

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021  
VEINFORUM.ORG



# VEIN SPECIALIST

GROUCHO MARX WAS WRONG  
**MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

GROUCHO MARX WAS WRONG: **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**



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# VENOUS EDUCATION SERIES



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## 2021 LEAD FACULTY



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**STEVE ELIAS, MD, FACS, FAVLS, DABVLM**  
Director, Center for Vein Disease  
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Editor, Vein Specialist - American Venous Forum

## 2021 VENOUS EDUCATION SERIES FOR RESIDENTS, FELLOWS & EARLY CAREER PRACTITIONERS

The AVF is providing training and education within the specialties of vascular surgery, interventional radiology, interventional cardiology, vascular medicine, general surgery and associated programs. We have some of the most well-known faculty and leaders educating the next generation by sharing cutting edge knowledge, effective clinical management, and the most appropriate treatments for patients. **REGISTER TODAY.**

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021 (EDT/UTC-4)

16:00 – 16:20	Intro and Overview
16:20 – 16:40	Superficial Disease: Clinical presentation, US findings, choices to treat
16:40 – 17:20	Two live interactive ultrasound cases using the Avail System
17:20 – 17:40	Deep Obstructive Disease: Compression and post-thrombotic – supra and infrainguinal, Compression: renal/iliacs, Obstruction: IVC, iliacs, CFV, FV, PV
17:40 – 18:40	Industry Sessions: Technologies, Techniques and Tips
18:40 – 19:00	Deep Reflux Disease: Ovarian/iliacs/CFV/FV. Includes stenting for IIV reflux and pelvic, symptoms and valve options for CFV/ FV reflux

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021 (EDT/UTC-4)

11:00 – 11:20	DVT/PE: Diagnostic options, interventional and non-interventional treatment, Devices used and anticoagulation (type, how long, follow up imaging)
11:20 – 11:40	SVT: Superficial axial, VV, combo. Treatment, how long, follow up, includes pregnancy
11:40 – 12:20	Two live interactive ultrasound cases using the Avail System
12:20 – 12:40	Sclerotherapy: US guided and visual, foam/liquid
12:40 – 13:00	Lymphedema: Practical discussion only including diagnosis (lymphangiography or lymphoscintigraphy), pumps, compression, surgery
13:00 – 14:00	Industry Sessions: Technologies, Techniques and Tips
14:00 – 14:20	Starting a vein practice, final questions

**REGISTER NOW**



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EGACVE

november

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OPEN SESSION

27th at 9.00 am GMT -3

# Innovations and New Concepts in Venous Disease

SBACV/AVF joint session

Drag and check



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**Dr. Daniel Mendes**  
SBACV Director



**Dr. Tony Gasparis**  
AVF President

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## PRESIDENTS:

- Dr. Daniel Mendes (SBACV Director)
- Dr. Anthony Gasparis (AVF President)

## MODERATORS:

- Dr. Fabricio Santiago



EGACVE



GMT -3



9am - New horizons in anticoagulation

**Dr. Eduardo Ramacciotti (BRA)**



9.10am - Pain management during venous procedures

**Dr. Fabricio Santiago (BRA)**



9.20am - Venous ulcer management – new perspectives

**Dr. Igor Sincos (BRA)**



9.30am - Prosthetic venous valves – Is this the future for post-thrombotic syndrome and deep venous reflux?

**Dr. Jorge Ulloa (COL)**



9.40am - Making the best ablation choices for the patient

**Dra. Nasim Hedayati (USA)**



9.50am - Venous stenting 101

**Dr. Bill Marston (USA)**

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# Marx, Marx, and Ackman

Marx, Marx, and Ackman. Law firm? Musical group? Architectural firm? No. Karl, Groucho, and Bill will be our protagonists and/or antagonists in this *Vein Specialist* Editor's Letter about our Membership Issue. We will get to Groucho soon and Bill much later, but first Karl. And a nod to something that seems so new today but Karl Marx said it a long time ago, "Social progress can be measured by the social position of the female sex." We (AVF) have been progressive for years. We've had women as our presidents, board members, committee chairs, Annual Meeting chairpersons, etc. We have made what Karl Marx described as "social progress." And we will continue to make progress, not just for women, but any important under-represented group. Karl would be proud of us. I just wish he would trim his beard.

So why if we wanted Groucho Marx as a member would he not join? Irrespective of the fact that he doesn't know a damn thing about venous disease? He famously said, "I wouldn't join any club that wanted me as a member." Freud, Jung, and others would have had a psychoanalytic orgy if Groucho was their patient. A feeding frenzy would ensue. Who says what Groucho said except someone who deep down thinks they are not worthy of acceptance? Was Groucho insecure? The public and personal personae of famous people can be incongruous and don't always coalesce into a cohesive construct. Does it really matter? What does need to coalesce for any organization (AVF) is that all members feel that they belong and hope to achieve common goals.

This issue is about membership, our members. So, what have we got? Peter and Peter (Gloviczki and Lawrence), not a musical duo but the current JVS-VL editors, put forth an article entitled, "JVS-VL is the #1 Benefit for AVF Members." Hyperbole or hubris? Read the article and decide.



Steve Elias, MD

Next, Alessandra Puggioni tells us what our Patient Education Committee has accomplished. A lot. If you haven't taken advantage of what this quietly hard-working committee has developed for our patient's education, you are making a big mistake. Almost as big of a mistake that could have occurred if Khrushchev and Kennedy hadn't worked out the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Digital Media Committee chaired by Andrea Obi works weekly to keep our influence and recognition on social media relevant. They are also the vanguard regarding updating our website. After this we have a series of articles highlighting what our "Outside the US" members are doing.

Victor Canata and Jorge Ulloa, both members, help increase our visibility in the Americas. Marx (Karl) would support their social and educational efforts. His constructivist approach emphasized activity, collaboration, and critique. Student, trainee, fellow, and early career training would be paramount to him. This is what we do. Most of our educational efforts don't scream, "Look at us!"

The next segment, "Membership Matters, Members Tell Us Why" follows. We hear from a diverse group about their diverse reasons for membership and their unique benefits. In general, I am not a proponent of "feel good" stories. All before-and-after pictures are perfect. But these stories are indicative of the general gestalt of our members. Finally, we are downsizing, melding, imbricating, or involuting. Depends on your point of view. There is a proposal for AVF and AVFF to become one. Read the article. It explains the issues. As a voting member, you will need to vote on this. If you don't, then the few will decide for the many. Proletariat or bourgeoisie. You need to vote.



## Marx, Marx, and Ackman

Speaking of voting, the New York Landmark Preservation Commission needed to vote on Bill Ackman's request. You remember Bill. He is the third component of the Marx, Marx, and Ackman triumvirate. He belongs to a club that we would all want to be members of, The Billionaires Club. He wants to construct a 2-story glass pavilion on top of a 1927 building in NYC on 77th St. We should all have such problems. Bill Ackman is no fool. He gathered a conspirational coterie of architectural aficionados to plead his case. The line-up reads like a Who's Who of Century Association members. There was Lord Norman Foster, Kenneth T. Jackson, Paul Goldberger, Louise Mirrer, and Betsy Gotbaum. If you have no idea what the last 2 sentences refer to, then you need to Google. Ackman left nothing to serendipity. Isn't that what a good vein specialist does? Isn't that what a good organization does (AVF)? Despite this, remember what John Lennon's lyrics included, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." If you need help call Marx, Marx, and Ackman. Or become and remain a member of AVF. Enjoy the issue.



**American Venous Forum**  
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# Merger of the American Venous Forum (AVF) & American Venous Forum Foundation (AVFF)

Harold Welch, MD, AVFF President; Antonios Gasparis, MD, AVF President;  
John Forbes, MBA, Executive Director



Harold Welch, MD  
AVFF President

The **AVF, a 501(c)(6) professional society**, was founded in 1987 to advance the field of venous disease through research, education of its members, and dissemination of knowledge.

The **AVFF, a 501(c)(3), charitable organization**, was founded a decade later to support the mission of the AVF and enable the receipt of tax-deductible donations.

Today, many similarly constituted non-profit organizations are reviewing their operations and determining that **a single organization operating as a 501(c)(3) can achieve the purposes of both organizations more efficiently**. This was the conclusion of the Board of Directors of the AVF and the AVFF when they voted unanimously at their October 25, 2021 meetings to merge the AVF and AVFF.



Antonios Gasparis, MD  
AVF President

## BENEFITS OF A MERGER

The merger of the AVF and AVFF has a number of benefits including:

**Reduced Operational Complexity and Cost:** Operating two organizations, running two sets of Board meetings, preparing two financial statements, filing two tax returns, auditing two entities, operating two bank accounts, overseeing two investment accounts, reconciling two monthly budgets, etc., all take staff time and organizational resources. Although the financial savings would be \$10-15,000 USD, the most significant impact would be on the time and effort saved through a merger. This would allow our management team to better focus on enhancing programs that benefit our members.



