



Newsletter of the Society for Vascular  
Medicine and Biology

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## Notes from the President John P. Cooke MD PhD



### An eventful period.

Dear colleagues: The last 6 months have been an eventful period for the Society. The purpose of this communication is to apprise you of the progress that has been made; to inform you about our plans for the future; and to interest you in the opportunities for you to contribute to the Society. As your President, one of my goals is to broaden the leadership base of the Society, and to draw upon the diverse strengths and expertise of our Fellows and Members. I have implemented a new committee structure for the Society, and expanded the charge of these committees. The committees are described in more detail below, and I welcome your interest. Feel free to contact me if you wish to become involved in an SVMB committee.

### ABVM holds its first certification exams: an unqualified success.

The major milestone reached in 2005 by the SVMB was the successful debut of the American Board of Vascular Medicine, which held its first certifying exams in September 2005. Over 300 individuals took the examinations, which were administered nationally. There was an examination for general vascular medicine practitioners (ABVM-GE) and one for endovascular interventionalists (ABVM-EE). Approximately 70% of examinees passed the test, and will receive certificates documenting their expertise. The first certifying examination represents a watershed moment for Vascular Medicine, as our discipline emerges as a distinct subspecialty.

There are several individuals that deserve accolades for their contribution to the success of the ABVM. Dr. Bruce H. Gray is Chief Operating Officer of the ABVM and the bulk of the administrative work has fallen on his capable shoulders. Past President Michael R. Jaff played a primary role in the founding of ABVM. Led by Dr. Jaff the SVMB Board of Trustees voted to provide a certification process in general vascular medicine and endovascular medicine. Subsequently, the ABVM was incorporated as a separate entity, with its own bylaws, and a multidisciplinary board of directors. The SVMB provided a loan to ABVM, which permitted the Board to begin operations. A number of fellows labored long and hard to make the examination a success, investing many hours of thought and discussion in the development of test questions. These dedicated physicians included Drs. Michael Bacharach, Mark Creager, Jon Halperin, Jeffrey Olin, Kenneth Rosenfield, Christopher White, and Krishna Rocha-Singh.

Certification in Vascular Medicine will encourage more physicians to seek training; will stimulate training programs in vascular medicine; will promote the codification of a lexicon for vascular specialists; and will enhance patient care. In addition, certification in Endovascular Medicine provides the first multidisciplinary process to provide credentialing in peripheral endovascular procedures. Together with the SVMB, the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Intervention and the American College of Cardiology (ACC) have endorsed and have participated in the ABVM activities. The work of the ABVM will help to increase the number of vascular specialists. These specialists are needed to meet the growing demands of an aging US population where vascular diseases will remain the greatest cause of morbidity and mortality in the future. For more information about the ABVM or for an application for the certifying exam, visit [www.vascularboard.org](http://www.vascularboard.org).

### New Committee Structure for Society.

At our meeting in June, I outlined my goals for the Society during my Presidential term. They are to:

- 1) Promote the ABVM and to ensure its success.
- 2) To increase SVMB membership.
- 3) To further enhance its financial base
- 4) To mentor the next generation of leadership.
- 5) To carefully consider and to re-align its intersociety relationships.
- 6) To advocate for its Fellows and their patients vis-a-vis third party payors.
- 7) To maintain its leadership in defining Vascular Medicine by participation on extramural committees, position papers, and communications.

To help me achieve these aims, I have reorganized the committee structure for the society. The charge of each committee is described below. At the end of this newsletter you will find the current composition of these committees. If you are interested in the work of a particular committee, please let me know of your interest. There remain openings for the following committees: Training and Certification; Intersocietal Relations; Clinical Practice; Policies, Procedures and Bylaws . At the end of this document, I have also attached the names of those fellows who represent the Society in other organizations. If this list is incomplete, please let me know. I am thankful for the dedication and diligence of these SVMB Fellows.

*Executive Committee:* The Executive Committee consists of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The major responsibility of the Executive Committee is to conduct the affairs of the Society in the interim of scheduled Trustees meetings. The Executive Committee also serves as the Nominating Committee whose responsibility it is to nominate a slate of officers for succeeding elections of the Society.

*Scientific Programs:* The President-Elect chairs this Committee which selects the program and the moderators for the Annual Scientific Sessions, conducts other business connected with the program and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding educational initiatives of the Society. The Committee also reviews educational initiatives for which is sought the participation and endorsement of the Society, and makes their recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

*Finance:* The immediate past president chairs the Finance Committee. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to organize annual fundraising campaigns for the annual meetings and to solicit and collect unrestricted educational grants from industry. The committee is also charged with recommending, for Board approval, investment vehicles for SVMB treasury that will preserve SVMB capital.

