

"Science Gaps and Future Directions in Venous and Lymphatic Disorders": The 2022 American Venous Forum Science Program - Days of Innovation and Science (hybrid)

The Seventh American Venous Forum (AVF) Science Program—Days of Innovation and Science—was incorporated into the main AVF program for the first time. The number of attendees on our previous edition, 2021, duplicated 2020, and 28 countries assisted with the live presentations. The AVF Day of Innovation and Sciences set a precedent on providing a specific time with an innovative format to the basic and translational science. We appreciate the organizers' efforts for such commitment to this scientific endeavor that constitutes an open space for the promotion, dissemination, and safeguarding the basic and translational science in venous and lymphatic diseases. This year, the AVF program was hybrid, which allowed presenters and the audience to participate remotely.

What makes distinct the AVF Day of Innovation and Science are our three main objectives. First, we identify and discuss gaps. Instead of the common meetings format based on what we did, we based our program on what is needed. Second, the structure exceeds the conventional congressional design since we combined continuing medical education with non-continuing medical education activities. This practice provides a platform of freedom with frank and open discussions. Every year, we invite all parts of the health care system from academia to industry; we welcome all specialties, funding agencies, and all scaffolds that can help to understand, from all perspectives, the problems in our specialty. Third, the next generation. We open the opportunity to have cutting-edge information with an abstract presentation session combined with an educational component.

For the seventh consecutive year, the AVF Days of Innovation and Science took place during the AVF 34th Annual Meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 23, and the mornings of February 24 and 25 and was moderated by Dr. Suresh Vedantham, Peter Pappas, Alun Davies, and Kathleen Gibson, together with Drs Jose Diaz and Fedor Lurie.

The meeting started on Wednesday the 23rd with Basic Science Abstracts with 88 attendees. The AVF program committee selected top five outstanding cutting-edge basic/translational science presentations with international representation by Drs Rabiha Chaer (United States), Sriganesh Sharma (United States), Sergio Giancesini (Italy), Maria Smetanina (Russia), and Nils Kuhlman (Germany). The session illustrated the outgoing translational research around the world. The presentations highlight the cutting edge research and three presenters were remote. The presentations and the discussions were educational and achieving the goals of this session.

The second session addressed Lessons of [Coronavirus Disease 2019] Epidemic and the Future of Clinical Research, with 66 attendees. First, Dr Andrei Kindzelski addressed "A Difficult Time, Challenging Decisions: History of NIHBL Platform Trials." His outstanding vision brought to us future possibilities and how funding agencies help to overcome difficulties with innovative ideas to solve the problems. Then, Dr Gregory Kasper highlighted the importance of "Interpreting Rapidly Changing Data for Clinical Use." His presentation reflected the system and men capabilities to adapt under new circumstances, such as the pandemic. Finally, Dr Peter Henke addressed the future on this critical topic, highlighting: "Do We Have New Research Questions?" He discussed the lack of information we had at the beginning of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and illustrated what was done and what is needed in the future. After the presentations, the audience and the panel discussed on the topics in a very friendly and provocative discussion.

On Thursday the 24th, "Basic Science in Venous Ulcer and Varicose Veins" were discussed during the third session with 98 attendees. Dr Joseph Raffetto presented the mechanisms responsible for the genesis and healing of the venous ulcer; research concepts and clinical applicability were identified from the basic science perspective in a very didactic and compiled talk. This was a significant update on a highly complex subject that involves so many areas of our practice. "Tissue Remodeling in Genesis and Healing of Varicose Veins" was addressed by Dr Sarah Onida. She delivered an outstanding presentation, rich in information that can make us understand the subject and be very helpful for industry research and development present in the audience.

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Last but not least, Dr Thomas O'Donnell educated us on the "GAPs and Future Directions: Do We Have New Research Questions?" His presentation was outstanding, gravitating between basic science and the clinic and proposing new challenges for the research community, a significant contribution, indeed. The discussion was rich in content and very educational.

Finally, on Friday the 25th, the fourth session, with 93 attendees, entitled "You Say VEIN I Say PAIN, a Different View on Venous Pelvic Disorders," Dr Wahl addressed "Chronic Pelvic Pain – Evaluation and Outcomes Assessment," Dr Georgine Lamvu addressed "Chronic Pelvic Pain – Disorders Coexisting with Venous." Finally, the Clinical and Research Directions: Round-table Discussion brought together all session moderators, and the audience in a charming discussion, which we have no doubt will serve to all of us.

In summary we celebrate the VII-AVF Days of Innovation and Science—Science Program—was incorporated to the

main AVF program, it runs in a hybrid mode and aimed to be highly informative, educational, all-inclusive forum designed to identify current research priorities in venous and lymphatic diseases while also provided an educational component. We carried the mission to support the basic and translational within the mission of the AVF.

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