John Forbes, MBA  
Executive Director



**American Venous Forum**  
Promoting venous and lymphatic health

## Merger of the American Venous Forum (AVF) & American Venous Forum Foundation (AVFF)

**Increased Support for Committees and Programs:** The AVF operates with 16 committees and a number of additional ad hoc committees and working groups. Administrative resources available to support the work of these entities are limited and would become more available as a result of a merger.

**Improve Ability to Support Emerging Needs in Research and Advocacy:** In 2021, the AVF, through its committees and administration, developed four entirely new research initiatives and faced the challenge presented by CMS with respect to payment cuts that will adversely affect AVF members' performing certain venous procedures. A merger will enable the AVF to provide even better support for emerging research opportunities and advocacy efforts to benefit our members and the patients they serve.

**Eliminate Potential Conflict and Competing Interests:** Having two organizations creates the potential for the leadership and Boards to have conflicts. A single organization ensures a strong, focused, mission-centered effort.

**Provide Better Transparency to Individual and Corporate Supporters:** Because of restrictions placed on 501(c)(6) and 501(c)(3) organizations by the IRS, a single organization conducting all of the activities currently managed by the AVF and AVFF would provide greater transparency to donors and corporate supporters, open up new funding opportunities, and provide additional value to some donors over the age of 70-1/2.

### STRUCTURE OF MERGER

The AVF and AVFF will merge into a single corporation with the AVFF as the surviving corporation. Tax law permits the merger to take place in one direction only: AVF would be required to merge into the AVFF. The AVFF will be governed by, and adopt the Bylaws of the AVF, and assume the name of the AVF on the effective merger date. The newly formed AVF will operate as a 501(c)(3), that is, as a professional society and a charity.

### MERGER PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

The Boards of Directors of the AVF and AVFF must vote in favor of the Plan and Agreement of Merger. Following an affirmative vote by both Boards, AVF members will receive notification about the planned merger by email. To learn more about the planned merger, members will be able to ask questions by emailing [info@veinforum.org](mailto:info@veinforum.org). and attend a Town Hall webinar hosted by AVF President, Antonios Gasparis, MD and AVFF President, Harold Welch, MD. Voting members of the AVF will receive a secure ballot and have 20 days to respond. A quorum of 5% of voting members must be established for an official vote and the vote must be two-thirds of those voting to be in favor of a merger.





## Merger of the American Venous Forum (AVF) & American Venous Forum Foundation (AVFF)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 1. Why is the merger being proposed at this time?

A merger between the AVF and AVFF will increase operational efficiency and enable more resources to be available to support the engagement of our members, the work of AVF committees, and the evolving research opportunities and advocacy challenges. The AVFF was originally established to reduce the demand on AVF leadership to raise funds to support our mission. We currently have expert fund-raising capacity and infrastructure in place to support current and new fund-raising efforts. Our Director of Mission Advancement, Jeff Mendola, has established excellent relationships with industry.

#### 2. How will AVF members benefit?

Approximately 160 AVF members serve on AVF committees. These committees will have better support and be able to enhance existing programs and develop new programs that will benefit all members.

#### 3. What will the merger cost?

Except for one-time legal fees approximating \$10,000 USD, the AVF will have no additional costs. The return on investment of this expenditure will be seen in less than one year when only one audit, one tax return, one set of financial statements are needed. The consolidation of our bank accounts, budgets, and investments will all contribute to gained efficiencies. Finally, preparing for four Board meetings instead of eight will substantially reduce staff time.

#### 4. How will leadership be affected?

Currently, the AVF Board has 14 members and the AVFF Board has 18 members. The surviving Board will be the AVF Board. A new committee, the Mission Advancement Committee, will be formed and the current AVFF Board will become the new members of this important committee. This new committee will report directly to the AVF Executive Committee.

#### 5. How will this affect our fund-raising capacity?

The AVF relies heavily on industry support. The AVF has well-established fundraising infrastructure and staffing and will continue to partner with industry and reach out to new funding organizations for support. There will be no diminishment of our fundraising capabilities or efforts.

#### 6. What does industry think?

Initial discussions with a number of industry partners have been very positive. They are very supportive of a streamlined organization as it will increase their visibility to AVF leaders and reduce the complexity of determining where their funds should be directed.

#### 7. Can the AVF still participate in advocacy?

Yes. As a 501(c)(3), the AVF will be able to participate in advocating for our members in Washington, D.C. and at the state level. We are not, however, permitted to create a Political Action Committee (PAC), and have no intention of doing so.



# JVS-VL is the #1 Benefit for AVF Members

Peter Gloviczki, MD and Peter F. Lawrence, MD

*The Journal of Vascular Surgery: Venous and Lymphatic Disorders* (JVS-VL) is the official journal of the American Venous Forum (AVF) and the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS). It is the leading international journal of medical, endovascular, and surgical care of venous and lymphatic disorders. Founded just 9 years ago in 2013, the journal is a hybrid subscription and open access bimonthly publication, with an Impact Factor of 2.859, with a global print circulation of 2,857, electronic subscription of >8700, an estimated 78,000 full-text downloads, and 6,500 average monthly visits to our website, [www.JVSvenous.org](http://www.JVSvenous.org). In 2021, JVS-VL published 190 articles from 33 countries. AVF members receive digital subscription to JVS-VL, the "Blue Journal" of the JVS portfolio. The print version is available at a reduced annual cost.

To fulfill the AVF mission to *Advance science, education, and advocacy in venous and lymphatic disease*, the journal published 7 important AVF-endorsed documents in 2020-2021 (Table 1.) These included clinical practice guidelines, appropriate use criteria (Fig.1.), reporting standards, and new classifications.

CEAP Classification System and Reporting Standard Revision 2020		
C (Clinical Manifestations), E (Etiology), A (Anatomic Distribution), P (Pathophysiology)		
C0	No visible or palpable signs of venous disease	
C1	Telangiectasias or reticular veins	
C2	Varicose veins	
C2r	Recurrent varicose veins	
C3	Edema	
C4	Changes in skin and subcutaneous tissue secondary to chronic venous disease	
C4a	Pigmentation or eczema	
C4b	Lipodermatosclerosis or atrophie blanche	
C4c	Corona phlebectatica	
C5	Healed	
C6	Active venous ulcer	
C6r	Recurrent active venous ulcer	

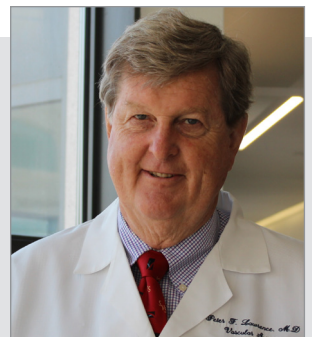
JVS-VL Journal of Vascular Surgery Venous and Lymphatic Disorders Lurie et al. *J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord*, May 2020 Copyright © 2020 by the Society for Vascular Surgery® @JVascSurg f@TheJVascSurg

Fig.1 The 2020 update of the CEAP classification system and reporting standards. (1)

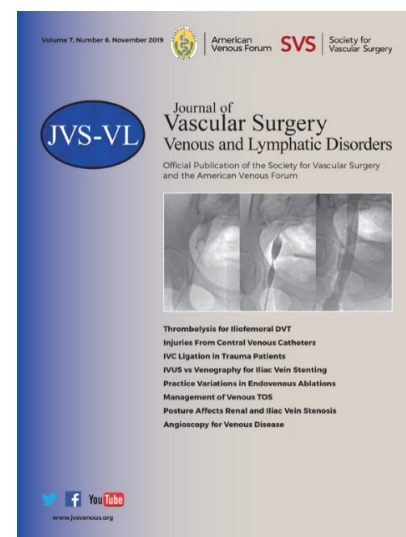
Each year, the JVS-VL provides an important service by publishing abstracts of the AVF Annual Meeting, both in print and online, enabling members to become familiar with the latest research before it is presented at the annual meeting. Social media continue to be important tools to communicate with AVF members, since JVS journals have 4513 Facebook, 7037 Twitter, and 16,861 LinkedIn followers. Our social media channels regularly promote our Special Features, including the monthly Editors' Choice summary, You Tube videos, the ever-popular Video Abstracts, Press Releases, *Audible Bleeding* podcasts, JVS Journal Clubs, special journal events and more. We are most grateful to our editorial leadership, our editorial board, our reviewers, and the authors for their contributions to this high quality journal for venous and lymphatic diseases. As Editors we are committed to keep JVS-VL the #1 benefit for AVF members.



