



# American Venous Forum

Promoting venous and lymphatic health

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## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your AVF Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific Welcomes AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Organizations	15
Boston Scientific – BTG PLC. Merger	17
AVF Committees Corner	19
WCVF Recap	20

# VEIN SPECIALIST

# NEWSLETTER

## Membership Issue

November 2019 | [veinforum.org](#)



## IT'S TIME TO RENEW OR JOIN THE AVF MEMBERSHIP



Stacey Meyer, MBA

### Stacey Meyer, MBA

AVF would like to take the opportunity to thank our members for their support over the past twelve months. We value all your contributions; your involvement is important and very much appreciated. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that your membership with AVF is approaching expiration come the end of December.

We're excited to have your consideration of being a part of the AVF family for the coming year and look forward to engaging with you as we together advance the mission of the AVF.

### Benefits of Becoming a Member

- Full voting membership in AVF business meeting
- Publishing opportunities in the field
- Access to mentors and mentees in the field
- Access to career development resources
- Ability to network and share best practices with other academic specialists
- Access to exclusive activities on the AVF website via the Member Portal
- And much MORE!

Join Now

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



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November 2019 | veinforum.org **2**



# MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

## American Venous Forum Membership Benefits

U.S. Physicians



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### Publications and News



Enjoy full print & digital access to the **Journal of Vascular Surgery: Venous and Lymphatic Disorders (JVS-VL)** - the highest rated venous journal, ranked in the top 25% of all medical journals.

Receive **VEIN SPECIALIST**, the AVF's monthly newsletter featuring timely news and information about the field of venous disease.

### Comprehensive Venous & Lymphatic Education



Receive **special AVF member rates** to attend:

**VENOUS2020:** AVF Annual Meeting and Early Career Course – save 33% vs. non-member rates.

**VENOUS2020:** Venous & Lymphatic Science Meeting – save 28% vs. non-member rates.

**Annual Fellows and Early Career Course** in Venous Disease complementary registration, travel and hotel for AVF members.

Stay current: **Receive the latest venous & lymphatic disease updates** on new or updated clinical guidelines and reimbursement challenges.

Learn about **emerging venous technologies and techniques** from recognized venous experts, **earn CME credits** and **gain free online access** to live/recorded AVF sessions & presentations.

### Venous Research Opportunities



Access member-only grants, including the **AVF-JOBST Research Grant**. Learn about **venous research opportunities** including NIH grants, industry-sponsored research and C-Tract Trial participation.

Gain access to the most respected scientific forum, the AVF Annual Meeting, to **present your research findings** and be considered for **publication in the JVS-VL**.

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



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November 2019 | veinforum.org **3**



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS *continued*

### Career and Practice Growth



**Collaborate and network** with internationally recognized thought leaders and expert investigators from around the world. Access the **AVF membership directory online**.

Inclusion in AVF's **"Find a Vein Specialist"** online referral resource for patients and referring physicians.

Access **AVF's Career Center** to **advance your career** or share open venous positions at your institution. Coming soon!

### Opportunity to Become a Leader in Venous Disease



Serve on a writing group, update and develop new venous and lymphatic **clinical guidelines**.

Lead the way by **serving on a committee** or the AVF Board. Advance venous health as an active participant in a multi-specialty coalition.

Become a **"Key Opinion Leader."** **Speak and present**, both within the U.S. and around the world.

### Make a Difference in Venous and Lymphatic Health



Support the AVF Foundation, serve as a Board Member, get involved with **"Healthy Veins for Healthy Life"** and promote venous & lymphatic health.

Enjoy the prestige, **proudly display your membership certificate**, and be recognized by your co-workers, peers, and patients as an AVF Member.

**Join the AVF today and help shape the future of Venous and Lymphatic care!**

*VeinForum.org*

#### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20

You can explore the areas of the AVF website and familiarize yourself with the history, mission, vision [here](#). Join this prestigious group of your peers and help advance venous disease treatment and patient care today!

