History of Vascular Surgery

The Giants of Vascular Surgery - Video Interviews

Videos that tell the stories of milestones in vascular surgery -- including interviews with some of the giants in the field who made those moments happen -- are now available for viewing.

Members of the SVS History Project Work Group interviewed 80 people who influenced the course of vascular surgery and who have been the specialty’s outstanding leaders and contributors. Interviews were conducted with:

- 40 SVS past presidents
- 20 honorary members of SVS
- 20 selected leaders in the field of vascular surgery

Use the scrolling video player above, or visit the complete History Project playlist on YouTube.

You may also view individual interviews by clicking on a name below:

Dr. Ronald Baird
Dr. Wiley Barker
Dr. Ramon Berguer
New: Videos Depicting History of Vascular Surgery, SVS
This interview series features leaders and major contributors in the field of vascular surgery. The videos were created by the SVS History Project Work Group, chaired by Dr. James Yao, and followed more than 75 interviews with leaders in the subspecialty. The History Project Work Group now is chaired by Dr. Walter McCarthy.

Re-live historical vignettes from interviews about experiences in war combat zones, creation of the first Fogarty Catheter, creation of the first grafts, the first SVS business meetings, the thoughts of Dr. Michael DeBakey and much more.

Era 1: Antiquity and Reparative Surgery
Era II: Direct and Reconstructive Surgery
Era III: Endovascular Surgery

Historic Interview with SVS Founders
In 1996, the 50th anniversary of the Society for Vascular Surgery, Drs. Harry B. Shumacker, Jr., and Michael DeBakey were the two surviving members of the 31 founders of the Society. Drs. Shumacker and DeBakey were interviewed about their recollections of the history of the Society. Calvin Ernst interviewed Dr. Shumacker and Dr. Blaisdell talked with Dr. DeBakey. Both Drs. Shumacker and DeBakey since have passed away – Dr. Shumacker on Nov. 14, 2009, and Dr. DeBakey on July 11, 2008.

At left: Michael E. DeBakey, M.D. (left), Harris B. Shumacker, Jr., M.D.

Watch Dr. Michael E. DeBakey

Watch Dr. Harry B. Shumacker

Books on the History of SVS

The following publications provide information on the history of SVS.

- Journal of Vascular Surgery 1996;23(6):957-1157. Special issue commemorating the 50th anniversary (1946-1996) of SVS, edited by Calvin B. Ernst and James S.T. Yao. In addition to the history of SVS, this special issue provides historical information on recent activities of the Society, including accreditation of vascular training programs and certification of vascular surgeons; research and emergence of the Lifeline Foundation, the Research Initiatives meeting, and the National Institutes of Health; the Journal of Vascular Surgery; and the development of the Crawford Critical Issues Forum and the E.J. Wylie Traveling Fellowship. The issue ended with a section of photo memoirs to bring back fond memories of the Society.
- Thompson JE. The founding fathers. Surgery 1977;82:801-808
In 2003, the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery, North American Chapter, merged with SVS to become one Society—The Society for Vascular Surgery. Two historical articles about ISCVS-NA provide the historical information of this important partnership.


Additional Resources

The following books and articles provide useful information on the history of the development of vascular surgery.

- Rob CG. The classics of vascular surgery.
- Dale WA. The beginnings of vascular surgery. Surgery 1974;76:849-866