Peter Gloviczki, MD



Peter F. Lawrence, MD



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## JVS-VL is the #1 Benefit for AVF Members

**Table 1. American Venous Forum-endorsed documents published in JVS-VL in 2020-2021**

Publication Year	Title	Authors	Volume	Issue	Cites	Views
2020	The 2020 update of the CEAP classification system and reporting standards.	Lurie F, Passman M, Meisner M, Dalsing M, Masuda E, Welch H, Bush RL, Blebea J, Carpentier PH, De Maeseneer M, Gasparis A, Labropoulos N, Marston WA, Rafetto J, Santiago F, Shortell C, Uhl JF, Urbanek T, van Rij A, Eklof B, Gloviczki P, Kistner R, Lawrence P, Moneta G, Padberg F, Perrin M, Wakefield T.	8	3	78	199
2020	The 2020 appropriate use criteria for chronic lower extremity venous disease of the American Venous Forum, the Society for Vascular Surgery, the American Vein and Lymphatic Society, and the Society of Interventional Radiology.	Masuda E, Ozsvath K, Vossler J, Woo K, Kistner R, Lurie F, Monahan D, Brown W, Labropoulos N, Dalsing M, Khilnani N, Wakefield T, Gloviczki P.	8	4	17	49
2020	Triage of patients with venous and lymphatic diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic - The Venous and Lymphatic Triage and Acuity Scale (VELTAS):: A consensus document of the International Union of Phlebology (UIP), Australasian College of Phlebology (ACP), American Vein and Lymphatic Society (AVLS), American Venous Forum (AVF), European College of Phlebology (ECoP), European Venous Forum (EVF), Interventional Radiology Society of Australasia (IRSA), Latin American Venous Forum, Pan-American Society of Phlebology and Lymphology and the Venous Association of India (VAI).	Parsi K, van Rij AM, Meissner MH, Davies AH, De Maeseneer M, Gloviczki P, Benson S, Bottini O, Manuel Canata V, Dinnen P, Gasparis A, Giansini S, Huber D, Jenkins D, Lal BK, Kabnick L, Lim A, Marston W, Granados AM, Morrison N, Nicolaides A, Paraskevas P, Patel M, Roberts S, Rogan C, Schul MW, Komlos P, Stirling A, Thibault S, Varghese R, Welch HJ, Wittens CHA.	8	5	6	48
2021	Classification and treatment of endothermal heat-induced thrombosis: Recommendations from the American Venous Forum and the Society for Vascular Surgery.	Kabnick LS, Sadek M, Bjarnason H, Lawrence PF, Malgor RD, Puggioni A.	9	1	11	31
2021	Private payers' varicose vein policies are inaccurate, disparate, and not evidence based, which mandates a proposal for a reasonable and responsible policy for the treatment of venous disease.	Welch HJ, Schul MW, Monahan DL, lafrati MD.	9	2	1	3
2021	The Symptoms-Varices-Pathophysiology classification of pelvic venous disorders: A report of the American Vein & Lymphatic Society International Working Group on Pelvic Venous Disorders.	Meissner MH, Khilnani NM, Labropoulos N, Gasparis AP, Gibson K, Greiner M, Learman LA, Atashroo D, Lurie F, Passman MA, Basile A, Lazarshvili Z, Lohr J, Kim MD, Nicolini PH, Pabon-Ramos WM, Rosenblatt M.	9	3	6	20
2021	The need for participation in the development and critical review of recommendations for infection control policies involving vascular ultrasound	Daugherty SF, Blebea J.	9	4	1	6

Table 1. American Venous Forum-endorsed documents published in JVS-VL in 2020-2021



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## JVS-VL is the #1 Benefit for AVF Members

### References

1. Lurie F, Passman M, Meisner M, et al. The 2020 update of the CEAP classification system and reporting standards. *J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord*. 2020 May;8(3):342-352.
2. Masuda E, Ozsvath K, Vossler J, et al. The 2020 appropriate use criteria for chronic lower extremity venous disease of the American Venous Forum, the Society for Vascular Surgery, the American Vein and Lymphatic Society, and the Society of Interventional Radiology. *J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord*. 2020 Jul;8(4):505-525.e4. doi: 10.1016/j.jvsv.2020.02.001. Epub 2020 Mar 3. PMID: 32139328.
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6. Meissner MH, Khilnani NM, Labropoulos N, Gasparis AP, Gibson K, Greiner M, Learman LA, Atashroo D, Lurie F, Passman MA, Basile A, Lazarshvilli Z, Lohr J, Kim MD, Nicolini PH, Pabon-Ramos WM, Rosenblatt M. The Symptoms-Varices-Pathophysiology classification of pelvic venous disorders: A report of the American Vein & Lymphatic Society International Working Group on Pelvic Venous Disorders. *J Vasc Surg Venous Lymphat Disord*. 2021 May;9(3):568-584. doi: 10.1016/j.jvsv.2020.12.084. Epub 2021 Jan 30. PMID: 33529720.
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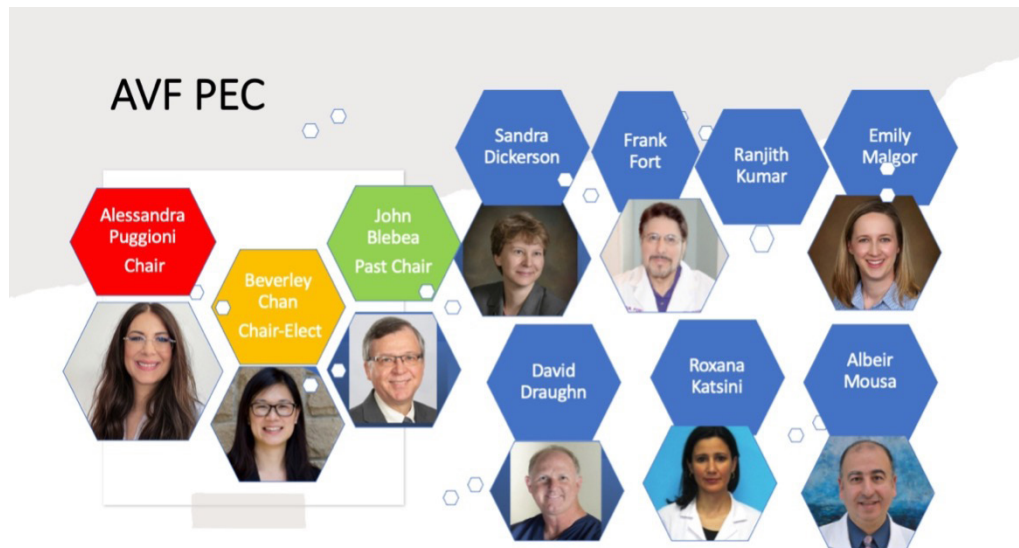
# The AVF Commitment to Patient Education

Alessandra Puggioni, MD

The patient education committee (PEC) is a group of ten physicians and staff members who work together to create educational materials on venous and lymphatic disease. Oversight is provided by the Education Councilor, Ellen Dillavou, MD. Our greatest inspiration is the uniqueness of each of our patients' stories on how venous disease affects them daily and how appropriate education on self-care and available treatments can make a truly positive impact on their lives.



Alessandra Puggioni, MD  
Chair, Patient Education  
Committee



## The 10 physician members of the 2021-22 AVF Patient Education Committee.

As practicing physicians, we truly understand the daily challenges of educating patients in times when health-related information is often disseminated by online media without passing through any filter of scientific consensus. Our materials include digital and printed materials and can be utilized both as practice resources for clinicians and direct sources by patients. We provide summaries of published guidelines that have gone through multiple revisions before earning the final seal of approval of key-opinion leaders. This process ensures that our final products align with the vision and mission of the American Venous Forum.

Coming soon is a book edited by former AVF president and past PEC chair John Blebea, MD called "*The Healthy Veins Book: Understanding Varicose Veins and Leg Swelling*." The book has numerous contributions by top venous experts, targeted specifically for patients and their families in layman's language for a more in-depth education about the diagnosis and treatment of venous disease. The publication will be launched at the 2022 AVF Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.



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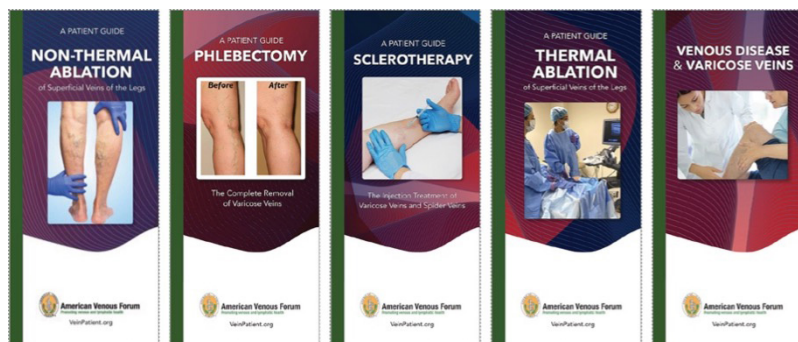
## The AVF Commitment to Patient Education

The PEC has recently created and made available on the **"SHOP AVF"** webpage several practice materials that can be ordered or downloaded by individual physicians or institutions. Included are six procedural informed consents, available in both English and Spanish, covering sclerotherapy, phlebectomy, and all available types of endovenous ablation. The scope is to facilitate patients' understanding of the disease process while informing them about the key details of the proposed or alternative procedures. Additional procedural informed consents have been planned, as well as their translation into more languages.



