

The background of the entire page is an abstract, fluid composition of thin, glowing lines in shades of orange, red, and teal. These lines swirl and flow in a dynamic, organic pattern, creating a sense of movement and energy. The colors are most vibrant in the center and fade slightly towards the edges.

# Annual Report 2025

**SVS** | Foundation

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## Mission

The mission of the SVS Foundation is to optimize the vascular health and well-being of patients and the public through support of research that leads to discovery of knowledge and innovative strategies, as well as education and programs, to prevent and treat circulatory disease.

## Vision

Vascular surgeons will lead in the discovery and delivery of the highest quality and most accessible healthcare to reduce the complications of circulatory disease.

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Matthew Eagleton, MD: SVS Foundation Chair,  
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Palma Shaw, MD: Industry Relations Chair  
Edith Tzeng, MD: Development Committee Chair

## Staff

Ken Slaw, PhD, Executive Director, SVS  
Catherine Lampi, Director  
Miriam Walker, Development Coordinator

# Board Chair Message

This past year has been a remarkable one for the Society for Vascular Surgery Foundation, marked by achievements that reflect both our mission and our momentum. As surgeons, we understand that these accomplishments are not abstract; they translate directly into improved outcomes for patients and their families. Every award given, every program launched, and every institute created is a step toward shaping the future of our specialty. Through the SVS Foundation, we are translating generosity into innovation that shapes the future of vascular care.

A particular point of pride was the establishment of the Enrico Ascher Vascular Institute, a new chapter in our commitment to fostering innovation, mentorship, and excellence in vascular surgery. Dr. Ascher has been a dedicated mentor and champion of collaboration in our community, recognized for groundbreaking innovation, education and advancing minimally invasive approaches that transformed patient care. Inspired early in his education by anatomy and mentored by pioneers in the field, Dr. Ascher rose to become a global leader in vascular surgery. Not only has he opened opportunities for surgeons worldwide through combined education meetings and chairing the Pan-American Congress in Vascular Surgery since 1990, but his lifelong commitment to advancing science, training future surgeons and supporting the SVS Foundation reflects his belief in research and innovation as the driving forces of progress. The Institute carries this legacy forward by fostering education, mentorship and discovery to shape the future of vascular care.

That same dedication to shaping the future of vascular care is reflected in the Foundation’s continued legacy of grantmaking, awarding more than \$359,000 during the 2024-2025 award cycle. This funding made is possible through the generosity of our individual and corporate donors.

Our spirit of community was also on display through advocacy efforts, as the Vascular Health Step Challenge entered its fourth year. This year was especially meaningful, as we hosted our very first in-person walk raising awareness for Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) while taking steps side by side. It was more than just a challenge; it was a celebration of connection, advocacy, and the impact we can make together.

The work of the Foundation reflects science in action and as we look ahead, the focus is clear. Guided by our strategic plan, we are committed to expanding patient access, accelerating discovery, and investing in the next generation of vascular leaders. We are profoundly grateful to our donors, colleagues, and partners who make this progress possible. **Your support does more than sustain our mission, it is propelling the breakthroughs that will shape tomorrow’s vascular care.**



