

On behalf of the Research and Education Committee, we wish to share our deep sadness that the Vascular Research Initiatives Conference (VRIC) 2020 has been cancelled due to unforeseen consequences of the COVID-19 virus and its impact on the City of Chicago and travel, in general.

However, we do wish to share with our SVS constituents some of the highlights and initiatives that would have been part of this meeting, many of which we aim to carry over to VRIC2021.

Firstly, SVS is proud to have partnered again with members of the American Heart Association's ATVB and PVD Council. Specific highlights include Dr. Philip S. Tsao, PhD, FAHA, as the Alexander W. Clowes Distinguished Lecturer, and Drs. Katey Rayner, PhD, FAHA, and Katheryn Moore, PhD, FAHA, as our translational session (Immunology and Vascular Disease) speakers. It is our intention to re-introduce these world-class speakers in these positions for VRIC 2021.

Secondly, we had a number of impactful abstracts from vascular trainees that were recognized with the **SVS Foundation VRIC Trainee Award**. The trainees and their mentors are:

- Derek Afflu and Ryan McEnaney; University of Pittsburgh. Elastic Fibers of the Internal Elastic Lamina are Unraveled but not Created with Expanding Arterial Diameter in Arteriogenesis
- Frank Davis and Katherine Gallagher; University of Michigan. Epigenetic Modifications Influence Macrophage-mediated Inflammation in Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms
- Katherine Hekman and Jason Wertheim; Northwestern University. Autophagy Remodels Mitochondria During Differentiation and Enhances Longevity Through Ulk 1 Kinase Signaling of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-derived Endothelial Cells
- Hallie Quiroz and Omaid Velazquez; University of Miami. Downregulation of Inflammation and a Cascade of Pro-angiogenic Signals Mediate the Beneficial Effects of Gene-modified Stem Cell Therapy in Hindlimb Ischemia.

The work submitted by SVS investigators was truly excellent. Listed below are some of the research presentations we were most excited to hear about:

- Bryan Tillman et al. University of Pittsburgh. The Perfuse Dual Chamber Stent Improves Donor Organ Recovery in A Porcine Model
- Alexey Kamenskiy, Jason MacTaggart, et al. University of Nebraska. Endovascular Repair of Blunt Thoracic Aortic Trauma Is Associated with Increased Left Ventricular Mass, Hypertension, And Off-target Aortic Remodeling
- Shuai Li, Iraklis Pipinos, et al. University of Nebraska. Prediction of Walking Performance After Revascularization of Arteries Supplying the Lower Extremities Of Claudicating Patients With Peripheral Artery Disease
- Andrea Obi et al. University of Michigan. Loss of Myeloid Specific Protein Phosphatase 2a Accelerates Experimental Venous Thrombus Resolution

- Evan Werlin, Michael Conte, et al. University of California San Francisco. A Synthetic Resolvin Analogue (Benzo-Rvd1) Attenuates Vascular Smooth Muscle Cell (VSMC) Migration and Neointimal Hyperplasia
- Roberto Mota Alvidrez, Shirling Tsai, et al. University of Texas Southwestern. Absence of Cpla2 In Lrp1 Smooth Muscle Cell Deficient Mice Promotes Severe Aortic Atherosclerotic Disease
- Ahmed Ismaeel, William Bohannon, Panos Koutakis et al. Baylor and White; Florida State University. Nitric Oxide Bioavailability Is Reduced in Peripheral Artery Disease in Association with Increased Oxidative Stress And An Altered Biopterin System
- Emily Newton, Melina Kibbe, et al. University of North Carolina. Evaluation of a Targeted Drug Eluting Intravascular Nanotherapy to Prevent Neointimal Hyperplasia in A Novel Atherosclerotic Rat Model

I would like to thank our SVS teammates (Beth Bales, Jane Baque, Sarah Murphy, and John Stangel), Dr. Edith Tzeng (Chair, Research Council) and all the members of the Research and Education Committee, especially Drs. Scott Damrauer, Katherine Gallagher and Mohamed Zayed.

I would also like to thank Dr. Karen Ho for her work to organize a community outreach event the day after the VRIC to Daniel Hale Williams Preparatory School of Medicine, a Chicago Public High School. We hope this event will be the foundation for future service opportunities and community outreach associated with the VRIC.

Finally, we planned for our vascular research community to reflect on the life of Dr. Tom Monahan. As many of you know, Tom was an exceptional clinician and scientist, and his death has created a void previously filled by rich friendship.