We have also produced five educational brochures as a powerful educational tool to complement physician-to-patient discussion which can be purchased on the AVF website. These pamphlets are meant to summarize relevant scientific information with the addition of impactful visual content. Incorporating common language and available in English and

Spanish, each brochure describes either a condition ("Venous Disease and Varicose Veins") or a procedure ("Phlebectomy," "Sclerotherapy," "Thermal-" and "Nonthermal Ablation"). We just added the "Lymphedema" and "Ulcer" brochures to the series, which will be soon available on the website in English and Spanish.



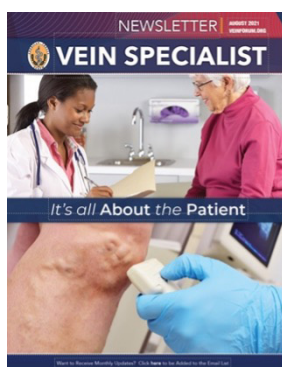
Another useful practice tool, also available on the **AVF website**, is the pocket guide series created by the authors of guidelines published in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery: Venous and Lymphatic Disorders*. Currently available titles include: "Compression Therapy After Invasive Treatment," "Appropriate Use Criteria," and "Endothermal Heat-induced Thrombosis." These guides easily fit in a lab coat pocket and are meant to assist the physician with a quick reference in a concise booklet.



## The AVF Commitment to Patient Education



We also strongly recommend downloading the August 2021 issue of AVF's *Venous Specialist* newsletter titled **The Patient Issue** which contains seven articles written by our committee members. The goal of the August issue was to help educate patients on venous and lymphatic disease, on use of compression stockings, and dealing with insurance companies, among other topics.



The PEC is updating the content of the AVF webpages that are specifically designed for patients <https://www.veinforum.org/patients/>. The goal is to convey current, evidence-based health information, although we ask patients to discuss issues with their physicians before making any changes to their health care. Other upcoming projects include more printed and digital education materials for patients and physicians on additional topics and in different languages.

The AVF strives to be the definitive source for patients' venous and lymphatic health information with webpages, books, articles, brochures, consents, and guides written in everyday language by top venous experts. Our committee is actively looking for additional members who have a strong interest in educating the public in venous and lymphatic disease to join us in making a difference in patients' lives. We also pledge all members to provide their patients with quality information by viewing, downloading, ordering the materials we have created specifically for them at <https://store.veinforum.org>. We are also open to ideas to reach more patients with venous education; click this link to contact us: <https://www.veinforum.org/contact-us/>.

Thank you!

PATIENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Alessandra Puggioni, MD

**Members:** Beverley Chan, MD; John Blebea, MD; Sandra Dickerson, MD; David Draughn, MD; Frank Fort, MD; Roxana Katsini, MD; Ranjith Kumar, MD; Emily Malgor, MD; Albeir Mousa, MD

**Staff:** John Forbes, MBA; Jeffrey Mendola, CFRE; Amy Murrin, BBA ; Ashlynn Hill



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# AVF's Digital Media Committee Encourages Member Interaction

Andrea Obi, MD

The Digital Media Committee of the AVF has been working diligently to bring to the society's valued members and public an easier and more interactive interface to communicate with each other. The Digital Media Committee recognizes and values the enormous amount of expertise that lies within its members. Effective dissemination of their accumulated knowledge is in line with the core values and mission of the AVF to advance science, education, and advocacy in venous and lymphatic disease.

## IN THE PAST YEAR, THE DIGITAL MEDIA COMMITTEE HAS CONCENTRATED ON:

### Website

- The AVF is revamping the website [www.veinforum.org](http://www.veinforum.org) and will be launching a new site with improved content, functionality, and usability for members, patients, and the public. The new site should be up and running in early 2022.
- Interactive features will be included to better facilitate conversations among members.

### Social Media

- The AVF encourages member contributions to its social media channels, which include Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
- Weekly posts include announcements to upcoming webinars, educational series, and case presentations, such as those pictured here.

### AVF Exchange

- The AVF continues to promote the AVF Exchange to post interesting cases, tough clinical scenarios, research ideas, etc. to the discussion board to encourage dialogue among its members.

Do you have cases to share? A poll question to post? Exciting research to highlight? Please contact the Digital Communication chairs Drs Kiguchi and Obi at [Misaki.M.Kiguchi@medstar.net](mailto:Misaki.M.Kiguchi@medstar.net) and [east@umich.edu](mailto:east@umich.edu) to post to the AVF community! We hope the changes we have made and plan to implement allow members and the public to continue interactive participation to promote the common goal of improving the care of patients with venous and lymphatic disease.



Andrea Obi, MD



Don't forget the arterial exam!  
Posterior calf ulcer s/p SSV ablation  
and CFA/SFA endarterectomy.  
#healed #mixedVAulcer  
#comprehensivevascularcare



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# An International Perspective on AVF Membership

Victor Canata, MD

The American Venous Forum has been an amazing society to be a part of. The number of benefits it provides is staggering. You get access to the premier venous disease journal that contains not just up-to-date information about research and new techniques, but also showcases what other doctors are currently studying or working on. This has helped me improve the way I care for patients and what I do in my private practice. AVF membership keeps me cognizant about what other doctors are doing. At times I may say, "Hey, this doctor is trying a new method or something interesting, maybe I should look into it." I have been able to meet colleagues who I then get to interact with on a daily basis thanks to meeting them either through the annual meetings or through the exclusive online forum. As a recent example, I was able to talk with Steve Elias during a webinar we were sponsoring in Paraguay. We got to have some great discussions about varicose veins and the MOCA procedure. Dr. Elias just gave us a lecture in a live Webinar that was broadcasted from Paraguay to the whole world.

Being part of the AVF has impacted my career in a positive way, I get to have conversations with many members and compare cases; sometimes I discuss a case and they can bring suggestions or ideas. Through AVF membership I have created long and lasting friendships with colleagues who are working in my same area and whose goals are the same as mine--which is to improve the quality of life for the patient.



Victor Canata, MD



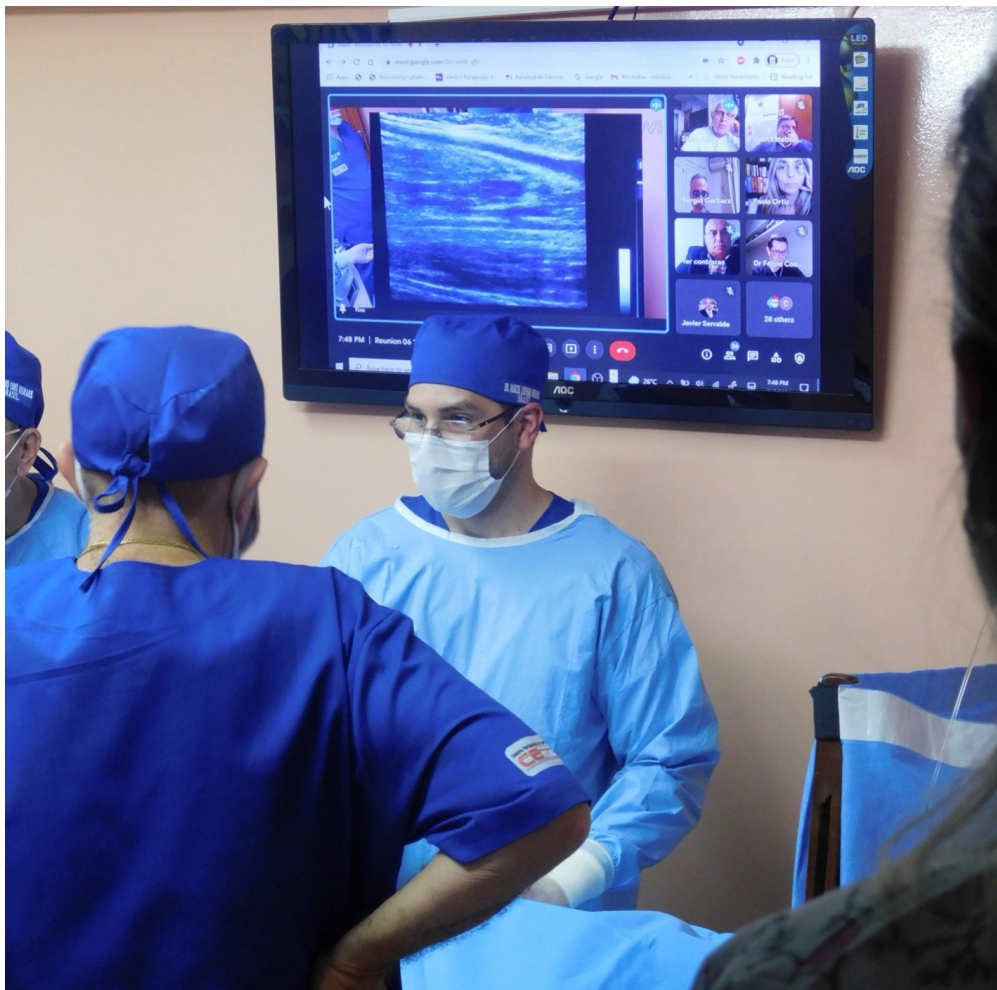
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## An International Perspective on AVF Membership

What makes the AVF unique and valuable are the people that belong to it and lead it. When I go to the congresses organized by them, I am always impressed with how well done the congresses are as I see how doctors can present their cases or studies. At the same time we have a room with different companies who are showcasing their equipment. AVF also provides the AVF/SVS Guidelines, which are really helpful to see to learn what is the consensus regarding certain treatments; what treatments are recommended; and other recommendations that can be very helpful to all.