*Training and Certification.* The committee develops proposals to the Board regarding SVMB policies on: certification in Vascular and endovascular medicine; requirements for training programs in Vascular Medicine; programs to encourage training in Vascular Medicine, such as scholarship programs or travel stipends for scientific meetings. The committee is additionally charged with assisting the Board to identify the next generation of SVMB leadership, and to involve these individuals in mentored leadership activities. Chair is also SVMB liaison to American Board of Vascular Medicine.

*Membership.* This committee is chaired by the Secretary and includes two subcommittees. The recruitment subcommittee is responsible for expanding the fellowship and the membership of the Society; and retaining the active participation of current Fellows and members. This Committee reviews the credentials of new applicants to the Society and decides on Fellow, Member or Associate status. The Credentials Committee presents their decisions to the Board of Trustees for approval.

*Communications.* This committee assists the President and the SVMB Board in communicating to our membership, as well as other professional and lay audiences. The committee maintains SVMB leadership in defining Vascular Medicine by development or participation in position papers, and other professional communications. Subcommittees include the Position Papers and Policy Subcommittee; the Website Subcommittee; and the Public Relations Subcommittee.

*Intersocietal Relations:* This committee provides oversight and coordination of SVMB interactions with other societies and organizations (except for ABVM) including ACC, AHA, ASE, CCO, ICAVL, IUA, NAVBO, PAD Coalition, SVS, SVN, TAVM, VDF. The committee makes recommendations to the Board regarding intersocietal interactions.

*Clinical Practice:* This committee is charged with advocacy for vascular medicine practitioners. The committee provides oversight of organizations and consultants that are working with SVMB to advocate for legislation on third party reimbursement (e.g. CQO, CASRG). The committee develops and recommends to the Board, positions on legislation and regulations related to the clinical practice of Vascular Medicine. Where necessary, this committee develops SVMB communications to government, regulatory bodies regarding reimbursements and regulations, for approval by the Board.

*Policies, Procedures and Bylaws:* This committee is responsible for assisting the Board in drafting amendments to bylaws; and for maintaining adherence to Bylaws. The committee is also responsible for drafting and updating the Policy and Procedures handbook, with the input and approval of Committee chairs and the Board.

Of these, the Communications Committee, led by Dr. James Froehlich has been particularly busy. They have reviewed, commented upon and ultimately endorsed three separate position papers to date (the Consensus document on Endovascular repair of Thoracic Aortic Pathology or ETAP; the ACC/AHA 2005 Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Peripheral Arterial Disease; and the TASC II Guidelines). You will be hearing more about these documents, and separate reports on the activities of the committees in subsequent newsletters.

### **Board Review Course.**

Dr. Thom Rooke is organizing the Board Review Course for June 2006, after a very successful course last June in Chicago. Over 200 physicians attended the first course, which was standing room only. The attendees gave the course high praise. This coming year the room will be larger and more comfortable, with better acoustics and audiovisual characteristics, in anticipation of continuing high demand for this educational experience. As before, the 2006 course will provide core knowledge in evidence-based vascular and endovascular medicine. In parallel, Dr. Rooke and Timothy Sullivan plan to convert the syllabus for the course into a textbook. Other educational efforts include Dr. Michael Jaff's exploration of a collaboration with the ACC on a Vascular Self-Assessment Program.

### **The TransAtlantic Vascular Meeting.**

The TransAtlantic Vascular Meeting organized by Judy Regensteiner was held October 26th in Glasgow, Scotland. This meeting was a core component of the EuroCHAP 2005 meetings, and brought together vascular clinicians and scientists from the United States and Europe. Program highlights included new developments in pharmacological and endovascular therapies, as well as novel insights into pathophysiology of vascular disease. The program included SVMB fellows Drs. Michael Jaff, John Cooke, William Hiatt, Mark Creager, Judy Regensteiner, Sanjay Rajagopalan, Jeffery Olin, Alan Hirsch, Brian Annex, Emile Mohler, Steven Dean, and Michael Criqui.

### **Vascular Imaging Symposium.**

The **4th Annual Vascular Imaging Symposium and Board Review** has been organized by Drs. Emile Mohler and Marie Gerhard-Herman will take place on Thursday, December 8, 2005, at the Lighthouse International Conference Center, New York, NY. This yearly symposium is Jointly Sponsored by the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology and American Society of Echocardiography and Co-Sponsored by the American College of Cardiology Foundation. Experts will discuss the basics and the latest techniques and have developed this curriculum to assist individuals in echo and vascular labs who want to learn about vascular ultrasound or to prepare for the upcoming ARDMS Physician Vascular Interpretation Examination (beginning January 2006). Further details regarding an application for the symposium is available on the SVMB website.