Check out AVF & Join Today



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November 2019 | [veinforum.org](#) **4**

# WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF AVF

Anil Hingorani, MD



Anil Hingorani, MD

Honestly, the people of AVF are one of its greatest assets. The global network of AVF professionals who have a passion to support and care for those impacted by venous disease is unparalleled. This network encompasses the entire spectrum of vein specialists includes vascular surgeons, general surgeons, interventional radiologists, cardiologists, advanced care practitioners, trainees, basic science researchers, industry partners etc. AVF membership ranges from those in academic practices to rural solo practitioners from all over the world.

*The people of AVF are one of its greatest assets.*



The Annual Meeting of AVF is widely considered one of the world's foremost venous meetings where a cross-section of professionals meet to learn, to share knowledge, to network, and to advance the field of venous and lymphatic disease. You meet clinicians, researchers and other professionals from all around the world who share your passion for venous disease and become part of your network.



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20





## WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF AVF *continued*

Anil Hingorani, MD

The personality of the society is also appealing. At the annual meeting, the atmosphere of the meeting is low pressure, cordial and friendly. Discussions are civil and meant to extend the fine points of the presentations.

The AVF meetings remain the best place to exchange new ideas, explore new directions and find out about new products from industry by spending time in the exhibit hall. It really gives you the opportunity to put these new technologies into your hands to try out. In addition, the Day of Science is always a great opportunity to hear about the cutting edge of venous research. Indeed, one of the main reasons why I enjoy this portion of the meeting, is because, I always come back with new ideas for future research. If you want to hear the best research in venous disease, meet the thought leaders in venous disease and see where the field is heading for the next 5-10 years, the American Venous Forum Annual Meeting is the right place for you.

The JVS-VL is given to all members. The journal has the highest impact factor of all of the journals focused on venous disease. The number of submissions is increasing every year and the number of annual issues is growing.



As a member, you gain access to incomparable research opportunities. Members are allowed to submit their ideas for the largest grant dedicated to venous disease, the AVF-JOBST grant, which is announced at the annual meeting. The topics of past winners of this grant range from basic science to clinical research.

*AVF members lead, learn, share knowledge and influence the field of venous disease.*

AVF also offers opportunities to lead, learn and make an impact. Whether you are interested in helping develop guidelines that set the standard of care for venous disease, creating patient education resources, or working with the Health

Policy Committee to advocate for the needs of patients, AVF has an opportunity for you. AVF helps run the venous module for Vascular Quality Initiative and this will clearly be an increasingly important area for research and verification. AVF offers opportunities to serve on various committees, the Board of Directors, as a writer or speaker or to help organize the meeting. Volunteers are sought from all backgrounds and levels of training for a variety of positions in AVF every year.

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



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November 2019 | [veinforum.org](http://veinforum.org) 6



## WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF AVF *continued*

Anil Hingorani, MD



Members can obtain the Handbook of Venous Disorders at a discounted rate. This text is regularly updated and is the standard reference for venous disease. It remains the most comprehensive text of its kind and each chapter is written by leaders in the field. It is a must for any venous practitioner.

While this list is by no means comprehensive, it does highlight the reasons why I continue to tell my trainees every year that AVF is THE venous society to join.

**VENOUS2020**  
AMERICAN VENOUS FORUM

### AMERICAN VENOUS FORUM 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

OMNI AMELIA ISLAND  
PLANTATION RESORT  
AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA

March 3 - 6

**REGISTER  
NOW**



**4TH ANNUAL "DAY OF SCIENCE:  
BEYOND HEMODYNAMICS"**

will be featured during the 32nd Annual  
Meeting of the American Venous Forum  
March 3, 2020 11:00am - 5:00pm

#### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



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November 2019 | [veinforum.org](http://veinforum.org) **7**



# AVF MEMBER TESTIMONIALS



Caitlin Barry

## WHY AM I A MEMBER OF AVF AND WHY DO I VALUE MY MEMBERSHIP?

Caitlin Barry conducted personal interviews with 3 AVF Members

Interviewees:

Daniel Monahan, MD

Anil Hingorani, MD

Kathleen Ozsvath, MD

### 1. When was the first time you attended an annual meeting and what stood out?

My first AVF annual meeting was in 2004. I had previously attended a pacific vascular meeting with basically the same group. What stood out was how friendly everyone was, and how quickly I was accepted as a colleague.