I would say to others that they should join the American Venous Forum. There are a lot of benefits to be had. As I have mentioned earlier, you get access to the amazing journal, access to webinars, and resources that as a doctor you can always benefit from. Medicine is a field that is constantly evolving, with new research always appearing, new medical equipment changing how we approach surgeries and patients. Being part of the AVF provides resources so you can be knowledgeable and learn what is going on with other vein specialists around the world. The hands-on training sessions that are held are also very good and recommended to check out once becoming a member of the AVF.





# Venous Surgery: A Medical Student's Perspective

Tatiana Salcedo, Medical student at University of The Andes, Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá & Diego Rincón, Medical student at University of The Andes, Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá

As students walk through the long pathway of medical school, we realize that it branches out and is as variable as the circulatory system in the human body. Like vessels, this way can become tortuous, some branches can get occluded, and we may sometimes feel short of oxygen and energy. So, what keeps us vital? What drives us day-to-day through the bifurcations and narrow segments of the medical road? That essential pump is the inner calling and passion for what we are doing, the love we share for vascular surgery. In this statement, we want to share a brief insight into why medical students consider venous surgery (VS) as their residency option.

First of all, why should we become surgeons? The art of surgery advanced significantly in the 16th century after Vesalius and later Paré, constituting the pillars that allowed the integration between the art and science of surgery. Moreover, cardiovascular surgery, organ transplantation, and minimally invasive surgery are advances that predicted the 21st-century technological breakthrough development. Even now, new advances are being made everywhere around the world. This vast amount of knowledge and resources will most likely be the guidelines for our practice when we become venous surgeons.

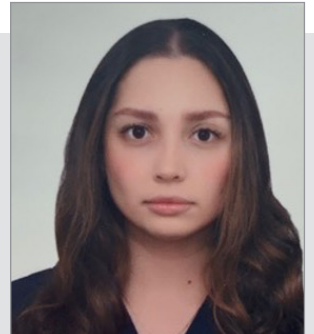


University of the Andes principal building

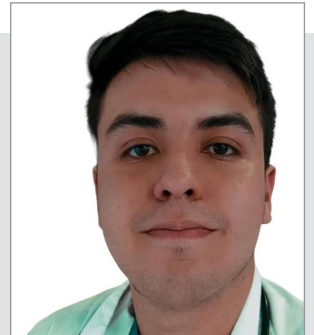
Now, why become a venous surgeon? With the introduction of new, less invasive techniques, VS increases its therapeutic possibilities and scope of activity. On the other hand, for those who are not fans of routine, VS offers various approaches, ranging from laser techniques, out-patient procedures, venous surgery, diagnostic imaging, and endovascular procedures. Likewise, the interventions usually achieve a remarkable improvement in the quality of life of patients, both functionally and aesthetically. Also, isn't the patient's gratitude, after improving their physical and mental health, our real-lifesaver at the end of a long day?



Medical students and former medical students from the University of the Andes with vascular surgeons (clinical professor **Jorge Ulloa, MD**) and volunteers on a vascular health day volunteering.



Tatiana Salcedo



Diego Rincón



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## Venous Surgery: A Medical Student's Perspective

Finally, VS is looking forward to implementing significant technological advances while rewarding the practitioner with a positive impact on the patient's life in diverse ways. Also, VS involves minimally invasive procedures that are both complex and creative. Furthermore, VS continuous innovation and advances lead to ongoing medical education and training. Unfortunately, medical students' exposure to VS during medical school is usually minimal, preventing them from knowing the exciting vascular world. It is fundamental that, as students, we have this information at hand since VS will capture and pump passion through the hearts of many.



Members of 'VascuAndes', University of the Andes' vascular Surgery research group



# Volunteering in Venous Care: A Social Responsibility Day

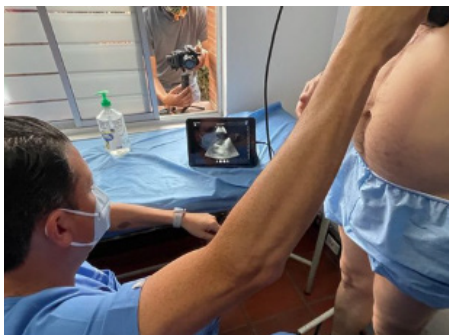
Tatiana Salcedo, Medical student, Juan Sebastian Cifuentes, MD, & Jorge Ulloa, MD

Access to a vascular surgery specialist is very limited for people who don't have private health insurance in Colombia. Therefore, on September 8, 2021 a group consisting of medical students, in-training-physicians, and vascular surgeons, under the leadership of Dr. Jorge Ulloa, conducted a social responsibility day in venous care.



More than 150 people, mostly low-income women who worked in a flower plantation near Bogotá, Colombia, were invited to participate. This population was chosen given their high risk factors of having venous disease due to the long periods

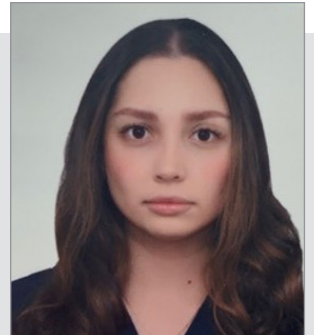
they stand during their work. The goals of the session included screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm and superficial venous insufficiency, prescribing medical treatment, and scheduling free visits to the surgeons' offices for the most severe cases.



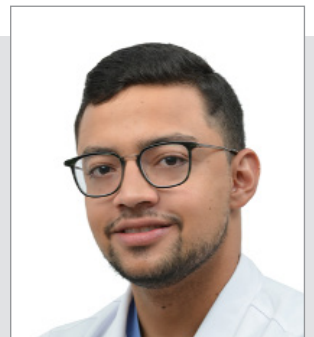
Once at the facility, 4 clinical stations were established. In the first one, we conducted patient identification, medical records registration, and a brief clinical examination of the lower limbs. In the next one, we measured the ABI. Then the patient moved to the ultrasound station, where

they underwent duplex ultrasound of the abdomen and legs. Finally, every patient went to the education station, where they received special recommendations for their vascular health, an educational brochure, and medications if needed.

To facilitate the data registration, digital case report forms (CRF) were created and every patient was identified with a unique numeric code, assigned in the first station. At every stage, a CRF was completed with the ID number, to allow an easy identification in the next station.



Tatiana Salcedo, Medical Student



Juan Sebastian Cifuentes, MD



Jorge Ulloa, MD



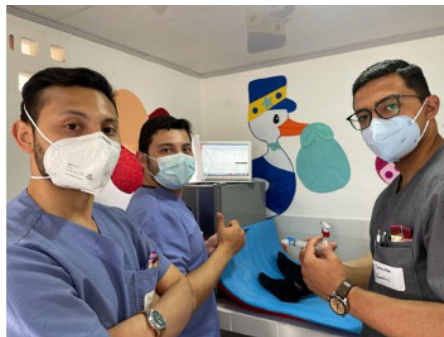
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## Volunteering in Venous Care

At the end of the day, we had successfully seen 148 patients, identifying several cases of venous disease, from early to advanced stages. The patients were very grateful for the attention received and the experience was highly satisfying for our team.

This session was of immense value for this community, who might not have access to a vascular specialist in case they require it. In addition, it was a great opportunity for our personnel-in-training, who had the chance to improve their skills in performing duplex ultrasound and venous-oriented physical examination. Given the success of this first event and the huge amount of people who are in need of our service, we are already planning a second event with the support of industry, who helped us immensely with the coordination and logistics of the event.



# AVF Creates Lasting Friendships

Kathleen Ozsvath, MD

Membership in the AVF has provided all of us the opportunity to meet and get to know a number of venous experts who have not only allowed us to grow as individuals, but also in our careers. Over the years, these people have become friends.

