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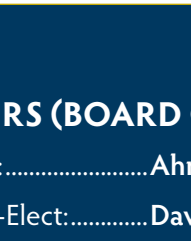
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dr. David Rigberg, President Elect Western Vascular Society



David Rigberg, MD

Program Director UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine Editor, True Lumen President-Elect Western Vascular Society



Well, baseball is back—and that can only mean one thing: meeting season is here!

We had a fantastic showing at the SCVS Annual Meeting, with a strong presence from Western Vascular members. A special highlight: UCLA's own Dr. Vincent Rowe was named President-Elect of SCVS, a tremendous honor and an exciting moment for our community.

Also, congratulations to Dr. Keyuree Kirtikumar Satam from Stanford for advancing to the Top 8 in this year's Top Gun Competition—a fierce and inspiring contest once again. Rumor has it we will have our own Western Style Resident Round up to determine who advances to Top Gun 2026.

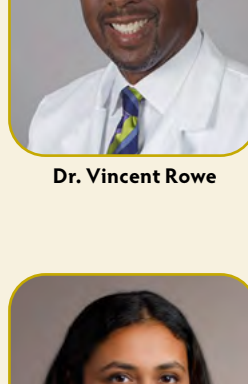
As I settle into my role on the WVS Executive Council, I'm continually impressed by the passion and commitment shown during our monthly meetings. It's a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated members—and I encourage you to join me in celebrating their continued contributions to the society.

Stay tuned, stay involved, and here's to another successful season ahead!

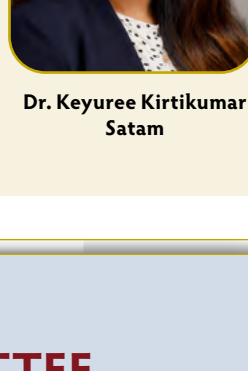
Gracias,

David Rigberg, MD

True Lumen Editor, President Elect, Western Vascular Society



Dr. Vincent Rowe



Dr. Keyuree Kirtikumar Satam

OFFICERS (BOARD OF DIRECTORS):

- President: Ahmed Abou-Zamzam, Jr. MD
President-Elect: David Rigberg, MD
Secretary-Treasurer: Jason Lee, MD
Recorder: Niten Singh, MD
Past-President: Roy M Fujitani, MD
Past-President: Wei Zhou, MD
Past-President: Vincent Rowe, MD

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: (NON-VOTING MEMBERS)

- Historian: R. Eugene Zierler, MD
Program Committee: Karen Woo, MD, PhD
Membership Committee: Mahmoud Malas, MD
DEI Committee: Sharon Kiang, MD
VSIG Committee: Kay Goshima, MD
Communications Committee: Leigh Ann O'Banion, MD
Bylaw Committee: Matthew Sweet, MD
Finance Committee: Ali Azzizadeh, MD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT DR. KAREN WOO

Please submit your abstracts for the 40th Anniversary Western Vascular Society Annual Meeting September 14-17, 2025 at my favorite place The Ojai Valley Inn in Ojai, CA.

TIMELINE

Abstract Submissions Close: April 20

Program Committee Blinded Review: April 28 - May 8 (Drs. AbouZamzam, Singh, Lee, Rigberg, Brooke, Arya, Kabutey)

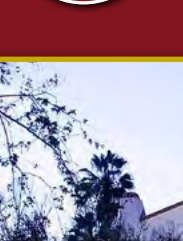
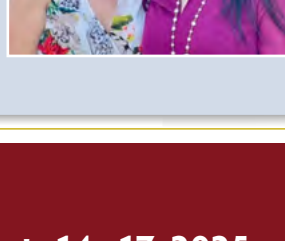
Program Committee Meeting: May 10

Author Notification: May 19

Abstracts Submitted to JVS: May 23

Discussant Invitations: June 1

Kelley Hodgkiss - Harlow and Karen Woo at the Ojai making memories



WESTERN VASCULAR SOCIETY

Annual Meeting

Sept. 14-17, 2025

Ojai Valley Inn

Ojai, CA



SPOTLIGHT ON THE FOUNDERS AWARD: HONORING EXCELLENCE AND MENTORSHIP

One of the exciting highlights of the upcoming meeting will be a special focus on the Founders Award. If we receive enough submissions, we're thrilled to host a dedicated Founders Session—moderated by none other than Dr. Wesley Moore and his longtime colleague, Dr. Jerry Goldstone.

