothy String
 Presidential Award**
William A. Marston, M.D.
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina
*"The Importance of Deep Venous Reflux
 Velocity as a Determinant of Outcome in
 Patients with Combined Superficial and
 Deep Venous Reflux Treated with
 Endosaphenous Ablation"*



THANK YOU

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of the Annual Meeting:*

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MAQUET Cardiovascular
Medtronic CardioVascular
OmniSonics Medical Technologies Inc
Osborn Medical Corp.
Terumo Cardiovascular Systems
Volcano Therapeutics

2009 NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Ahsan T. Ali, M.D.	Little Rock, AR
Mark G. Davies, M.D.	Houston, TX
Jonathan S. Deitch, M.D.	New York, NY
Amit J. Dwivedi, M.D.	Louisville, KY
Tod M. Hanover, M.D.	Greenville, SC
Christopher W. Pollock, M.D.	Knoxville, TN
Michael C. Stoner, M.D.	Greenville, NC

CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP

Nick N. Abedi, M.D.	Lexington, KY
James E. Chalk, M.D.	Knoxville, TN
Theresa A. Cole, M.D.	Greenville, SC
Richard B. Cook, M.D.	Knoxville, TN
Christopher B. Everett, M.D.	Greenville, SC
Ali Khoobehi, M.D.	Nashville, TN
Albert I. Richardson, M.D.	Norfolk, VA

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Fred A. Weaver, M.D. Los Angeles, California

Sport Event Winners

5k RUN

1st Place

Female: Britt Tonnessen
Male: Karthikeshwar Kasirajan

Longest Distance

Eric Endean

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

1st Place

Male: Atef Salam

SPORTING CLAYS

1st Place: Daniel Fisher

GOLF TOURNAMENT

1st Place Foursome: Score of 63

L. Richard Sprouse
Jonathan D. Woody
Gregory C. Schmieder
George Poole

Closest to the Pin: JD Lawson

Longest Drive: JD Lawson

Special thanks to Hike Organizer:

Donald L. Arey, Jr., M.D.

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery will be held January 20-23, 2010 at the Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas. 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 to this beautiful resort.

Abstracts

All abstract submission will be on-line at <http://savs.vascularweb.org>. For additional information please contact the Association's Administrative Office, 900 Cummings Center, Suite 221-U, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 927-8330 / Fax: (978) 524-0498. Submission deadline for abstracts for the 2010 Annual Meeting is Friday, September 4, 2009.

Case Reports Accepted for Panel Presentation at the 2010 Annual Meeting

Case Reports will be solicited for panel presentation during the 34th 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 2010 Annual Meeting. The award consists of \$5000 and will be presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting at the Ritz Carlton, Naples, Florida.

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 34th Annual Meeting in the Bahamas. 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 20, 2010 and will feature a current vascular topic to be decided. Registration will be limited. Please contact the SAVS office at (978) 927-8330 or email: 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. Thomas Huber at (352) 273-5515 or thomas.huber@surgery.ufl.edu.

Guests

Members who wish to invite non-member physicians as their guests should contact the office of Spence M. Taylor, MD, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Academic Department of Surgery, 701 Grove Road, Greenville, South Carolina 29605, (864) 455-5795 / staylor2@ghs.org. Invited guests will receive a letter of invitation and the necessary reservation forms, as well as meeting information.

Active, Candidate, and Corresponding Memberships

Deadline for new member application and supporting information is **October 1, 2009**. Application forms 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 be certified by the American Board of Surgery and/or the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, with Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons; 3. Applicants 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.

All application materials should then be returned to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Spence M. Taylor, MD, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Academic Department of Surgery, 701 Grove Road, Greenville, South Carolina 29605.

From the President

(continued from page one)

nights of the Arizona desert provided a beautiful backdrop to spend time with old acquaintances and develop new friendships during a variety of athletic and social activities.

Our specialty has matured and evolved dramatically over the last three decades, but never more profoundly than in recent years. In view of the rapid development of novel, evolving technologies; the generation of information at a rate faster than at any time in our history; and the unprecedented growth of the elderly segment of our population in whom circulatory disease predominates, there has never been a more exciting time to be a vascular and endovascular surgeon or a time when it has been more critical to keep abreast of developments in the field. The introduction of Maintenance of Certification and increasing multispecialty competition in our current health care system pose new challenges and make our Association and our Annual Meeting more relevant to all of us than ever before.

While the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery has grown over its three decade history, it has never changed its fundamental character or lost sight of the vision of our founding members. Our

While the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery has grown over its three decade history, it has never changed its fundamental character or lost sight of the vision of our founding members. Our Annual meetings are marked by the highest quality educational programs, as evidenced by some of the highest publication rates of any national or regional society.....

Annual meetings are marked by the highest quality educational programs, as evidenced by some of the highest publication rates of any national or regional society, spirited discussions of papers in an atmosphere of collegiality and camaraderie among community-based and academic surgeons and surgeons-in-training, and a truly special and enjoyable social fellowship.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our 34th Annual Meeting at the Atlantis on Paradise Island,

Bahamas, January 20-23, 2010. The venue is spectacular, and our Executive Council is hard at work planning what I know will prove to be our best meeting ever!

There is no greater reward than to be recognized by one's peers. For the enormous honor of serving as your President, I am humbled and I sincerely thank you. I look forward to seeing you at Paradise Island next year.

Bruce A. Perler, M.D.



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Southern Association for Vascular Surgery

34th ANNUAL MEETING

January 20-23, 2010

Atlantis
Paradise Island, Bahamas

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009



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