My first meeting was in 1997. I was totally blown away at the quality of the science. The AVF was clearly THE venous meeting with the highest academic standards. These presentations are at the cutting edge and present the future of the field.

I think what stood out for me was the science and the research. The other thing that really made all the difference was that the vein experts on the panels and the podium were REAL people who immediately included me and got me involved. I was treated like someone who matters. In other societies you have to "pay the dues" forever and you may never feel appreciated or included. Also the vein experts that are on the board are honorable and good people. I respect them as amazing mentors!

### 2. What makes AVF unique?

The huge amount of scientific and clinical expertise and integrity.

The people of the AVF are its greatest asset. The networks you develop with others who share your passion for venous disease are invaluable. The members encompass the leaders in the field. The relationships you develop with industry help shape the future of venous disease. The AVF include trainees, solo practitioners in small communities, internationalists and non-internationalists and everyone in between. You can always find someone with similar interests.

The individuals.

### 3. What is my practice like and how do I utilize AVF?

My practice is office-based, private practice and entirely venous and lymphatic. The AVF keeps me educationally at the cutting edge of science and practice. It is also a community of friends and colleagues that I greatly value.

#### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20





## AVF MEMBER TESTIMONIALS *continued*

### WHY AM I A MEMBER OF AVF AND WHY DO I VALUE MY MEMBERSHIP?

Personal interviews with Daniel Monahan MD, Anil Hingorani, MD, and Kathleen Ozsvath, MD

Our practice is influenced by the AVF everyday. Since we are a 90% venous practice, we depend on the AVF for representing our interests with payers and Washington. The guidelines that the AVF publishes are the defacto international standard for venous care. The newest ideas, techniques and tools that are presented at the meeting determine what our practice will be in the future. The Fellow' Course is an annual mandatory meeting for our trainees.

I am in a hospital based practice. I do some clinical research. I am chief of surgery at my community hospital. I do something AVF EVERYDAY. I am involved and love interacting on the committees I serve. I am interacting with my AVF colleagues about cases. I have made great friends and enjoy their company.

#### 4. What benefits does AVF offer?

In addition to the above, the JVSVL Journal also keeps me up-to-date. Through committee participation I have been able to contribute to the future of vein disease management, and that is very satisfying. The main benefit is the relationships.

The benefits include 1) the "find a venous specialist" which directly links patients to AVF members, 2) the JVS-VL, the venous journal with the highest impact factor, and 3) opportunities for research such as the largest grant for venous disease, the AVF-JOBST Grant. I always come back from the meeting with new ideas for our practice and research. The leadership opportunities are unparalleled. No matter what your level of training or background, the AVF offers positions on all its committees for those who are interested and volunteer. The opportunity to interact to learn and to get involved.

Opportunity to interact to learn and to get involved.

#### 5. Can you provide one nugget of information learned from an annual meeting that you still use today?

Too many to count – appropriate use of ablations, evaluation and treatment strategies, compression use, pelvic vein evaluation and treatment, and many more. The AVF helped me to develop high-quality ultrasound evaluations in my practice.

I think the focus on ethics of venous procedures from last year's meeting had a big impact and helped highlight some important problems and possible solutions.

I think working on the appropriate use guidelines and working closely with Elna Matsuda has really opened my eyes to the issues with overuse.

#### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



## AVF AND C-TRACT: PARTNERING TO LEAD VENOUS SCIENCE



Brajesh Lal, MD

Brajesh Lal, MD

*The American Venous Forum and the NIH-funded C-TRACT trial enter into a path-breaking partnership*

Just a few weeks ago, American Venous Forum and the NIH-funded C-TRACT trial entered into a path-breaking partnership. In one of the first such ventures ever, the AVF will partner with an NIH-funded trial to contribute its expertise, perspective, and work-effort to advance its success.

The Chronic Venous Thrombosis: Relief with Adjunctive Catheter-Directed Therapy (C-TRACT) is a large, well-designed study of endovascular therapy for post thrombotic syndrome (PTS). The goal of the study is to understand whether the image-guided procedures reduce the severity of PTS and improve quality of life of our patients. The long-term safety and costs of the endovascular procedures are also being evaluated. Findings from the study will certainly provide new information on optimal ways to care for patients with PTS. There are 23 clinical centers already participating in C-TRACT, but there is room for more.

*Results from C-TRACT will provide Level-1 guidance on the role of endovascular therapy for PTS*

*The AVF has led the way in creating the diagnostic tools and treatment guidelines for venous disease*

AVF has a long tradition of uninterrupted leadership in promoting evidence-based decision-making in venous and lymphatic disease. It has led the way in supporting the generation of high-quality data to determine the best ways to diagnose

and treat venous disease. AVF already sponsors the largest Society research grant dedicated solely to venous and lymphatic disorders. It has developed the diagnostic tools (CEAP, VCSS) and guidelines (Varicose vein treatment, Venous ulcer treatment, Compression) that inform worldwide care for venous patients. In addition, it has developed and supports the most active Venous Registry through the voluntary support of its membership. Data from its over 20,000 cases are now beginning to impact venous care quality and effectiveness.

Expanding on that tradition, AVF has signed an agreement with C-TRACT led by Suresh Vedantham MD, to leverage its distinctive knowledge and resources to increase awareness of the study, assist the study leadership in identifying investigators and sites to participate in the study, encourage enrollment in the trial, and promote best practices for study conduct. By becoming a member of the Board of C-TRACT, AVF is now a true partner of the trial and has a stake in its success. It will utilize its communication resources (including the VEIN SPECIALIST, e-mail blasts to its membership, its website, and social media channels) to communicate real-time updates and assistance with trial activities. Soon, we will share trial resources and programs developed by the C-TRACT



### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20





## AVF AND C-TRACT: PARTNERING TO LEAD VENOUS SCIENCE *continued*

Brajesh Lal, MD

*The AVF will inform its members about progress in C-TRACT and create opportunities for them to express their opinions on the trial*

(Mobile Referral App and trial materials). Most importantly, for its members, the AVF will create opportunities for you to share and discuss the relevance, rationale, protocol and need for a trial such as C-TRACT at our multiple meeting venues (VENOUS2020 AVF Annual Meeting, Fall and

Spring AVF Fellows' Courses, AVF sessions at multiple other Society meetings, and its scientific journal, the JVS-VL).

In the coming weeks and months, we will share more updates on the efforts and opportunities for membership participation. Meanwhile, for those of you who are interested, please mark your calendars for **March 1-2, 2020 when AVF and C-TRACT** are working to co-host the C-TRACT Annual Investigator Meeting as part of the VENOUS2020 Meeting of the American Venous Forum, the week-long celebration of all things Venous. This will be immediately **followed by the Annual Scientific Meeting of AVF March 3-6, 2020.**

AVF 32ND ANNUAL MEETING

**REGISTER NOW**

March 3 - 6, 2020  
OMNI AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION  
AMELIA ISLAND, FLORIDA

AVF 32nd Annual Meeting  
March 3 – 6, 2020

Omni Amelia Island  
Plantation  
Amelia Island, FL

[More Information](#)

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



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November 2019 | [veinforum.org](http://veinforum.org) **11**



## BOSTON SCIENTIFIC WELCOMES AMERICAN VENOUS FORUM LEADERSHIP



Jeffrey Mendola

### Jeffrey Mendola

On October 16th and 17th, AVF President Dr. Brajesh Lal, AVF Board Member Dr. Patrick Muck, Executive Director John Forbes and Director of Mission Advancement Jeffrey Mendola ventured to Boston Scientific's Peripheral Interventions Innovation Center in Maple Grove, MN.



