



The Vascular Disease Foundation
Annual Meeting Highlights

September 20-21, 2010
Alexandria, VA



P.A.D. Coalition's Seventh Annual Meeting



Pictured above left to right, Cindy Goff, Peter Sheehan, MD, Donna Mendes, MD and Emile Mohler, MD.

More than 115 people gathered in Arlington, VA on September 20, 2010, for the P.A.D. Coalition's seventh Annual Meeting. Meeting participants received a report on Coalition activities and new resources developed over the past year. Other presentations and discussions focused on hot topics and key issues in the area of PAD patient care, research and policy. Topics included:

Using Disease Registries to Improve Patient Care: Jack Lewin, MD, Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Cardiology reviewed the Pinnacle Registry, the largest, most robust ambulatory U.S. cardiovascular patient record database. Pinnacle includes more than half a million outpatient records and covers major cardiovascular conditions such as coronary artery disease, hypertension, heart failure and atrial fibrillation. The registry is being used to guide quality improvement efforts, ensure adherence to guidelines, aid development of performance measures and reduce health care disparities. It also facilitates comparative effectiveness research and provides information on adverse events, device performance trends and inappropriate off-label use.

National Efforts to Address Critical Limb Ischemia (CLI): Drs. Alan Hirsch and Peter Sheehan discussed plans to develop a national CLI initiative. CLI is associated with poor patient outcomes, fragmented care pathways, under-diagnosis and inconsistent treatment, and few treatment options. A summit organized by The Angiogenesis Foundation in June 2010 brought together key stakeholders to address the issues, challenges and proposed solutions for improving CLI patient outcomes.



Joe LaMountain, VDF Advocate, Paul Bonta, ACPM and Stephanie Mohl, AHA participate in a panel discussion on PAD.

The summit identified key mandates, including the need to improve the prevention and early detection of CLI, increase awareness of CLI among the public and health care community, disseminate evidence-based care pathways involving integrated multi-disciplinary care, and identify unmet scientific needs to facilitate development of new science. To further these goals, the P.A.D. Coalition is appointing a multidisciplinary Task Force to conduct an environmental scan of existing CLI clinical and patient resources and identify suitable awareness, education, advocacy and other science-based strategies to improve the care of CLI patients.

Improving Care at the State Level: Dr. Alan Hirsch described efforts in Minnesota to improve the care of patients with PAD. These efforts include a study to document the incidence and economic burden of CLI in Minnesota and a push to include atherosclerotic vascular disease in state public health plans. Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN) has championed PAD as a public health issue and introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives that serves as a call to action to other government agencies to address PAD. Velma Theisen, Manager Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, Michigan Department of Health, reviewed her experiences in developing PAD initiatives. The state's Michigan Cardiovascular Alliance, a partnership of the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, provides leadership and advice on priority interventions and led the development of a statewide strategic plan. PAD treatment guidelines are reinforced through the dissemination of evidence-based protocols, guidelines and clinical practice tools to targeted clinicians.

The Next Stages of Health Care Reform and Strategies for Shaping Discussions: Cindy Goff, BioMedix's Vice President, Legislative, Policy and Insurance Affairs, moderated a panel discussion on the new health care reform legislation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Panelists Stephanie Mohl (Government Relations Manager, American Heart Association), Joseph LaMountain (P.A.D. Coalition's Washington, DC representative) and Paul Bonta (Associate Executive Director, Policy and Government Affairs, American College of Preventive Medicine) discussed what the next stage of health care reform will bring and other changes that can potentially help to improve the affordability and accessibility of care for patients with PAD. The panel also suggested ways that the Vascular Disease Foundation and its Coalitions can be involved in discussions and influence patient care as health care reform is implemented.



Jerry Goldstone, MD and Michele Lentz at the P.A.D. Coalition annual meeting.

Coalition Awards

P.A.D. Coalition Awards



Award winners Michael Criqui, MD and Diane Treat-Jacobson, PhD.

The P.A.D. Coalition presented the annual Best PAD Research Awards to honor the work of investigators and acknowledge the creation of new clinical research relevant to the understanding and treatment of PAD published in 2009.

The Best PAD Research Award in Vascular Medicine was presented to **Diane Treat-Jacobson, PhD**, Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing in Minneapolis, MN. She and her colleagues were recognized

for their work on the research study, Efficacy of Arm-ergometry versus Treadmill Exercise Training to improve Walking Distance in Patients with Claudication, published in the journal *Vascular Medicine* (14:203-13, 2009).

The Best PAD Research Award in Epidemiology/Preventive Medicine went to Professor **Curt Diehm**. He and his colleagues are recognized for their work on the study, Mortality and Vascular Morbidity in Older Adults with Asymptomatic Versus Symptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease (*Circulation*. 120:2053-61, 2009).

Joseph Feinglass, PhD, received the **Best PAD Research Award in Vascular Interventions**. Dr. Feinglass and his colleagues were recognized for their study, Perioperative outcomes and amputation-free survival after lower extremity bypass surgery in California hospitals, 1996-1999, with follow-up through 2004 (*Journal of Vascular Surgery*. 50:776-783, 2009).

The Coalition also presented its Stay in Circulation Community Service Awards to recognize collaborative programs focused on increasing awareness about PAD high-risk populations, patients and the health care community.

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease received the Stay in Circulation Community Service National Award for its efforts to educate high-risk women about PAD.

The Stay in Circulation Community Service Award Local Award was presented to **Parrish Medical Center** (Titusville, FL) for its efforts to build a local PAD network.

Venous Disease Coalition Awards

The Venous Disease Coalition presented the Best Research Awards for papers published from June 2009 through June 2010 to honor the work of investigators and acknowledge the creation of new clinical research relevant to the understanding and/or treatment of venous disease. The lead authors on all the winning research studies also presented their research to the attendees during the meeting.