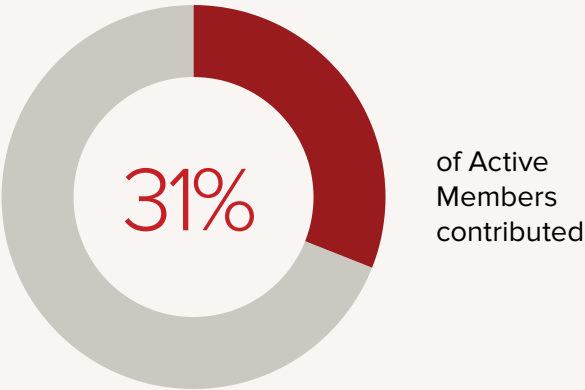
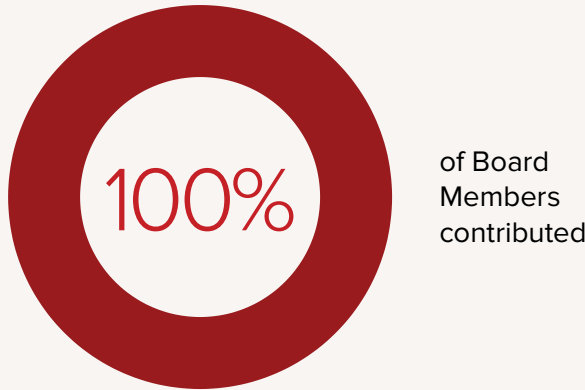
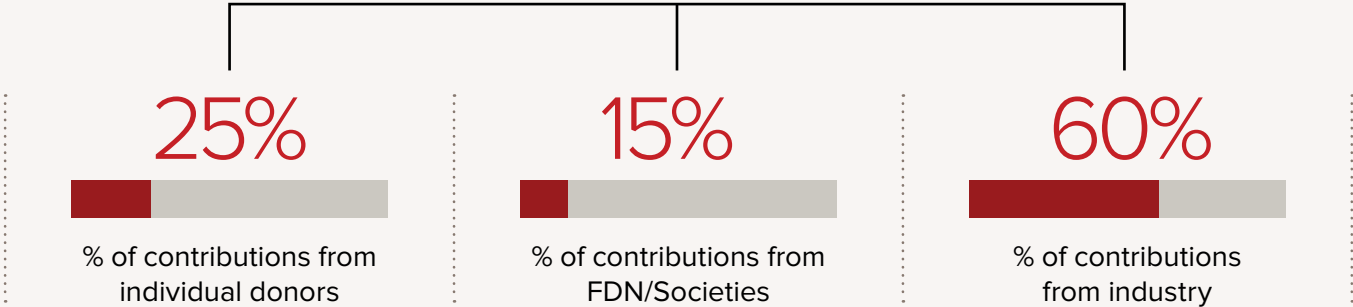
*Matthew J. Eagleton*  
Matthew Eagleton, MD  
SVS Foundation Chair  
SVS Immediate Past President

SVS FOUNDATION \$8,126,094 Total liabilities and equity  
FISCAL YEAR 2025 FINANCIALS:

51% percentage of funds spent supporting programs



## BREAKDOWN OF CONTRIBUTIONS



The financial statements contained in this Annual Report pertain to Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025), which covers the period from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. Please note that the fiscal year does not coincide with the calendar year 2025.

# Advancing Science Today, Transforming Care Tomorrow

The SVS Foundation fuels research and education that transforms vision into impact, investing in discoveries and innovations that improve outcomes and extend lives for patients. Since 1987, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$16 million in research funding to the SVS community. The impact of these awards continue to shape the field, improving care today and driving the breakthroughs of tomorrow.

The Foundation also helps pave the way for the next generation of innovators. By providing scholarships, training opportunities, and awards, we have equipped young surgeons with the mentorship and skills they need to lead the future of vascular care.

These awards are more than funding, they are investments in discovery, innovation, and in the patients who will benefit from the advances yet to come. Thank you to our donors and corporate partners for proving every day that the future of vascular care starts now.



To learn more about past awards – or to continue fueling the future – scan the QR code or visit our website: [bitly.vascular.org/SVSFGrants-Awards](https://bitly.vascular.org/SVSFGrants-Awards)

## Awardee Spotlight: Sneja Raju, MD

### 2023 RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENT

“This award has been instrumental in supporting my early development as a vascular researcher. It provided me with the resources and protected time to explore fundamental mechanisms of vascular disease, particularly the role of endothelial cell–derived extracellular vesicles in plaque instability. Through this support, I was able to gain experience in translational research, strengthen my skills in experimental design and data analysis, and work closely with mentors who have shaped my academic trajectory. Importantly, the award reinforced my commitment to pursuing a career in vascular surgery and research by allowing me to contribute to projects with both scientific significance and clinical relevance. Finally, the award provided a platform to showcase my research and establish international collaborations with fellow vascular surgeons and scientists to advance these questions together.

Our study focused on the role of endothelial cell–mediated communication in unstable carotid plaques. We identified a fundamental biological principle: endothelial cells release extracellular vesicles—nanoparticle structures carrying bioactive cargo—into both the bloodstream and the vessel wall. This discovery has important implications for vascular pathologies. Owing to their ability to circulate, extracellular vesicles could serve as liquid biopsies, providing insight into the local plaque environment and enabling earlier identification and treatment of patients at risk of stroke. In addition, elucidating their mechanistic effects on plaque morphology may inform the development of novel therapeutics aimed at plaque stabilization. This emerging field represents a paradigm shift with significant potential to advance research in atherosclerosis and stroke.”