They were welcomed by Jeff Mirviss, Global President of Peripheral Interventions, Catherine Jennings, Vice-president of Global Vascular Marketing and Business Development, Peripheral Interventions & GM of Varithena and Susan Smith, Medical Affairs Manager – Venous.



Over the next 2 days, they were joined by 15 members of the Boston Scientific team, including several who joined the team just weeks earlier as a result of the BTG merger. Conversations focused on our common mission to improve the care of patients with venous disease and how we can partner in a multitude of areas including physician education, clinical excellence and research.

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20





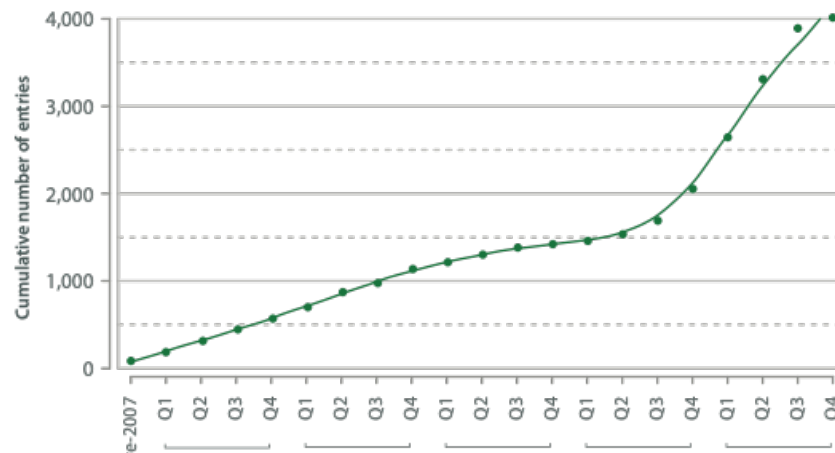
## VQI @ AVF SESSION

Jose Almeida, MD



Jose Almeida, MD

In 2011, the AVF commenced a registry to evaluate varicose vein procedures. The project began with a retrospective entry of historical data from the databases of several key members of the society. A total of 4,014 venous ablation procedures were entered in the database spanning the calendar years 2007-2011, comprising 3,930 patients (figure 1). Forty-one (41) physicians from 37 hospitals or clinical practices from 27 states entered data.



In 2013, the AVF registry joined forces with the VQI. The Vascular Quality Initiative® (VQI®) is a collaboration of the Society for Vascular Surgery Patient Safety Organization (SVS PSO), 18 regional quality improvement groups organized under the SVS PSO, and Medstreaming/M2S, its commercial technology partner. Directed by a Governing Council of representatives from the SVS, AVF, SVM and regional quality groups, the mission of the SVS PSO is to improve patient safety and the quality of health care delivery by providing web-based collection, aggregation, and analysis of clinical data submitted in registry format for all patients undergoing specific vascular treatments.

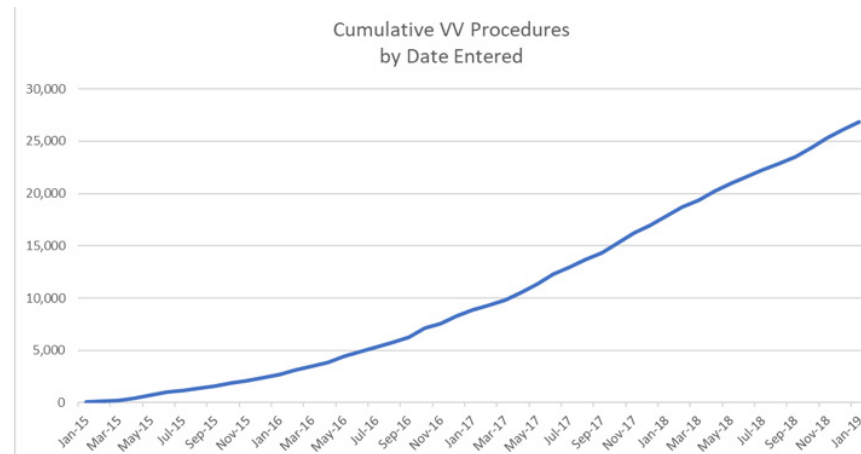
The Venous Registry Committee will present a dedicated session at the upcoming AVF annual meeting in March 2020. The session will highlight the current status of the 3 venous modules, as well as a new analytics system and the formation they dedicated Venous Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20

