



Vascular Society of New Jersey
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MONTHLY REPORT – June 2006

From the President

Steve Hertz, MD

Those are my principles, and if you don't like them... well, I have others.

- [Groucho Marx](#)

As most of you know, the main emphasis of our society has focused on two annual meetings. The Fall Meeting, a guest lecture by invitation of the President, is designed as both an informational session and a social function to encourage collegiality among the vascular community. The Spring meeting is an educational meeting with the presentation of topics of interest and abstracts. Over the past few years, we have tried to shift its emphasis to better reflect the needs of the practicing vascular surgeon by including more on the noninvasive lab and expert talks on a variety of treatment situations. Overall, the shift has been enthusiastically received. I am pleased to report to the membership that Dr. Paul Haser has graciously agreed to be Program Chair for the upcoming Spring 2007 meeting. The meeting is planned for Weds March 14, 2007 at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. We hope to create a dynamic program for your educational enjoyment—details to follow.

Dr. Steven Curtiss, an old friend from residency days, has agreed to help me explore the idea of creating a service for our members to try to match VSNJ surgeons who desire additional experience in a specific procedure with other society members who might be doing a significant volume of those procedures and would be willing to have visitors for the day. The working name of this project is "Helping Ourselves." It might avoid the need for some trips to distant places to teach techniques that are already being performed at an expert level in our state. I have inquired with the OR director in my hospital and have been told that it is not difficult to make this happen. Just a little bit of paperwork from the visiting surgeon to confirm is licensure and malpractice coverage. We are going to try to set up a little trial project for this and see how it goes.

We will try to link to our website (<http://www.vascularsocietynj.org/>) available CME opportunities for online educational opportunities with application to our specialty. If you come across online CME that you think your colleagues would benefit from, please send it on to us.

Take a few minutes and enjoy the Spring...it's fast turning into Summer.

You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.

- [Jeannette Rankin](#)

Congratulations to our two vascular surgeon colleagues:

Charles Moss, MD, Newly-elected President – Medical Society of New Jersey

&

Joseph Costabile, MD, newly-elected, Alternate Delegate to the AMA (from MSNJ)

From the Statehouse

Beverly J. Lynch

DON'T FORGET...One of the provisions of A-50, the medical malpractice bill that was signed two years ago **prohibits med mal insurers from increasing premiums** if you are dismissed from a lawsuit within specific timeframes. See specific language below:

"...Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, an insurer authorized to transact medical malpractice liability insurance in this State shall not increase the premium of any medical malpractice liability insurance policy based on a claim of medical negligence or malpractice against the insured if the insured is dismissed from an action alleging medical malpractice within 180 days of the filing of the last responsive pleading."

BILL TO PROTECT PATIENTS' RIGHTS APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

A measure that would prohibit pharmacists from refusing to dispense medication solely on the basis of philosophical, moral or religious reasons was approved by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

The measure, **S-1195**, would require pharmacies to dispense prescribed medications to patients, regardless of any religious or philosophical concerns held by employees. In cases where the pharmacy does not have a prescribed medication in stock, the bill would require pharmacies to order the prescription or locate a pharmacy of the patient's choice that carries the drug. This measure now awaits a vote by the full Senate.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION BILL CLEARS COMMITTEE

The Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee today approved legislation to require health insurers to cover medical transportation services. This bill (**A-439**) would require health insurance carriers to provide benefits to providers of medical transportation services regardless of whether or not the service provider is under contract with the carrier.

Join your Colleagues in Support of a Pro-Physician Legislator!

"We are fortunate to have the most talented medical professionals call New Jersey home, and where state-of-the-art hospitals are conducting ground-breaking research and saving lives every day. Despite these advantages, New Jersey's healthcare crisis continues. Physicians and patients are locked in a constant battle with managed care companies, and these struggles ultimately cause some of our most vulnerable citizens to go without care. The managed care system needs significant changes, and I look forward to working with the medical community to make those reforms a reality. At the same time, New Jersey must stop creating road blocks - like the cosmetic medical procedure tax - which make it even more difficult for physicians to practice in our state. Additionally, I am working closely with the physician community and my colleagues in the Legislature to increase the PLIGA limit up to a \$1 million."

*--The Honorable Michael J. Panter
Assemblyman – District 12*

Physicians for Panter

Join us for a Reception overlooking the Navesink
Wednesday, July 12
6 pm
Molly Pitcher Inn
Red Bank, NJ

Suggested contribution: \$100

Please make checks (corporate or personal) payable to:
Panter for Assembly - 457 Sycamore Avenue - Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

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The maximum allowable contributions to Panter for Assembly per election cycle are \$2,600 from an individual or corporate entity, and \$8,200 from a PAC.

For additional information call (609) 392-7553

What's Coming Up for VSNJ?

October 6 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Non-Invasive Vascular Conference Hyatt @ Headquarters Plaza, Morristown
November 9 6:30 pm	Fall Dinner/Membership Meeting Highlawn Pavilion, West Orange
March 14, 2007 11:00 am	VSNJ Spring Meeting St. Barnabas Islami Auditorium

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RED BANK, NJ VASC VASCULAR SURGERY

Three physician surgical practice is seeking a 3rd surgeon to assume responsibility for well established vascular practice immediately. Practice is affiliated with 476-bed hospital, which recently completed a \$50 million expansion. Position offers strong financial package an short track to partnership. Candidates should have advanced endoscopic skills and ready to assume a private clinical practice setting.

Community: Great schools! Great Beaches! Great Parks!
(www.shore.co.monmouth.nj.us)

Contact Richard Gormley of Healthcare Resource Solutions at 800-718-2024, ext 2812 or email @
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