Let us indulge with an example: how John, Nasim, Kathleen, and Sheila became friends.

Ruth Bush, a prominent venous specialist, called Kathleen one day and asked "How would you like to go to CICE in Brazil to speak about venous disease and represent the AVF?" Honored to go, Kathleen had never been there! "You will be going to Brazil with Nasim Hedayati, John Carson, Mikel Sadek, and Sheila Coogan," Ruth said. These names were all familiar as each are well respected vascular surgeons, known from podium presentations that they had given and publications that they authored.

So off to Brazil we went. The meeting was incredible. People from all over the world. The venue was state of the art. The panelists were sitting in beautiful armchairs instead of at sterile tables with the usual white tablecloths like we were used to. John, Nasim, and Sheila had known one another prior to the trip. Over the ensuing few days in Brazil, we shared work stories and personal stories over great food and drinks, ventured out to look at artwork, and go to the market. We had a wonderful time.

Then we returned to the US and settled back to our daily routines. Our usual AVF committee calls resumed, but there was a difference. We were on these calls together! Nasim, John, and Kathleen are members of the Early Career Committee. Sheila and Kathleen work together as members of the Health Policy Committee. We reminisce about our time in Brazil together.



Kathleen Ozsvath, MD



Pictured from left to right: Sheila Coogan, Kathleen Ozsvath, Armando C. Lobato, Mikel Sadek, Nasim Hedayati, and John Carson.



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## AVF Creates Lasting Friendships

This is just one of many examples of the opportunities that allowed us to meet amazing AVF members, geographically far, who share an interest in venous disease. AVF members foster an environment of mentorship and inclusivity in an open, honest way. These connections help us in our daily life and in our careers. We have also made lifelong friendships.



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# EVF – AVF International Collaboration

Imre Bihari, MD, PhD, EVF President & Oscar Maleti, MD, EVF President Elect

For many years, the European Venous Forum (EVF) and American Venous Forum (AVF) have collaborated in the best research presentation as well as speaker and scientific session exchanges during their meeting. These speakers from the leadership of both societies have shared their research and personal experiences and have made significant contributions to our respective meetings. The further international collaboration between both Societies allowed the strategic alliance between EVF and AVF and includes:

- Regular communications and engagement of each other's senior leadership, which enables the identification of areas of mutual interest.
- Speaker Exchange program, to share knowledge, strengthen our relationship, and explore new opportunities where we can collaborate.
- Membership communications and promotion of key educational programming

EVF, being part of the international network focusing on the research and education in phlebology, is looking forward to extending the international collaboration that crosses the Atlantic Ocean and connects the European Venous Forum to AVF and its members. As our relationship evolves, we will be adding other initiatives that will enhance our efforts to advance the field and strengthen our respective organizations. We look forward to this journey together and to supporting the leaders who follow us and the members of our respective organizations. At the moment we are looking forward to the joint AVF/EVF sessions that will take place at the AVF meeting in February 2022 and the EVF meeting in Venice in June 2022. **Watch for more information about the EVF meeting as it becomes available.**

**We hope you will all enjoy and benefit from a successful international collaboration.**

**Imre Bihari, MD, PhD, EVF President**  
**Oscar Maleti, MD, EVF President Elect**



Imre Bihari, MD, PhD,  
EVF President



Oscar Maleti, MD  
EVF President Elect



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# MEMBERSHIP

## Membership Matters: Members Tell Us Why

*In this new, recurring Vein Specialist feature, you will meet AVF members from around the world who represent the field in various roles. This month, we bring you messages from 5 members who explain how AVF has enhanced their professional lives. You can look forward to meeting more members in future issues—and send us your story to share with your colleagues. (Inclusion is not guaranteed and will be subject to editing. Send to [Ashlynn@veritasamc.com](mailto:Ashlynn@veritasamc.com))*



**JOSEPH A. CAPRINI,**  
MD, Senior Clinician  
Educator, Pritzker  
School of Medicine,  
University of Chicago

I was trained in general surgery, but due to a variety of circumstances including the Vietnam War, I also trained in surgical hematology. I established a clinical and research thrombosis and hemostasis laboratory within the Department of Surgery for 25 years. We managed a variety of venous problems including VTE management, thrombotic complications requiring vena cava interruption, post- thrombotic changes including leg ulcers, varicose veins, and a variety of other venous related disorders. My society memberships, which included the American College of Surgeons, the International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis, and the American Society of Hematology did not fulfill my growth and development needs given my interests.

I was fortunate to be sponsored for the American Venous Forum in 1990 by Dr. James Yao. By participating in this organization not only was my career shaped; I also learned incredible lessons from the AVF founders and others. There were numerous occasions when the dignity, humility, and kindness of these individuals taught the importance of constructive criticism that was always shared, privately, and never mentioned from the podium. Drs. Strandness and Rutherford were legendary in this regard.

Our team worked very hard during the year to conduct research that would be suitable for presentation at the annual AVF meeting and accepted for publication in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*. It was a great honor and sense of accomplishment to achieve this goal.

Participating in this process and working with the many brilliant members of the society provided an unbelievable educational experience that I recommend to everyone with similar interests.

The breadth and depth of the skills, knowledge, and accomplishments of the membership are legendary and reflect the opinion that American Venous Forum is the world's leading vascular society. Individuals with an interest in venous disease should become members of the society that, hopefully, will help them--as it did me-- in shaping and advancing their careers.



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# MEMBERSHIP



**DEBBIE GOODMAN,**  
RN, Clinical Lead  
St. Peters Health Partners  
Vascular Associates  
Troy, New York

I am the RN Clinical Lead for St. Peters Health Partners Vascular Associates based in Troy, NY. I have been a vascular nurse for approximately 13 years. I hold patients with venous disease very near and dear to my heart. I have assisted our vascular surgeons in more than 3,000 venous procedures in the outpatient setting. The American Venous Forum has provided me with continuous education on up-to-date studies that I can bring to our practice and improve our patient's quality of care. I have attended conferences and decided to become a member last year. The AVF was extremely welcoming and opened doors to networking with other specialty practices. I have enjoyed being part of such a great community of experts and have gained a great deal of knowledge.

**“The AVF was extremely welcoming and  
opened doors to networking  
with other specialty practices.”**



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# MEMBERSHIP



**ALVARO ORREGO**  
MD, FACS  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, LASER  
AND VEIN CLINIC, VINA DEL  
MAR, CHILE; PRESIDENT,  
FUNDACIÓN CHILENA DE  
FLEBOLOGÍA Y LINFOLOGÍA

Dr. Orrego's answers to questions posed by *Vein Specialist* provide a good picture of his thoughts about AVF membership.

**Q: How has the AVF impacted your career?**

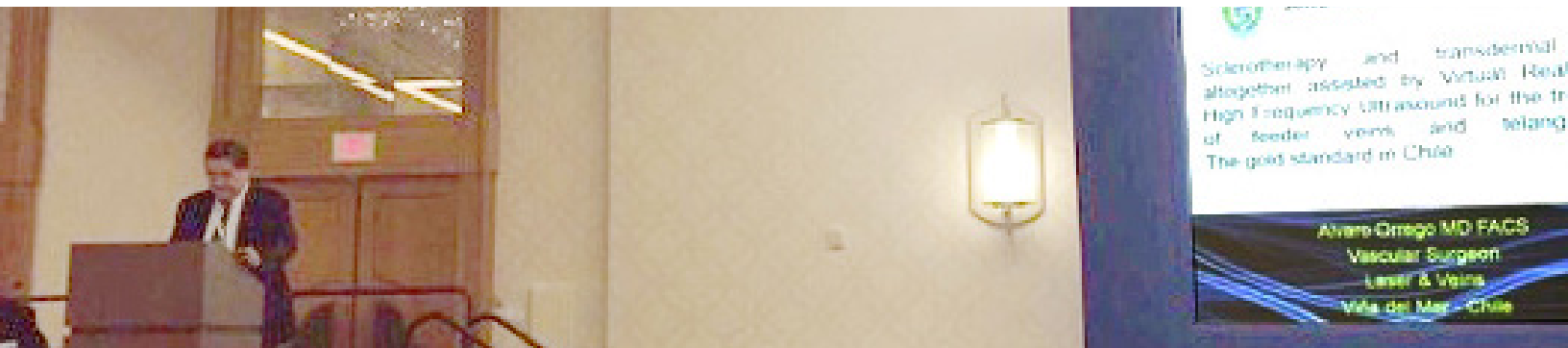
**A: My mind was opened knowing other points of view of work, different ways of thinking, and different strategies. I went beyond my limits.**

**Q: What has your experience been with AVF?**

**A: It has been one of my best experiences in my entire life. I meet nice, friendly, and well trained people. I have made tons of friends around the world.**

**Q: What makes the AVF unique and valuable?**

**A: Trust the institution. I can rely on the therapeutic guidelines of our institution and apply them in my daily practice. I can be in touch with other researchers.**



**Q: What would you say to others considering joining AVF?**

**A: Please, don't have doubts. You will be part of our amazing family. Be part of the future!**



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**SAMEH DIMITRI,**  
MBBCH, MSC, FRCS (Eng.  
Edin.) Clinical Director,  
South Mersey Arterial Centre,  
Consultant Vascular and  
Endo-Vascular Surgeon,  
Countess of Chester Hospital  
NHS Trust

I have been a member of the American Venous Forum for almost 25 years now. It's not just for Americans! I am based in the UK, and my passion is vascular surgery with a special interest in venous disease. I got involved with the AVF in 1996, having just started training as a consultant, and I submitted an abstract, which was accepted. That was my first experience of attending the AVF conference. It provided a rich mix of knowledge, clinical information, and interaction. That's why I decided to become a member the following year.