## VQI @ AVF SESSION *continued*

Jose Almeida, MD



The Venous Registry Committee will present a dedicated session at the upcoming AVF annual meeting in March 2020. The session will highlight the current status of the 3 venous modules, as well as a new analytics system and the formation they dedicated Venous Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

1. Intro & Vision for future- Jose Almeida, MD
2. Update venous stent module- Marc Passman, MD
3. Update VVR - Nick Osborne, MD
4. Update IVC filter - Tony Gasparis, MD
5. New analytic system - Carrie Bosela, RN
6. Priority list of topics to be analyzed using the Registry data- BK Lal, MD
7. Venous RAC - Jose Almeida, MD

Please join us as we take the next steps into mining the database and creating meaningful publications to support our venous care now and in the future.

Jose Almeida, MD  
Chair, VQI Venous Quality Committee

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



## THE AMERICAN VENOUS FORUM ACTIVELY WORKING WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS



Kathleen Ozsvath, MD

### Kathleen Ozsvath, MD

The American Venous Forum (AFV) is dedicated to the care, education, and research of venous and lymphatic disease. Upwards of 25% of the American population suffers from venous disease. Of those patients 30% have venous ulcers which are difficult to treat and cause a financial burden to the health care system. Patients with venous ulcers (VLUs) have a high incidence of diseased great and/or small saphenous veins. The deep system can contribute to the pathophysiology in the deep leg veins and or in the venous outflow secondary to obstruction or compression. Increased venous pressure leads to increased swelling and inflammation, contributing ulceration and to recalcitrance. Compression has always been the mainstay of treatment. As the technology has improved, treatment of axial reflux has been revolutionized over the past 20 years. Compression remains the most important element to reduce healing time and to minimizing recurrence.

In 2014, The National Quality Strategy was brought forth in an effort to make care safer, to engage patients in their care, to promote communication in the coordination of care, to promote the most effective practices for the leading causes of mortality, to promote healthy living, and to make quality care more affordable. In the constantly changing environment of health care policy reform, the AVF has been actively involved in advocacy, working together with The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In an effort to engage in discussions regarding venous disease. Drs. Lal, Lurie, Passman, Welch, Ozsvath, Masuda, met with members of CMS to discuss the issues facing the vein specialist. The AVF Health Policy Committee, now under the leadership of Dan Monahan, has been intimately involved in working with the leaders of other societies such as the Society of Vascular Surgery, and American Vein and Lymphatic Society to advocate and implement change. Understanding the issues facing members of the AVF is of paramount importance. Under the leadership of Dr. Elna Masuda, appropriate use criteria for venous interventions was undertaken by experts in the field to help vein specialists improve their practices. Guidelines are being updated and written by AVF members to help vein specialists understand the evidence from published literature on venous disease.

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20





## THE AMERICAN VENOUS FORUM ACTIVELY WORKING WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS *continued*

Kathleen Ozsvath, MD

The AVF also has representation in the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders, who work diligently to promote quality care and access for patients with wounds through advocacy and educational outreach. In September 2019, three wound care quality measures developed by the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders and the US Wound Registry (USWR) are now included on the CMS Physician Compare website. This website allows patients to compare quality data between individual physicians, group practices and accountable care organizations (ACO's). For the first time, performance data on the 12 standard quality measures from the Merit Based Incentive Payment Program (MIPS) and 11 specialty specific measures developed by various registries are now available.