This prestigious award was originally envisioned by Past President Dr. Steve Katz, with the goal of encouraging high-quality

abstract submissions from new members in their first three years. To be eligible, the first author must be a new member and must be present to close the discussion.

What's especially inspiring is the trend we've seen: many of our new members are already mentoring the next generation of vascular surgeons. If they wish to have a resident or medical student present the paper on their behalf, we welcome it!

We look forward to celebrating the future of our surgery—guided by the wisdom of our founders and the passion of our rising stars.

Check the website for registration as we will have incredible activities like companion breakfasts, bee keeping, artists cottage, and horseback riding in addition to the golf and tennis you have come to love.



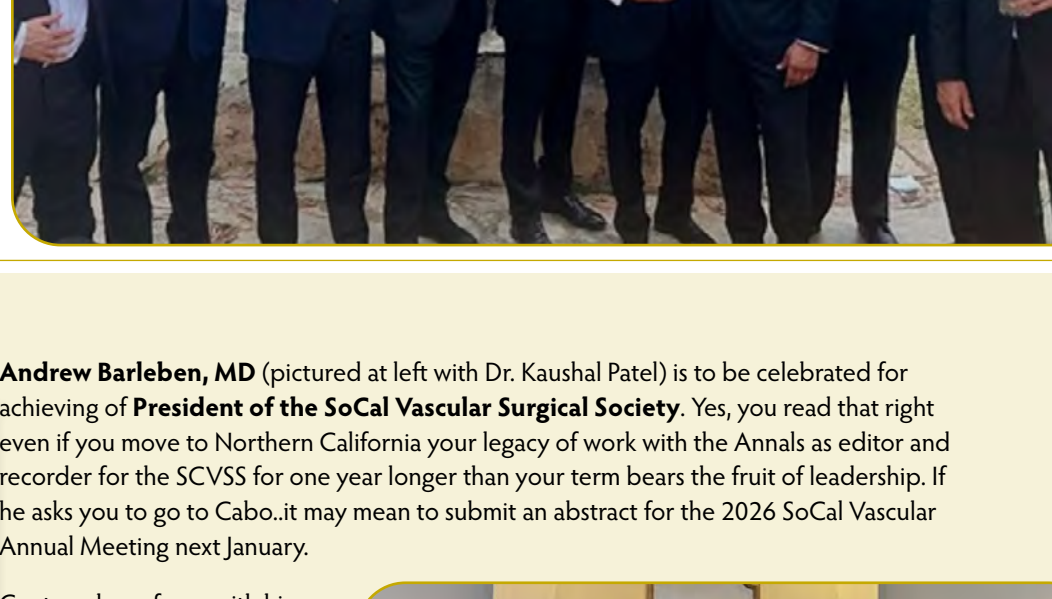
New Member Spotlight: Dr. Samantha Neureuther Stradleigh

Vascular Surgery for Kids is a delightful and educational children's book co-authored by Dr. Samantha Neureuther Stradleigh, a board-certified vascular surgeon and mother of two. The book aims to introduce young readers to the field of vascular surgery in an engaging and age-appropriate manner.

Dr. Stradleigh's dual perspective as a medical professional and a parent shines through in the book's tone and content. She successfully balances informative content with a nurturing approach, making the subject matter less intimidating for children.

Overall, Vascular Surgery for Kids is a commendable effort to inspire curiosity about medicine among young readers. It's a valuable addition to children's educational literature, especially for those interested in the medical field. Way to feed the pipeline Dr. Stradleigh!

WARNING: This photo contains high concentrations of charisma, cufflinks, and collateral flow. Dr. Johnathon Rollo's wedding proves WVS members don't just save limbs but live the good life.



Andrew Barleben, MD (pictured at left with Dr. Kaushal Patel) is to be celebrated for achieving of President of the SoCal Vascular Surgical Society. Yes, you read that right even if you move to Northern California your legacy of work with the Annals as editor and recorder for the SCVSS for one year longer than your term bears the fruit of leadership. If he asks you to go to Cabo...it may mean to submit an abstract for the 2026 SoCal Vascular Annual Meeting next January.