On an international level, the AVF has always welcomed participation by inviting members from all around the world to serve on committees and writing groups. Through its president, Antonios Gasparis, and various committees, the AVF provides a range of benefits from Fellows and Early Career courses to the AVF Exchange, which is an exclusive online community to share technical and clinical information and best practice and enhance knowledge. It's fantastic. The AVF has also been extremely helpful with improving and updating my knowledge and experience by my attending the annual meeting and actively participating by submitting abstracts, oral presentations, and posters.

Part of the impact the AVF has had on my career is that we managed to become the first and currently the only vascular unit in the UK which has the investigations and treatments for suspected and proven cases of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) under the specialist care of vascular surgeons. The AVF was a major influence. It gave me the confidence, evidence and inspiration to argue with my institution for this to happen. The networking, sharing of expertise; it gives you the tools, the armour and the know-how to say "I want to take this on."

The AVF has an International Committee – currently led by Jorge Ulloa, MD – which was set up to encourage global networking and collaboration in research and scientific projects and I'm honoured to have been invited to become a member.

More recently, in reaching out for more international engagement, the International Committee has launched an Ambassador scheme--a two-year pilot program -- and I'm privileged to have become an AVF Ambassador from the UK. Part of the role will be to increase international co-operation between the AVF and other vascular and phlebological societies within our country. Ambassadors will identify a trainee to mentor whereby he or she would get free membership for two years in order to encourage them to attend and present their research work.

To others considering joining the AVF I would say, hopefully I've convinced you, but if you're not sure, just join the conference in Orlando, Florida, in February 2022 and judge for yourself; find out what you are missing and then you can make up your mind. Apart from the science, there's also a very enjoyable social side organised by the AVF Program Committee, chaired by Efthymios (Makis) Avgerinos, with welcome cocktails, tennis, golf and an exciting and glamorous closing ceremony.



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**ERI FUKAYA, MD**  
Clinical Associate Professor,  
Surgery - Vascular Surgery,  
Stanford Medicine

My first AVF meeting attendance was February 2012, as a first-year vascular medicine fellow. I remember flying down to sunny Orlando in the dead of winter from Philadelphia to attend the meeting, which I had been looking forward to very much.

Penn provided excellent vascular medicine training, but was lacking in venous education; thus, I tried to enhance this by attending venous meetings throughout my fellowship. Bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, and wanting to take away everything I can, I devoured the meeting schedule and listened to as many talks as possible. Dr. Almeida's first in human clinical trial of cyanoacrylate glue was the most memorable from this meeting as I had not known anything about it till then. It was such an out-of-the-box approach and quite the eye-opener. Since then, I have attended as many meetings as my schedule allowed. The things I have learned and the people I have met at AVF have made a significant impact on my career.

As a fellow trying to get my feet wet in vein care, the sessions and courses for fellows' education both AVF- and industry-sponsored were tremendously helpful. After fellowship, I joined the Stanford Vascular Surgery division as a Vascular Medicine specialist. My desire was to start a Vein Clinic and with the great support of my division chief, I had the opportunity to do so. Here again, the knowledge I picked up at AVF over the years was extremely helpful. I took the advice from a senior AVF member: "For the first few years, focus on building your vein practice and doing it well. If you grow, opportunities will arise." Currently, I am heavily involved in both venous and wound care and find this combination very fulfilling.

Now, as a mid-career specialist, I look to AVF not only for its educational content but also as the environment to be able to mix with experienced experts to have conversations on emerging science, difficult cases, etc. on a level only possible with like-minded practitioners with similar interests. I find this to be one of the most valuable aspects of being an AVF member.

As noted, AVF has helped tremendously in the clinical practice realm. Just as important, it has also helped me in research. The AVF-JOBST grant has sponsored many venous researchers over the years and as obvious by its previous recipients, provides a fertile ground for research career building. My current study for which I was awarded this prestigious grant is on bioimpedance measurement as a diagnostic modality for venous disease. I have discussed and received much input from several AVF faculty on this project and look forward to presenting the results at the AVF 2022. I think of this as a nice milestone to commemorate my 10 years of involvement with AVF.

I thank all of my AVF colleagues who have mentored and interacted with me throughout the years and look forward to many more decades with AVF.



**Eri Fukaya** accepts the 2019 JOBST Research Grant Award from AVF President **Brajesh Lal** (left) and Essity Health & Medical Solutions North American Leader **Michael Feenan** (right).



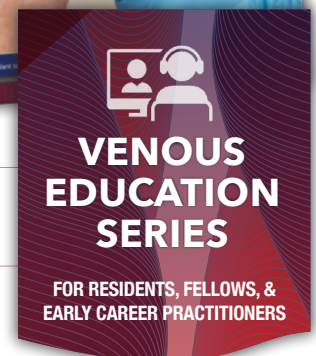
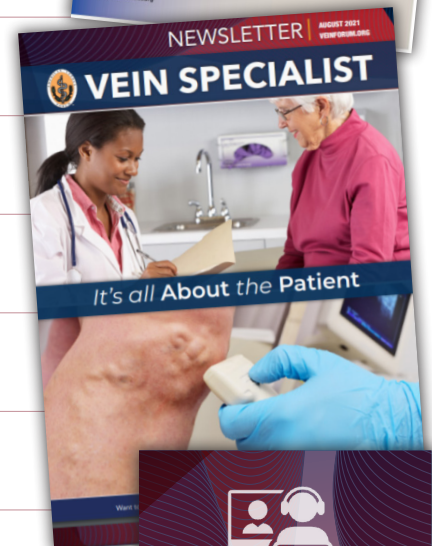
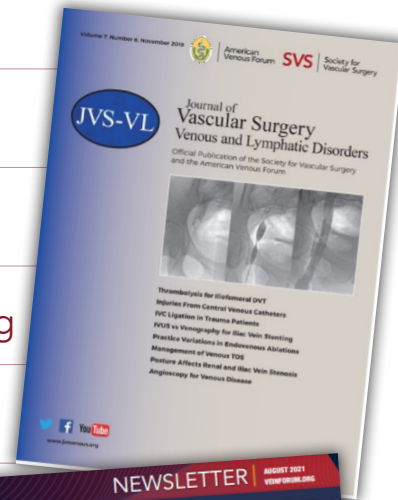




# AVF MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

**OUR MISSION** Advance Science, Education & Advocacy In Venous & Lymphatic Disease

- Journal of Vascular Surgery – Venous and Lymphatic Disorders
- VEIN SPECIALIST – the AVF's Monthly Digital Newsletter
- Access to AVF Exchange – an online community for AVF Members
- Special Member Pricing for VENOUS2022 – the AVF Annual Meeting
- Special Member Pricing for the Venous Education Series
- Annual Meeting Physician-in-Training Scholarships
- AVF-Juzo Traveling Fellowship
- AVF-JOBST Clinical Research Grant
- AVF-BSCI Translational Research Grant
- Volunteer Opportunities - Committees and Writing Groups
- Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Special Pricing for AVF Publications
- AVF Advocating for you and your Patients



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AMERICAN VENOUS FORUM

**RENEW**

**JOIN NOW**





# MEMBERSHIP



## The AVF Vein Specialist Poll

In this edition of *Vein Specialist*,  
the AVF Vein Specialist Poll asks the question:



For a GSV with > 5 seconds reflux to the mid-calf with  
varicosities, what is your technology of choice?

For an SSV with > 5 seconds reflux to the mid-calf with  
varicosities, what is your technology of choice?

Provide your response and  
contribute to future dialogs.

The results will be published in  
a subsequent issue.



