



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



### **Come to the Annual Meeting in June!**

I am looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of our Society and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Board Review Course in Vascular Medicine!

It is a great opportunity to see friends, colleagues and kindred spirits, and to exchange ideas and insights about the latest advances in vascular medicine. Both the scientific session and the course should prove to be highly informative, as we have a spectacular faculty providing topical content. I am thankful for the creative and diligent work of Drs. Michael Bacharach, Thom Rooke and the Scientific Organizing Committee, in the development of the program. Dr. Michael Jaff deserves special mention for his outstanding effort leading the Finance subcommittee to raise funding for the meeting.

At the Annual Scientific Session (June 7-8), we will hear about the latest pharmacotherapeutic approaches for vascular disease; endovascular strategies for revascularization; vascular practice economics, the latest clinical trials; and common clinical conundrums. Interactions between the participants will be facilitated by cases over cocktails, as well as the scientific poster session with wine and cheese, and the perennial favorite, Vascular Jeopardy!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Board review begins Friday afternoon and extends through Sunday (June 8-10). For those of you planning to take the Vascular Boards, the Board Review Course is a must. This year, we are letting all of the attendees to the Annual Scientific Session to also join us Friday afternoon for the first session of the Board Review Course. After attending this teaser, you will probably want to sign up for the rest of the review! Continuing medical education credits (14.75 for the Annual Scientific Session, and 17.5 for the BRC) are offered through the University of Colorado.

Friday night we will have our gala event at Ixia, with an inventive blend of Mediterranean and Asian hors d'oeuvres, drinks and music. Please come to this very nice social event, and say hello. I look forward to hearing your thoughts about our field and our Society.

### **The Young Investigator Awards Competition: It's Duke versus Stanford!**

It is traditional at our Annual Scientific Sessions to highlight the young investigators in Vascular Medicine with the poster session and the YIA competition. The presentations for the YIA competition were selected from abstracts submitted to the meeting. This year, we have an unprecedented match up between Duke and Stanford, with three competitors from each school (in the interest of full disclosure, I had nothing to do with the selection process). The abstracts are

all quite intriguing, and I am looking forward to a great competition. It is great to see that the future of our field is in the hands of such promising young investigators.

### **The Business Meeting**

If you are a Fellow of the Society, don't miss the Society business luncheon. This is an important event where you can have a voice and a vote on matters of concern to the Society. Most notably, this year the leadership has extensively discussed a name change for the Society. Specifically, the leadership is contemplating a change to "Society for Vascular Medicine". Dropping "Biology" from the title is by no means a retreat from the research mission of the Society. More to the point, it is to recognize that Vascular Medicine includes all aspects of research, including clinical, translational as well as basic vascular biology. Vascular Medicine includes the study and treatment of arterial, venous and lymphatic disease, as well as associated medical disorders of metabolism, coagulation and hemodynamics. We employ a broad spectrum of imaging and diagnostic tools, and intervene with lifestyle changes, pharmacotherapy and endovascular devices. Our research is equally broad, and not represented well by "Biology". Another reason to drop the "B" is to acknowledge the changing composition of our constituency, who are largely endovascular and general vascular practitioners. Nevertheless, there will always be biologists among us; I count myself as one. But I am happy to be in this diverse congregation that includes many types of investigators, educators, and clinicians, all united in their dedication to the field of Vascular Medicine.

### **Slate of Nominees for Society Leadership**

Another reason to attend the business luncheon is to vote for your Society's future leadership. All Society Fellows are eligible to nominate candidates from the floor, and to vote. The Nominating Committee of the Society has selected the following slate of individuals as candidates for the open positions in the Society leadership. I am delighted that each of these individuals enthusiastically accepted their nomination. Although the Nominating Committee has chosen the slate of candidates below, prior to the vote, I will solicit additional nominations from the floor. The current slate of candidates is:

President-elect: Thom Rooke (Mayo Clinic)  
Secretary: Josh Beckman (Brigham & Women's Hospital)  
Treasurer: James Froelich (University of Michigan)  
Trustee: Jerry Bartholomew (Cleveland Clinic)  
Trustee: Susan Begelman (Nuvelo, Inc)  
Trustee: Christopher J. Cooper (Medical College of Ohio)  
Trustee: Robert T. Eberhardt (Boston University)  
Trustee: Scott Kinlay (Brigham & Women's Hospital)  
Trustee: Suman Rathbun (University of Oklahoma)