# 2025 SVS Foundation Awardees

## VASCULAR CARE FOR THE UNDERSERVED (VC4U) PROJECT GRANTS

**Katherine M Reitz, MD and Natalie Sridharan, MD**  
UPMC/University of Pittsburgh

**Olamide Alabi, MD**  
Emory University

## VRIC TRAINEE AWARDEES

**Tyler Bauer, MD**  
University of Michigan Medical School  
Mentor: Katherine Gallagher, MD

**Bryan Ho, MD**  
Yale University  
Mentor: Alan Dardik, MD, PhD

**John H. Cabot, MD**  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Mentor: Scott Damrauer, MD

**Mandy Kunze Guo**  
University of Toronto  
Mentor: Kathryn Howe, MD, PhD

## STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

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Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Health System  
Sponsor: Edith Tzeng, MD

## JAMES S.T. YAO RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD

**Sujin Lee, MD**  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Mentor: Matthew Eagleton, MD

## SVS FOUNDATION AND AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS MENTORED CLINICAL SCIENTIST RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD (K08)

**Mitchell Dyer, MD**  
Medical College of Wisconsin

## CLINICAL RESEARCH SEED GRANT

**Young Erben, MD**  
Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville

## VOYAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

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Young Kim, MD  
Indrani Sen, MBBS  
Michael Siah, MD  
Caitlin Sorensen, MD

# 2025 Vascular Health Step Challenge

Each September, the annual Vascular Health Step Challenge inspires our community to raise awareness for Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD). This year marked a milestone with the very first in-person event, hosted by Dr. Jason Lee and the Stanford Division of Vascular Surgery. More than 100 participants walked 1.3 miles each, collectively logging over 250,000 steps and raising \$3,000 to support the campaign.

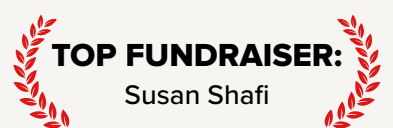
This year, the global community joined together to achieve remarkable results:

**485 WALKERS**

**47,806 MILES**

**\$78,000 RAISED**

**TOP WALKER:**  
Steve Botts

**TOP FUNDRAISER:**  
Susan Shafi

**TOP TEAM:**  
Hurricane  
Gangrene FL

**VASCULAR HEALTH  
STEP CHALLENGE**  
Advancing Vascular Health, One Step at a Time.

2025 Presenting Sponsor: 



## Shaping the Future: The Enrico Ascher Vascular Innovation Institute

Dr. Enrico Ascher’s career embodies the discovery and advancement that defines vascular surgery. From his early research in Rio de Janeiro to his training under the legendary Dr. Frank Veith, Dr. Ascher quickly became a global leader in vascular care while championing mentorship and collaboration across continents to advance innovation. His legacy doesn’t stop there, his groundbreaking innovations, from duplex-guided procedures and mini-incision carotid endarterectomy to pioneering limb salvage technique, have transformed patient care and continue to influence the field today. Dr. Ascher continues to dedicate his life to advancing education, creativity and innovation.

As a true testament to his work in the field, his legacy will not live on through the Enrico Ascher Vascular Innovation Institute that will officially launch at the 2026 Vascular Annual Meeting. Established with the generous support of the Ascher family, the Institute will serve as a forward-looking platform forward-looking platform dedicated to advancing pioneering ideas, technologies and leadership in vascular surgery. The Vascular Innovation Institute aims to foster a culture of innovation within the vascular community, provide mentorship and guidance from experienced surgeon-innovators, deliver educational programming on key areas of innovation, offer seed funding for promising ideas and cultivate a growing innovator community anchored at the Vascular Annual Meeting. Further embodying Dr. Ascher’s spirit of advancement and excellence, the Institute will house the Roy Greenberg Distinguished Lecture and present the SVS Medal of Innovation under its banner to reinforce a tradition of excellence while charting a bold path forward.

As Dr. Ascher himself reminds us: “Recognize needs, trust your ideas, and believe you can contribute — no matter your role.” Through the Institute, his vision of empowering surgeons to innovate will continue to inspire breakthroughs that shape the future of vascular care.



To learn more about the Enrico Ascher Vascular Innovation Institute visit our website at [bit.ly/3WQMtU](https://bit.ly/3WQMtU) or scan the QR code.

# Thank You!

The SVS Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our donors and partners, whose commitment helps advance vascular research, education, and innovation.

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Society for Vascular Nursing

*Gifts listed reflect contributions received during Fiscal Year 2025 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025) and do not align with the calendar year 2025.*

**SVS** | Foundation

[Vascular.org/svs-foundation](http://Vascular.org/svs-foundation)