The measures selected for Physician Compare reporting, specific to wound care, includes:

1. Adequate off-loading of diabetic foot ulcer at each treatment visit
2. Adequate compression of venous leg ulcers at each treatment visit
3. Vascular assessment of patients with chronic leg ulcers

These measures are seemingly obvious to the vascular specialists treating these disease processes, however, wound care as a whole is not a recognized subspecialty. Wound care patients fall under the care of many practitioners, not all versed in the treatment of vascular and venous disease. The USWR has shown that adequate compression for venous leg ulcers increased from 17% to 65% over the past 10 years. Off-loading of diabetic foot wounds has increased from 6% to 60%. Arterial screening has exponentially increased as well. The USWR has also shown that those practitioners reporting the three Physician Compare measures have 10% higher wound healing rates than those practitioners who do not participate.

By instituting the quality measures, patients will receive better care and better education, and will have a way to reach practitioners and compare outcomes by using the website. The mission of the AVF includes advocating and educating its members in matters affecting venous care.

Boston Scientific is integrating the BTG interventional medicine portfolio into its Peripheral Interventions division, which includes therapies for the treatment of certain cancers as well as venous and arterial diseases.

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20





## WHAT THE BOSTON SCIENTIFIC – BTG PLC. MERGER MEANS TO VENOUS PHYSICIANS WORLDWIDE



Jeff Mirviss

### Jeff Mirviss

Below you will find a Q&A with Jeff Mirviss, global president of Peripheral Interventions at Boston Scientific, on what the merger means for physicians and patients within the venous space.



### **What is the impact of the merger within the venous space and what does it mean for me and my patients?**

Mirviss: Venous disease is an important area of focus and investment for Boston Scientific, and we are committing resources to continue to advance the technology, clinical science and education required to bring these therapies to more patients worldwide. The collaboration and innovation among the physician community and Boston Scientific will continue as the company remains focused on developing future technologies in the vascular space.

### **What technologies does the combined venous portfolio now include and which disease states will be addressed?**

Mirviss: The newly combined, complementary portfolios offer a category-leading breadth of venous technologies including: venous stents, endovenous chemical ablation, ultrasound assisted clot dissolution devices, mechanical thrombectomy, bioconvertable inferior vena cava filter (IVC), imaging catheters and high-pressure balloons.

The combination of these two groups will advance care for patients in ways that could not be realized by either company alone and will focus on driving innovation and clinical evidence of minimally-invasive treatments for today's most challenging conditions, such as deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pulmonary embolism (PE), deep venous obstruction, and superficial venous disease.

### **What are some of the key product offerings within your expanded portfolio?**

Mirviss: The new breadth of our portfolio allows us to offer the broadest support for and partnerships with physicians treating these challenging conditions worldwide. Some of our product highlights include:

#### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



## WHAT THE BOSTON SCIENTIFIC – BTG PLC. MERGER MEANS TO VENOUS PHYSICIANS WORLDWIDE *continued*

Jeff Mirviss

- The VICI VENOUS STENT®, specifically engineered to address the compressive forces encountered in venous disease;
- The AngioJet™ Thrombectomy System, a thrombectomy platform designed to enable single-session removal of thrombus;
- The EKOS Acoustic Pulse Thrombolysis™ System, the first endovascular device cleared by the FDA for the treatment of PE, which is designed to leverage targeted ultrasonic waves in combination with clot-dissolving drugs in the treatment of peripheral thrombus;
- The Sentry Bioconvertible Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filter, the only FDA-approved bioconvertible vena cava filter designed to provide immediate protection against PE in patients at transient risk of PE, and;
- Technologies to treat venous insufficiency including Varithena® (polidocanol injectable foam), the only foam FDA-approved for the treatment of varicose veins.