**American Venous Forum**  
Promoting venous and lymphatic health

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# MEMBERSHIP

NOVEMBER  
**NEW AVF MEMBERS**

# Welcome

**Omar Abu-Bakr** *UK*

**Oscar Moreno** *Rocha, Colombia*

**Sarit Sandowski-Pizow** *US*

**Aristides Barahona** *Mexico* **Sheralyn Nachbauer** *US*

**Norma Smith** *US*

**John Charitable** *US*

**Ricky Patil** *US*

**Spencer Wilson** *US*

**Perry Kerner** *US*

**Shaaban Rizvi** *US*

**Glenn Kline** *US*

**Ashkat Sanbaev** *Russian Federation*

## COME TO THE NEW AVF CAREER CENTER

The **Career Center** offers a non-dues revenue stream that supports the important work of the **AVF**, and we believe this provides a **one stop shop** for both **job seekers** and **employers**!

**ROBUST. ENGAGING.**



**AVF's Online Store  
Offers New Practice  
Resources**

# ShopAVF





## Informative Podcasts from AVF Committees Provide Benefits to New Members Right Away

As a way for new—and seasoned—AVF members to learn about the activities of their organizational committees, informative podcasts of interviews with committee chairs are now available.

The series debuts with brief interviews with or presentations from chairs of AVF committees. They discuss the purpose and goals of each of the committees and present current plans while describing how members can benefit from the committees' activities that support AVF's mission. The committee chairs provide details on how members can participate in committee work that will enhance their knowledge and practice.



**Anil Hingorani, MD**  
Membership Chair



**Andrea Obi, MD**  
Digital Media  
Committee Chair



**Jorge Ulloa, MD**  
International  
Committee Chair



**Windsor Ting, MD**  
Research Chair

# LISTEN NOW

Digital Media  
**PODCAST**

### **DIGITAL MEDIA COMMITTEE PODCAST**

Anil Hingorani, MD, Membership Chair (Moderator)  
and Andrea Obi, MD, Digital Media Committee Chair

International  
**PODCAST**

### **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE PODCAST**

Jorge Ulloa, MD, International Committee Chair

Research  
**PODCAST**

### **RESEARCH COMMITTEE PODCAST**

Anil Hingorani, MD Membership Chair ( Moderator),  
and Windsor Ting, MD, Research Chair





# FOUNDATION UPDATE

## HOW THE JOBST RESEARCH GRANT CHANGED MY CAREER Joseph Raffetto, MD



**Joseph Raffetto, MD,**  
with past AVF Presidents  
**Elna Masuda, MD,** on the  
left and **Joann Lohr, MD,**  
on the right

I began working in a basic science laboratory during my fellowship, not realizing that the discoveries would encourage me to ask more questions and apply the scientific method to find the answers. My mentors, Dr. Menzoian and Dr. Park, both encouraged me to apply for the Jobst Research Grant through the American Venous Forum as a means of continuing my research in the interesting area of venous leg ulcer and senescence and cell cycle mechanisms.

Little did I know how important the grant would be to my future career path and fulfillment of the desire I had to learn more about the science of venous leg ulcer healing. Not only did the grant provide vital funding for our research project to continue, but it taught me the importance of writing an objective and scholarly research grant that would serve as the foundation for future grant writings and awards.

At the AVF meeting in Dana Point, CA in 1999, I met with the then-current research committee to interview and provide general and specific information to justify why my proposal was important, including why I should receive funding for venous leg ulcer research. I remember that day as if it were yesterday; and can say with confidence that the meeting I had with that committee, which led to being awarded the Jobst Research Grant, was the starting point of my research career. To this day I continue to study chronic venous diseases and venous leg ulcer and varicose veins pathophysiology—all because of that commitment I made when I was awarded the Jobst Research Grant.

The scientific community individually and collectively has made wonderful contributions to our understanding of venous diseases; but if it were not for the Jobst Research Grant, I certainly would not be in the position I am in today. I am forever grateful and humbled that I was awarded this funding opportunity, as are many others who have also enjoyed the benefits of having the Jobst Research Grant fund their work allowing us to continue to study venous disorders to strive to fulfill our duty to scientific discovery that will ultimately benefit our patients.

## 2022 AVF-JUZO TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP

This Fellowship will award \$12,000 in funded travel to the AVF Annual Meeting in February 2022. The selected candidate will have 2 years to complete their Fellowship and will be required to present a summary of their experiences at a future AVF Annual Meeting. Any AVF member who has completed their training and is within the first 10 years of practice is eligible to apply.



**APPLY BY DECEMBER 10, 2021 FOR THIS PRESTIGIOUS OPPORTUNITY**



**American Venous Forum**  
Promoting venous and lymphatic health



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

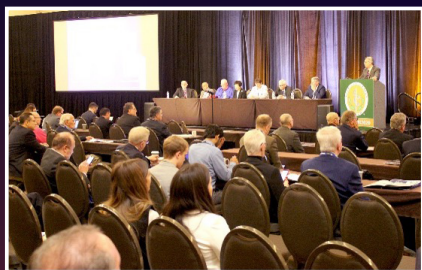


# VENOUS2022

AMERICAN VENOUS FORUM

FEBRUARY 23 - 26, 2022

OMNI ORLANDO CHAMPIONSGATE, FLORIDA



## Educate

- Four days of venous education from leading experts
- Abstract and poster sessions featuring cutting edge venous & lymphatic research
- Receive CME credit or a Certificate of Attendance

**NEW** Day of Science now integrated into program

Click to  
REGISTER



## Collaborate

- Network with peers and venous thought leaders
- Reconnect with friends and colleagues

**NEW** Continue the conversation in an **exclusive AVF Exchange** group for VENOUS2022 attendees



## Innovate

- Advance knowledge & skills with targeted programming for Residents, Fellows and Early Career Physicians
- Explore the latest venous technologies, tools and techniques on the exhibit floor and in three industry symposia

**NEW** Attend special session addressing Disparities in Venous Healthcare

**NEW** Participate in **Aesthetic Vein Session** for Allied Health Professionals



## Celebrate

- Bring your spouse, partner or guest for expanded daily activities and hospitality
- Celebrate together at the **VENOUS2022 Gala**

**NEW** Complement your meeting with golf, tennis or **5K Fun Run**

CLICK **HERE** TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!



@VeinForum



@americanvenousforum



american-venous-forum

veinforum.org



Science Sessions - Scientific presentations and discussions

Physician-in-training Sessions

Featured Sessions

Social Events, Breaks, Non-CME Sessions

Abstract Sessions - Original research abstract presentations with Q&A

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

8:00 - 13:00 Golf & Tennis

14:00 - 15:30 Science Session 1

15:30 - 16:00 Break

16:00 - 17:30 Science Session 2

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

8:00 - 9:00 Science Session 3

9:00 - 10:00 AVF Core Values Session - Exploring and addressing diversity and disparities in venous disease

10:00 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 Abstract Session 1

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Symposium

13:00 - 14:30 Abstract Session 2

14:30 - 17:00 Physician-in-training Session A - Superficial, deep obstructive, compression, post-thrombotic, deep reflux, hands-on with industry

14:30 - 15:15 EVF/AVF Session - Joint presentations with the European Venous Forum

15:15 - 15:45 Break

15:45 - 17:30 Villavicencio International Symposium - Featured session hosted by Dr. Glenn Jacobowitz and Dr. Jorge Ulloa

17:30 - 19:00 Poster Session & Opening Reception - Explore scientific posters, interact with exhibitors, network with colleagues in exhibit hall

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

8:00 - 9:00 Science Session 4

9:00 - 10:00 Sumner Session - Featured session hosted by Dr. William Marston

10:00 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 11:30 Abstract Session 3

11:30 - 12:30 President's Session - Featured speakers & Presidential address

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch Symposium

13:30 - 15:00 Abstract Session 4

14:30 - 16:15 Physician-in-training Session B - DVT, PE, SVT, hands-on with industry

15:00 - 15:45 AVLS/AVF Session - Joint presentations with the American Vein & Lymphatic Society

15:45 - 16:15 Break

16:15 - 17:45 Abstract Session 5

17:45 - 18:30 SVS/AVF Session: Venous Potpourri of Clinical Impact

19:00 Gala - Food, fun, and entertainment with your friends and colleagues (additional ticket required)

Science Sessions - Scientific presentations and discussions

Physician-in-training Sessions

Featured Sessions

Social Events, Breaks, Non-CME Sessions

Abstract Sessions - Original research abstract presentations with Q&A

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022**

7:30 - 8:30	AVF Annual Business Meeting Breakfast - For AVF Members
8:30 - 10:30	Physician-in-training Session C - Sclerotherapy, lymphedema, starting vein practice, hands-on with industry
8:30 - 10:00	Science Session 5
10:00 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 11:30	Abstract Session 6
11:30 - 12:00	Strandness Lecture - Keynote Speaker Joseph Raffetto, MD
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch Symposium
13:00 - 13:45	SVM/AVF Session - Postthrombotic Syndrome
13:45 - 14:45	Abstract Session 7
14:45 - 16:00	Aesthetic Vein Session - Spider veins with allied health professionals

# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**



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