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## **From the Executive Director's Desk...**

### **Transition...**

About one year ago in December 2004, I arrived for work at the new Society headquarters office in

Bethesda, Maryland. Then, it truly was a paperless office, although well-stocked with furniture—a large desk, bookcase, credenza, two filing cabinets, computer station with a new CPU and monitor, 2 lamps, a desk chair of my favorite design, and a high-tech telephone that was assigned a number that connected to no one...not even a "Sorry, wrong number" message. (That was remedied quickly!) Then, the archives arrived from Massachusetts, and within the boxes, multitudes of paper.

Also in December, I attended the Board of Trustees meeting and had a glimpse of the SVMB/ASE's 3<sup>rd</sup> Vascular Imaging Symposium. (Now, I'm looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> VIS on December 8, 2005). Since then, I have enjoyed meeting many of you by phone, fax, email, in person while exhibiting at scientific meetings in Florida and Louisiana, and then in Chicago at the June meetings—the Board Review Course and Annual Scientific Sessions.

Our 2005 joint meeting partner, the North American Vascular Biology Organization (NAVBO), has offices just a half-mile away, which made it possible to coordinate our meeting planning with in-person conferences and local phone calls. This collaboration resulted in attendance of 285—the largest ever for SVMB Annual Scientific Sessions.

The physical office transition required setting up new systems and establishing new business partnerships: reinventing the wheel. Moreover, the move offered a unique opportunity to form closer ties to a broad cardiovascular community, because of the SVMB headquarters' proximity to the American College of Cardiology and the other onsite administrative offices situated here: the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society for Geriatric Cardiology, American Society for Nuclear Cardiology, Association of Women's Heart Programs, Association of Professors of Cardiology, and the Coalition of Cardiovascular Organizations (CCO). Bringing together member leaders and their respective society executive administrative staff, the CCO consists of 13 organizations that collectively include more than 60,000 members. Staff-to-staff relationships extend the Society's reach as do your scientific collaborations. I believe that SVMB's reaching out has been mutually beneficial within the Cardiovascular community; and while this has happened, the Society also has maintained its strong ties to the greater Vascular community.

A huge amount of cross-communicating transpires while planning and executing your Society's business. Now, the Society is about 6 months away from holding the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions—June 2-3, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Review Course—June 2-4, 2006, in Philadelphia, PA. I guess that I will need to prepare soon for more paper to arrive—registrations, abstracts, etc.! I hope that when you are in the Bethesda area that you will take time to stop by the Society office at 9111 Old Georgetown Road.

Lorraine Bell, SVMB Executive Director

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## Upcoming Events

The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Vascular Imaging Symposium and Board Review** will take place Thursday, December 8, 2005, at the Lighthouse International Conference Center, New York, NY. This one-day course offers an overview of vascular ultrasound topics covered on the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers' (ARDMS) Physician Vascular Interpretation Examination.

The **6<sup>th</sup> annual Wound Healing: Science and Industry** meeting, scheduled for December 9, 10, & 11, 2005 in St. Thomas – U.S. Virgin Islands, promises a comprehensive review of cutting edge advances in the science of wound healing.

The **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of the SVMB** — June 2-3, 2006, in Philadelphia, PA will focus on advances in clinical vascular medicine, and feature perennial favorite sessions including Vascular Jeopardy and the Vascular Debates.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Board Review Course in Vascular Medicine** — June 2-4, 2006, in Philadelphia, PA, will be an intensive review of vascular and endovascular medicine topics covered on the ABVM certifying exam.

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**SVMB Committees & Subcommittees & Trustees 2005-2006**
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES****John P. Cooke, MD, PhD, *President***

J. Michael Bacharach, MD, MPH,  
*President-Elect* (2007)

Joshua A. Beckman, MD, *Secretary*  
(2007)

Thom W. Rooke, MD, *Treasurer* (2007)

Michael R. Jaff, DO, *Past President*  
(2007)

Brian H. Annex, MD, *Trustee* (2007)

Anthony J. Comerota, MD, *Trustee*  
(2007)

Steven Dean, DO, *Trustee* (2007)

Alain T. Drooz, MD, *Trustee* (2007)

James B. Froehlich, MD, *Trustee* (2007)

Christopher White, MD, *Trustee* (2007)

**CLINICAL PRACTICE****Steven Dean, DO, *Chair*** (2007)

Brian Annex, MD (2007)