VDC Research Award in Basic Science was presented to **Peter J. Pappas, MD**. He and his colleagues were recognized for their work on the research study "Regulation of Matrix Contraction in Chronic Venous Disease" *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg*. 2009 Oct; 38(4):518-29. Peter J. Pappas, MD, et al.

VDC Research Award for Clinical Outcomes was presented to **Alpesh N. Amin, MD**, Professor of Medicine for the University of California School of Medicine. He and his colleagues were recognized for their work on the research study "Inpatient thromboprophylaxis use in U.S. hospitals: Adherence to the seventh American College of Chest Physician's recommendations for at-risk medical and surgical patients", *J Hosp Med*. 2009 Oct; 4(8):E15-21. Alpesh N. Amin, MD, et al.

VDC Research Award for Quality Improvement and Implementation of Best Practices went to **Russell D. Hull, MBBS, MSc**, Professor of Medicine at the University of Calgary. He and his colleagues were recognized for their work on the research study published in the *American Journal of Medicine* "Home therapy of venous thrombosis with long-term LMWH versus usual care: patient satisfaction and post-thrombotic syndrome", *Am J Med*. 2009 Aug; 122(8):762-769.e3.



VDC Best Science Award Winner Peter J. Pappas, MD

Vascular Disease Foundation 2010 Awards

VDF presented its annual awards at the organization's Annual Awards Dinner on September 20, 2010 in Alexandria, VA. The awards were presented by Anton Sidawy, MD, president, "to recognize individuals who have assisted the Foundation in accomplishing its mission to improve health for all by reducing death and disability from vascular disease."



Anton Sidawy, MD and Jack Cronenwett, MD, 2010 Jacobson Award Winner.

President's Awards

The Presidents Awards were presented to **Michael Criqui, MD** for Vision, **Marge Lovell, RN** for Leadership, **Garth N. Graham, MD** for Inspiration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Blood Disorders/ National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities for Partnership.

Julius H. Jacobson II MD Award

The prestigious Julius H. Jacobson, II, MD Award for Physician Excellence was presented to **Jack Cronenwett, MD**, Professor of Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. The award was honored by Dr. and Mrs. Jacobson who were in attendance.

Venous Disease Coalition's Fourth Annual Meeting



Craig M. Kessler, MD who offered the VDC lunch address, "Follow-on Biologics: Issues and Policy."

Over 100 attendees participated in the Annual Meeting of the Venous Disease Coalition (VDC) in Alexandria, VA on September 21, 2010.

Samuel Z. Goldhaber, MD, CDC Chairman welcomed the participants to their meeting and provided a report on Coalition programs and initiatives produced during the past twelve

months. Suresh Vedantham, MD encouraged attendees to participate as this is a coalition of organizations and our success will be from the collective involvement and support. The first few topics were presentations highlighting hot topics in venous disease, current issues and programs and tools to help improve patient care by VDC and member organizations.

Kicking off this session were Suman Rathbun, MD and Thomas Ortel, MD, PhD with the unveiling of the new national campaign for DVT awareness developed in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Titled "This is Serious", the program will be tested during the fall 2010 with the Spirit of Women hospital network, according to Debra Snyder, Director of Network Quality and Standards, Spirit of Women. After initial testing and adjustments are incorporated, the program will be available nationally. Hospitals and member organizations are encouraged to contact VDC to sign up to receive the materials when they become available early 2011.

William Geerts, MD, presented another new resource available to all member organizations from VDC. A new VTE Toolkit is available online from the VDC Web site and includes twelve chapters of slides, pictures and information that can be used for educating patients or staff about venous thromboembolism (VTE).

Reducing venous ulcers by fifty percent by 2020 is the goal of a national campaign spearheaded by the American Venous Forum developed from a gathering last fall. Thomas Wakefield, MD, encouraged the VDC and its member organizations to help achieve this goal and become involved.

A VDC committee has begun to develop a pilot program that will evaluate treatment and chronic venous outcomes from two hospital systems. Lawrence Hofmann, MD, chair of the committee, reviewed the plans for the program which is still in the development stage.

Mary Ellen McCann, RN reviewed a new online accredited resource for nurses and other healthcare providers from the National Blood Clot Alliance. The "Stop the Clot Professional Education Program" is a

complete curriculum to help providers understand clotting, its management and treatment.

A public television program that provided information to viewers and a phone bank to answer questions about superficial venous disease was highly successful according to Diana Neuhardt, RVT, RPhS. The program was conducted by the American College of Phlebology and is posted on its Web site so it can continue to reach the public.

Robert McLafferty, MD, led a discussion on gaps in VTE prevention, public awareness and educational programs through a few questions encouraging participants to identify where we can work to make a difference for patients. Several ideas were provided which will help frame strategies in the year ahead.

Keynote Addresses

The VDC meeting featured a special keynote address by Christopher S. Parker, PhD, MPH, Deputy Director, Division of Blood Disorders, NCBDDD, CDC. Dr. Parker addressed how the CDC is working to broaden the network of partners to improved venous disease outcomes and is committed to "work with national and consumer organizations such as VDC." He stated that since the VDC represents a coalition of multiple stakeholders, it provides a mechanism for dissemination and allows CDC to interface with front line constituents.



Keynote speaker, Christopher S. Parker, PhD, MPH Deputy Director, Division of Blood Disorders, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A fascinating presentation that described how follow-on biologics came to be approved earlier this summer by the FDA was given during the lunch by Craig Kessler, MD (pictured top left). He explained what changes occurred at the FDA, what constitutes "follow-on biologics" or "biosimilars" and how other countries are handling these issues. Time will tell whether there are long term complications resulting from these agents.

Thank you again to VDF Annual Awards Dinner Sponsors:

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