

Updated April 9, 2020

The health and safety of SVS members and constituents, and the patients for whom they provide care, has been, and remains, our # 1 concern. Understanding the needs of our members and stakeholders, and supporting them to meet this challenge, is the # 1 priority of the Society.

After continuing to monitor the current trajectory and impact of COVID-19 in the US and Canada, as well as the likely aftermath for our members in the months to follow the peak wave, the SVS Executive Board has made the decision that it is impossible to move forward with holding VAM 2020 in Toronto.

Therefore, VAM 2020 as a live event is formally canceled.

Just as we are all forging ahead taking care of patients, and providing vital service to our communities, the SVS is forging ahead with its central mission **to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health through education, advocacy, research and public awareness**. SVS is very excited to announce that the Program Committee and SVS Postgraduate Education Committee have crafted a compelling series of programs built from the best science and education from VAM 2020 and the Society will deliver this to you via interactive online forums over the summer months. Stay tuned for details regarding the **SVS ONLINE** programs and keep connected with the SVS community!

For additional information, please read our **Frequently Asked Questions**.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please access the SVS official cancellation letter [HERE](#).

Why was VAM20 canceled?

Over the past month, SVS has been closely monitoring updates and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as state and local governments related to the spread of COVID-19. We have also been actively following travel advisories and restrictions being placed on health care providers and hospitals and institutions in the U.S. and globally. As of March 31, the city of Toronto published an emergency order prohibiting city-led major mass participation event for gatherings of more than five people through June 30.

The health, safety and well-being of our members, staff, exhibitors, faculty, patients and other stakeholders is of paramount importance. With an ever-increasing number of SVS members on the front lines of preparing and reacting to the COVID-19 outbreak worldwide, and in recognition of the emergency order published by the city of Toronto, the Executive Board felt it to be in the best interest of all involved to cancel the Vascular Annual Meeting in Toronto and ensure our members are able to do what they do best – help and heal.

SVS leadership has formed a special task force comprised of SVS members involved in VAM planning to address critical issues related to the cancellation of VAM. Another task force has been created to identify how SVS can keep members aware of decisions around VAM through weekly PULSE communications.

Upon request, SVS would be glad to provide you with official documentation of the VAM20 cancellation. Requests may be submitted to [Rebecca Cabin](#).

Abstracts:

Will I be able to submit my accepted abstract to another conference or proceed with my publication?

If your abstract was accepted for the International Posters, Interactive Posters, International Fast Talk, or International Forum sessions, yes, you can submit your abstract to another conference or proceed with alternative publication. If your abstract was accepted for the Scientific or Plenary Sessions, the Poster Competition, or How I Do It Video session, it will be incorporated into the SVS virtual meeting for presentation. If you have any questions about the status of your abstract, please contact the Education department via [email](#). In addition, all abstracts accepted to 2020 VAM, including poster and international abstracts, will be published in the JVS supplement this summer.

Online Education:

Is a virtual event planned for a later date?

SVS is exploring options to provide a virtual educational event showcasing the key programming planned for the 2020 Vascular Annual Meeting. More information on these plans will be shared soon. SVS is committed to the educational needs of its members and will provide additional information on these plans soon on the SVS website (vascular.org) and through the PULSE.

Will VAM20 be postponed until a later date or rescheduled?

No. Meetings the size of VAM are planned years in advance, with hundreds of faculty members involved in planning sessions, as well as careful coordination with cities large enough to accommodate thousands of people. As such, rescheduling a live meeting in Toronto or another location is not an option.

VAM Ancillary Event/Gala Information

Are all SVS committee events associated with VAM also canceled?

Yes. All SVS committee meetings scheduled to take place onsite during VAM20 in Toronto have been canceled. Any additional updates and information will be communicated as alternate plans are finalized.

Is the Vascular Spectacular: Northern Lights Gala Canceled?

Yes. The SVS Foundation will process refunds for all ticket and table purchases and will contact all purchasers. Any inquiries should be directed via [email](#).

Will the Annual Business Meeting and Elections still be held?

Yes, as an Illinois Not-for-Profit corporation, the SVS is governed by the Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. The Act mandates that Illinois not-for-profit corporations hold an annual business meeting of voting members. The SVS must also abide by the terms of its Bylaws, which further dictate that an annual business meeting must be held. SVS staff are currently exploring solutions for hosting a virtual annual business meeting and election which would meet all the requirements of the Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporations Act and the SVS bylaws.

VAM Registration, Travel and Hotel Information

Will paid registrations be refunded?

All attendees who registered and paid a registration fee will be refunded in full for registration fees only. As an option, you may defer your VAM20 payment to VAM21. If you would like to defer your payment to VAM21, please contact [Rebecca Cabin](#). If we don't hear from you by April 30, your registration will be canceled and refunded in full in the same manner it was paid.

Will participants be refunded for hotel costs?

SVS will not refund hotel costs. Attendees who booked hotel rooms through our official housing agency, MCI USA, were not charged a deposit at the time the reservation was made. MCI USA will automatically cancel all reservations made directly through them. Attendees who made hotel reservations on their own should cancel directly with the hotel. If you have questions about your reservation made through

MCI USA for VAM20, please contact them at 866-268-0197 (US) or 972-349-5435 (International) or via [email](#).

Will participants be refunded for airline tickets?

SVS will not refund individual airline ticket costs. Please contact your airline or travel agent directly regarding ticket cancellations. If you purchased travel insurance, please contact your provider for information on submitting a claim. Many airlines are waiving change fees and updating their policies daily. Please work directly with your airline.