Captured as a force with his UCSD team Dr. Malas the Western Vascular Society Membership Chair reminds you to make sure to elevate your team by sponsoring

them for Candidate Membership. Send them to the website with letter of recommendation in hand and let's break the records for candidate members.

Questions? Email Fionnuala Gross admin@surgicalcs.com while you are at it wish her a happy birthday!



VASCULAR SURGERY INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

Kay Goshima is happy to welcome the VSIG scholarship recipients in the webinar April 29. We are going for a record investment in trainees with over \$40,000 dedicated to scholarships to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the society.

HEMWELL HACKETT PATTERSON FOUNDATION MEDICAL MISSION, HONDURAS Event Description



The Hackett Hemwall Patterson Foundation (HHPF), a non-profit organization, is committed to delivering compassionate healthcare to global communities. Through the International Service-Learning trips to resource-poor countries—specifically Honduras and Mexico—teams of dedicated healthcare professionals administer a range of treatments, including treatment of advanced venous disease, wound care, and hemodialysis access.

World Health Access Team (WHAT) is also a non-profit organization that was launched in 2014 to help support these important medical missions around the world.

These trips provide essential medical care to those in need and offer comprehensive training programs for doctors, with an emphasis on supporting healthcare professionals within the country. In addition to these efforts, HHPF conducts research and makes significant medical donations to clinics and hospitals, further strengthening healthcare infrastructure in underserved regions.

The venous program has been in place for over 22 years and is focused on assisting patients with venous disease and leg ulcers. The program has become one of the largest vein care service-learning trips in Honduras and Mexico. We provide evidence-based treatments for chronic venous insufficiency and leg ulcers.

Thanks to generous donations, we can offer various treatment options, enabling us to assist over 2000 patients a year during our 1-week mission trip in Honduras. Most of our experts come from the United States, but over the years, we have had expert doctors, Vascular surgery fellows, Surgical and Medical residents, RVTs, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and medical assistants from all over the world.

In addition, the General Surgery residents who participated in the mission identified the need for electronic data capture. We now can review large volumes of data for quality research purposes. The residents created a unique e-toolbox to capture the data. This will facilitate data collection review and allow the residents to continue to present at regional and national meetings.

Starting in 2024, HHPF and WHAT expanded the program to hemodialysis access in patients with renal failure. Most patients in Honduras with end-stage renal disease end up with temporary dialysis catheters and face significant barriers to healthcare and AV access creation. In addition, renal transplantation is not widely available. We started doing AV access procedures in these patients so that they could have their catheters removed and avoid the risk of sepsis. The program rapidly grew in 2025, and we did a total

of 27 surgical procedures in 4 days at local hospitals. General Surgery residents from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Vascular Surgery fellows from Cedars-Sinai and UC Irvine were intimately involved in helping to establish the program, working out logistics, and participating in the surgeries as first assistants. As we garner more resources, this program will continue to expand and provide unique opportunities for surgical residents to first assist in these technical vascular procedures.

Experts teach on topics including the physiology and treatment of venous disease, ultrasound overview, Mesoamerican nephropathy and hemodialysis access.

The lectures are approved as category 1 CMEs by The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and in combination with the clinical experience, are today widely considered a renowned Phlebology hands-on course with CME credits.

The group is divided into three clinic sites: La Ceiba, Olanchito, and Tela. We work together to create temporary vein clinics at the Red Cross building in La Ceiba, a cultural center in Olanchito, and a church in Tela. We also partnered with local physicians and hospitals in Olanchito to be able to perform the AV fistula creation procedures.

The overall experience is amazing, unique, and full of rewarding results. Participants return home exhausted but with a feeling of joy and fulfillment, all while working with a dedicated team, making lifetime friendships, and, above all, participating in a life-changing experience!

