Vascular Surgery Educational and Networking Opportunities for Medical Students

Tony Lu
Thursday, May 30th, 2013
About Myself

- Trained as a Chemical & Biomolecular Engineer at Johns Hopkins University
- Worked as a biomedical flight controller at NASA Johnson Space Center
- Attended medical school at Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine
- Matched at the Integrated Vascular Surgery Residency Program at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas
Why Vascular?

- Long-term physician-patient relationships
- Technically challenging
  - Medical, Surgical, and Endovascular Management
- Problem-based
- Objective endpoints
- Diverse cases
- New, emerging technologies
Learning about the Specialty

- Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) Website
  - VascularWeb.org
    - Meetings, Scholarship, & Mentorship Opportunities
  - SVS Medical Student Section
- Institutional Website
  - Find residents, fellows, and attendings
- Student Doctor Network
- Clinical Experience
  - Volunteer!
  - Operating Rooms & Clinics
Meeting People with Similar Interests

- Get more exposure!
  - Lectures
  - Local Student Surgical Society
  - Social Events & Workshops
  - Observerships
  - Clerkships
- Approach the vascular surgeons, fellows, residents, and even students at your institution
Finding Mentors

- Research the field and find out about the people who are in it.
  - Society for Vascular Surgery
  - Institutional Websites
  - Local Student Surgical Society
    - Social Events, Mentorship and/or Shadowing Programs
  - Clerkships
    - Clinic
    - Operating Room
- Create a list of people who seem like a good fit for you.
- Start contacting them slowly and see who responds.
- Try to form a relationship and get to know their personalities.
Professional Societies & Meetings

• American Medical Association (AMA)
• State Medical Association
• Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS)
• Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society (PVSS)
• Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery (SCVS)
• Regional Vascular Societies
  • New England Society for Vascular Surgery
  • Eastern Vascular Society
  • Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society
  • Southern Association for Vascular Surgery
  • Western Vascular Society
• Show interest!
• Be responsible for your own learning!
• Read about cases beforehand!
• Ask questions!
• Be proactive!
“IT’S A SMALL WORLD”