Suman W. Rathbun, MD (2007)

**COMMUNICATIONS****James B. Froehlich, MD, *Chair*** (2007)

Joshua Beckman, MD (2007)

Susan Begelman, MD (2007)

Scott Kinlay, MD (2007)

Emile Mohler III MD (2007)

*Subcommittees:*

Position Papers and Policy

Public Relations

Web Site

**FINANCE****Michael R. Jaff, DO, *Chair*** (2007)

Thom W. Rooke, MD, *ex-officio* (2007)

J. Michael Bacharach, MD (2007)

*Subcommittee:*

Ad hoc Committee on Investments

**INTERSOCIETAL RELATIONS****Alan T. Hirsch, MD, *Chair*** (2007)

Brian H. Annex, MD (2007)

Judith G. Regensteiner, PhD (2007)

**MEMBERSHIP****Joshua A. Beckman, MD, *Chair***  
(2007)

Alain T. Drooz, MD (2006)

Pavel J. Levy, MD (2006)

James B. Froehlich, MD (2007)

Suman W. Rathbun, MD (2007)

*Subcommittees:*

Credentials Committee

Recruitment Committee

**NOMINATIONS****Michael R. Jaff, DO, *Chair*** (2007)

John P. Cooke, MD, PhD (2007)

J. Michael Bacharach, MD, MPH  
(2007)

Joshua A. Beckman, MD (2007)

Thom W. Rooke, MD (2007)

**POLICIES, PROCEDURES  
AND BYLAWS****Susan M. Begelman, MD, *Chair***

(2007) *Subcommittees:*

By-laws

Policies and Procedures

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS****J. Michael Bacharach, MD, *Chair***

(2007)

John P. Cooke, MD, PhD, *ex-officio*

(2007)

Mark A. Creager, MD, *ex-officio* (2007)

Michael R. Jaff, DO, *ex-officio* (2007)

**TRAINING AND  
CERTIFICATION****Jeffrey W. Olin, DO, *Chair*** (2007)

Alain T. Drooz, MD, (2007)

**EDITOR, VASCULAR  
MEDICINE**

Mark A. Creager, MD

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## SVMB Representatives

J. Michael Bacharach, MD, MPH  
ACC Committee on Coding and Nomenclature/ Carotid Artery Stenting Working Group

Joshua A. Beckman, MD ACC-PVDC (2008)/ CCO (2006) ACC-AHA Guideline Cte.: CV  
Evaluation...Noncardiac Surgery

Lorraine Bell, MS  
ACC Cardiovascular Advocacy Roundtable/CCO/ACC-CVIC

Alain T. Drooz, MD  
CCO Alternate

Marie D. Gerhard-Herman, MD  
ACC Appropriateness Criteria Working Group/ACC-CVIC/ACC-CQU/ACC-CQI/ ASE

Michael R. Jaff, DO  
ACC Advocacy Committee/ ACC Delegate-AMA Section on Cardiac Disease/ ACC Committee on Coding  
and Nomenclature/Carotid Artery Stenting Working Group/CCO (2005-2006)/PAD Coalition (2005)/VDF  
(2008)/SIR/

Scott Kinlay, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.  
i2 Summit Program Advisory Group

Emile R. Mohler, MD  
ACCI/ACC-CQI/ACC- CVIC/ ASE /ICAVL (2008)/ PAD Coalition Nominating Cte. (2005)

Judith G. Regensteiner, PhD  
International Union of Angiology

Kenneth Rosenfield, MD  
Writing Committee for the ACCF/SCAI/SVS/SVMB/SIR/ASITN Expert Consensus Document on Carotid  
Stenting

Christopher J. White, MD  
Writing Committee for the ACCF/ SCAI /SVS/SVMB/SIR/ASITN Expert Consensus Document on Carotid  
Stenting

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## Acronym Reference

ACC – American College of Cardiology

ACCF – American College of Cardiology Foundation

ACC-CVIC – Cardiovascular Imaging Collaborative

ACC-AHA Committee to Update Guidelines on Perioperative Cardiovascular Evaluation for Noncardiac Surgery

ACCI – American College of Cardiology Initiative

ACC-PVDC – American College of Cardiology Peripheral Vascular Disease Committee

ASE – American Society of Echocardiography

CAS – Carotid Artery Stenting Working Group

CCO – Coalition of Cardiovascular Organizations

CQU – Coalition for Quality Ultrasound

CVIC – see ACC-CIC

ICAVL – Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories

PAD Coalition – Peripheral Arterial Disease Coalition

SIR – Society for Interventional Radiology

VDF – Vascular Disease Foundation