### **Master of the Society**

The vigor of the Society depends upon the selfless dedication and enlightened leadership of individuals devoted to its mission. These individuals serve tirelessly and without compensation. Such service should be recognized. Accordingly, I have asked the Board of Trustees to consider a resolution to create an honorary title. The honorific of "Master of the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology" (MSVMB) will be conferred upon individuals who have provided extraordinary service to the Society. Such an individual will have been a fellow of the Society for more than fifteen years. No more than three Master designations will be awarded each year. The outgoing Past-President of the Society will receive the award. Officers and Trustees of the Society will be invited annually to nominate candidates for Master designation to the Nominating Committee, which will make its recommendations to the Board of Trustees prior to the Annual Scientific Session of the Society. I will present the first Awards at the Annual Scientific Session, during the Presidential Address.

### **Master Clinician**

Please join me in congratulating SVMB Fellow and Secretary Dr. Josh Beckman who was selected to receive the coveted Harvey Procter Award, at the American College of Cardiology meeting in March. The Harvey Procter Award recognizes outstanding cardiovascular clinicians, and is awarded annually at the national meeting. Those of us who know Dr. Beckman recognize his great clinical expertise and appreciate the dry sense of humor he dispenses with his clinical pearls.

### **Under New Management**

I am happy to inform you that the Society has signed a contract with The Sherwood Group to be our new association management company. Sherwood will now replace the American College of Cardiology as our administrative arm. The administrative functions of our Society have become increasingly important as the society grows in membership and influence. In recognition of this critical function, the Trustees and I embarked upon a thorough and intensive search for the right administrative partner for the Society. We began last fall with a call for proposals, receiving more than 20 proposals. We narrowed the search by considering for interview only those proposals from certified AMC groups, and particularly AMC groups that had experience with medical societies. Drs. Beckman, Bacharach, Jaff and I interviewed representatives from six AMC groups in November at the American Heart Association, and selected two finalists to meet the entire Board of Trustees at our December meeting. The two finalists were each outstanding organizations. Sherwood was our ultimate choice because of their extensive and successful experience with medical and scientific societies. A brief report from our new executive administrator follows.

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### **Note from the Executive Director**

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with SVMB, the officers, trustees, committees and members as your new executive director. Together we will address the opportunities and challenges for this growing organization and expand its value as a unique forum sharing and advancing knowledge and exploring issues of concern to members.

In the coming months, you will begin to see new and improved benefits and services designed to engage and involve current and prospective member communities. You will soon receive an email linking to a brief online survey regarding your ideas and membership in SVMB. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions—your input is critical to our vision for the future.

Your new SVMB staff team at The Sherwood Group includes Administrator Joan Finn, Communications Manager Patricia Sullivan, Accountant Bill Chandler, as well as myself as executive director, supported by The Sherwood Group's staff of departmental and operations specialists. We look forward to sharing a bright and exciting future with SVMB and growing membership and network of stakeholders.

Greg Schultz  
SVMB Executive Director

### **SVMB's New Headquarters**

Reach SVMB Headquarters at:

Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology  
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Northbrook, IL 60062

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## Run for Your Legs...and Your Life

Help raise awareness about vascular disease at the 2007 LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon! Our partner, the Vascular Disease Foundation (VDF), is an official charity of the 2007 LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon October 7. Runners must sign up by early May. Fifty runners are needed to join the "Team VDF" to help raise awareness and support for vascular disease educational programs.

- If you're a marathon runner, join the Team VDF. Call 888-VDF-4INFO or go to <http://www.vdf.org/LaSalleBankChicagoMarathon.php>
- If you know marathon runners, please let them know about this great opportunity to help a great cause, and our partner organization.
- If you'd like to support the VDF team, please call VDF at 888-VDF-4INFO
- Need help or have questions? Contact [Christa.Saracco@vdf.org](mailto:Christa.Saracco@vdf.org)

Thanks for helping fulfill VDF's mission to reduce death and disability from vascular diseases and improve vascular health for all Americans!

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## NHLBI K12 Grants

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has awarded K12 grants to the following research/career development programs in vascular medicine. Use the contact information below to learn more:

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