- NavYash Gupta, MD, RPVI, FACS
Roy Fujitani, MD, RVT, DFSVS, FACS
Nii-Kabu Kabutey, MD, RPVI, FACS
Hao Bui, MD
Nicolas Nelken, MD, RVT, FACS
Ben Herdrich, MD

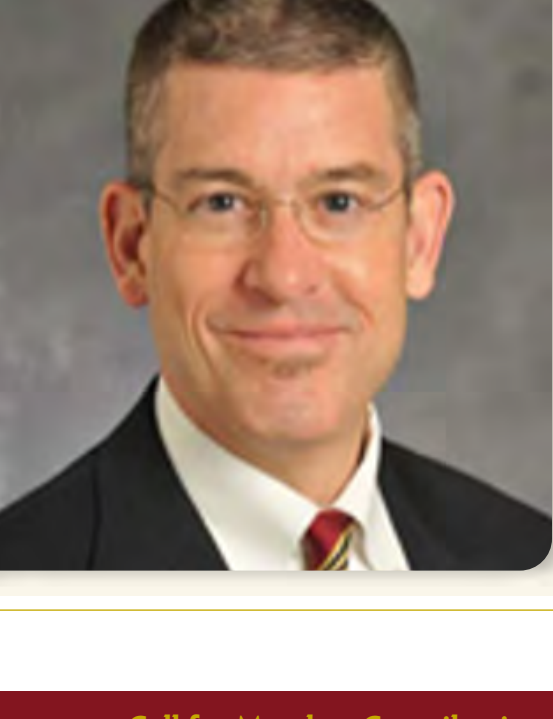


Thanks to the participation of board-certified vascular surgeons from Cedars-Sinai, UC Irvine School of Medicine, Kaiser Hawaii, Kern Vascular Center, Surgical Associates of Wisconsin, Gina Martinez MD Honduras liaison, The Social Security Hospital of Olanchito, and Hospital Anibal Escobar Murillo.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" - Mahatma Gandhi

PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST:

Please send trivia questions, memories or stories via email, audio message or photos to celebrate the 40th Anniversary to heather@surgicalcs.com.



PRESIDENTIAL INVITED GUEST LECTURER

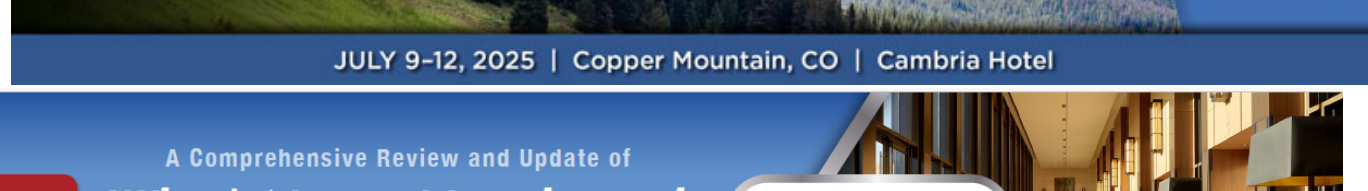
Timothy M. Sullivan, MD, FACS, FSVS, FFSVM, FACC

Presidential Invited Guest Lecturer Timothy M. Sullivan, MD, FACS, FSVS, FFSVM, FACC is a retired vascular surgeon. He is Emeritus Chair of Vascular / Endovascular Surgery at the Minneapolis Heart Institute, and co-founder and Past President of Vascular Interventional Advances (VIVA), a not-for profit organization dedicated to vascular education and research. He currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of Annals of Vascular, and Founding Editor of Annals of Vascular Surgery: Brief Reports and Innovations, and CEO of Sullivan Fly Rods in Livingston, Montana.

Call for Member Contributions Please email heather@surgicalcs.com your OR photos, stories of patient success or research victory. You can also nominate a colleague for the Member Feature, or just send us your ideas!



Upcoming Events



MISSION

The Western Vascular Society promotes and inspires education, research, inclusion and leadership in the art and science of compassionate vascular health in the Western United States, Canada and the Pacific Rim.

VISION

The Western Vascular Society (WVS) seeks to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health through education, research, public awareness and advocacy. WVS membership is recognized in the vascular communities of the Western United States, Canada and the Pacific Rim as a mark of the highest professional achievement. WVS seeks to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health.

VALUES

Education | Research | Public Awareness | Advocacy | Career Development | Diversity