

Editorial

We are pleased to publish the abstracts of the Vascular Research Initiatives Conference (VRIC) that took place on November 5 and 12, 2020, in an online, virtual format. The VRIC has long been a showcase of state-of-the-art vascular-related translational research in our community of vascular surgeon scientists. The 2020 annual conference was planned for May 2020, but was canceled owing to the novel coronavirus disease-2019 pandemic. However, through devoted effort from our leadership, including Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) President Dr Ronald Dalman, Research Council Chair Dr Edith Tzeng, and SVS Basic and Translational Research Committee Chair Dr Luke Brewster, the 2020 meeting was moved to virtual format in November. We greatly thank the SVS team led by John Stangel and Sarah Murphy who did the hard work; the SVS provided this meeting free of charge and had record-breaking registration.

For the last several years, the VRIC has been held on the first day of the American Heart Association's Vascular Discovery conference. This juxtaposition of meetings is intentional, to facilitate collaboration and cross-talk between all parties interested in vascular research. Because some of the VRIC abstracts are also presented at the Vascular Discoveries meeting, they have been previously published in the June 29, 2020, issue of *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology*, along with the rest of the meeting abstracts; this format has been successful through the years to increase dialogue and collaboration between diverse teams of investigators. We are grateful to Dr Alan Daugherty, publisher of *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology*, as well as the leadership of the American Heart Association and Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc, who have graciously agreed to let *JVS-Vascular Science* and Elsevier republish the abstracts as part of the VRIC 2020 abstracts. This collaboration highlights the significant cooperation and important belief in all the constituents in our community of researchers who have devoted their life's work to discovering the intricacies of the vascular system in both health and disease. This is the foundation of next-generation patient care.

On November 5, there were 12 abstracts presented and an invited talk by Dr Katherine Gallagher, inspiring young vascular surgeons on how to transition from K to an

R award. The abstract presentations were divided into two sessions: Vascular Remodeling, moderated by Dr Ulka Sachdev and Dr Firas Mussa; and the Role of the Immune system in Atherosclerosis, moderated by Dr Ryan McEnaney and Dr Caitlin Hicks. Both sessions started out with the best scored abstracts submitted by a vascular trainee and were presented by Dr Derek Afflu, who discussed how elastin remodels arteries during arteriogenesis, and Dr Roberto Alvidrez, who presented the role of Cpla2 in atherosclerosis. In addition, for the first time at a VRIC meeting, Dr Jorn Meekel from Amsterdam University Medical Center presented his work that was awarded the best trainee abstract at this year's European Society for Vascular Surgery translational meeting; the SVS and European Society for Vascular Surgery intend to continue exchange of the best research performed by our trainees.

On November 12, 17 abstracts were presented. These abstracts were also divided into two sessions: Aortopathies and Novel Vascular Devices, moderated by Dr Jason MacTaggart and Dr Elsie Ross; and Vascular Regeneration, Stem Cells, and Wound Healing, moderated by Dr Jay Chung and Dr Kevin Southerland. Each session also started with the best scored abstract by a vascular trainee; Dr Frank Davis presented his work on epigenetic modifications that influence macrophage-mediated inflammation in aneurysms, and Dr Katie Hekman presented her work on autophagy remodeling mitochondria during differentiation of induced pluripotent stem cell-derived endothelial cells. The SVS Foundation VRIC Trainee Awardees were Dr Derek Afflu, Dr Frank Davis, Dr Katherine Hekman, and Dr Hallie Quiroz.

We hope that you were able to attend VRIC with us and enjoy reading these abstracts. We sincerely look forward to next year's meeting and hope that we can see each other in person. Stay safe.

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