**What are you most looking forward to accomplishing within the Boston Scientific Peripheral Interventions division now that the merger is complete?**

In the U.S. and Europe, there are over 2.5 million cases of DVT annually, and venous thromboembolism-related events lead to over 400,000 deaths in the U.S. and Europe every year. Our new venous portfolio is going to benefit and positively impact millions of patients around the globe. That is the driving force behind the integration of Boston Scientific and BTG. Together, with our physician partners and thought-leading organizations such as American Venous Forum, we will reach more patients and advance the treatment of these disease states through best-in-class technology and unparalleled clinical evidence.

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



**Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)**



# VOLUNTEER FOR AVF COMMITTEES

Hal Welch, MD



Hal Welch, MD

The American Venous Forum (AVF), like most medical societies, is in reality, a volunteer organization. Committee members, including AVF leadership, donate their expertise and time to make AVF a better organization. There are currently 22 Committees and over 100 members serving AVF. President Brajesh Lal has instituted a policy that if you want to serve, you will be placed on a committee. Besides providing input into your society, there is a significant added benefit to being a committee member. That is, making connections, and importantly, friendships with other members whom you will be speaking with on a regular basis and working together face-to-face at the annual meeting to improve venous patient care. Those friendships and connections will grow as you continue to serve and advance you to leadership positions in AVF. AVF needs you, and wants you to participate. Currently, we are determining the needs of our committees and will issuing a "Call for Volunteers" in the coming weeks so, get involved, and stay involved!



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20





Daniel Monahan, MD

## WCVF 2019

Daniel Monahan, MD

The West Coast Vein Forum returned as an educational activity on the West Coast after a year off. Thirty registrants, nine speakers, and industry representatives met at the Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort in Dana Point, California on August 23-24, 2019. The venue offered a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean and Dana Point Yacht Harbor. Many local restaurants and visitor sites provided some recreation.

The program included national experts, Kathleen Gibson, Bill Marston, Fedor Lurie, Elna Masuda, and Sheila Coogan. WCVF committee members Bob Merchant, Rick Pittman, Anne Luhan, and Dan Monahan also contributed. Topics ranged the spectrum of issues presenting to providers for venous treatment. They included sclerotherapy and phlebectomy, ablation technologies (including a lively debate from Kathleen Gibson and Bill Marston on thermal versus non-thermal ablations), appropriate treatment issues, leg swelling and compression, problems in treating venous ulcers, indications and treatment for pelvic vein disease, and thrombosis in pregnancy. Dr James Wall from Stanford presented a new technology in pneumatic compression using novel research methods and modern communication technology. The registrants participated in discussions and conversations in every session. They were unanimous in their enthusiasm for the weekend program. One said, "This is the only meeting in my career in which I've stayed to the very end."



Our industry supporters included Philips Medical Systems, JOBST-BSN Medical Inc., Medtronic, BTG PLC, Primus Pharmaceuticals, and Merit Medical Systems, Inc. Their support was crucial for this program to proceed, and we are very thankful to all of them.

The administrative support team pulled off a flawless meeting, which is not easy. Meeting room accommodations, AV support, and delicious breakfast, lunch, break-time, and receptions were exceptional. Our thanks go to Stacey Meyer, Kim Santos, Jennifer Manthei, and Sue O'Sullivan.

A future WCVF program is not yet scheduled but keep your eyes open. This program was appreciated by all who attended, of varying experience and expertise. We hope to meet again soon.

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### INSIDE THIS EDITION

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



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November 2019 | [veinforum.org](http://veinforum.org) 20





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**INSIDE THIS EDITION**

Renew Your Membership	2
Membership Benefits	3
Why Become a Member	5
AVF Member Experiences	8
AVF and C-TRACT: Partnership	10
Boston Scientific/AVF Leadership	12
VQI @ AVF Session	13
AVF Partners with Advocacy Orgs.	15
Boston Scientific/BTG Merger	17
AVF Committees	19
WCVF Recap	20



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November 2019 | [veinforum.org](http://veinforum.org) **21**