



Vascular Society of New Jersey
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MONTHLY REPORT December 2007

From the President

Jonathan Levison, MD

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy Holiday Season and New Year! I would like to share with you a copy of a slide presented at the recent Fall Dinner Meeting. While discussing legal issues involving hemodialysis access, Dr. Larry Scher touched on the issue of obtaining informed consent prior to performing access procedures (in addition to the universal institution consent form.) As most of the malpractice related complications regarding extremity access involve postoperative ischemic complications, it was suggested that an additional informed consent be presented to the patient and signed during that office visit. The consent reads as follows:

***ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF POTENTIAL RISK FACTORS OF
FISTULA/GRAFT SURGERY IN THE UPPER EXTREMITY***

Please read the information below in regards to the Risk Factors of Fistula/Graft Surgery.

Patients may experience the following problems:

*Numbness and/or coolness in forearm, and/or hand, and/or fingers
(this is usually mild and may Resolve by itself)*

Pain and/or burning sensation

Loss of use of hand either temporary or permanent (although very rare)

Multiple surgeries of fistula/graft to increase blood flow to hand

*Loss of dialysis access and need for further evaluation
e.g.: ultrasound, and/or need for dialysis catheter*

Bleeding, infection, and/or injury to adjacent structures

*If patient has a slight or unnoticed carpal syndrome, this surgery may exacerbate the
problem, resulting in the possibility of Carpal Tunnel surgery*

If patient has any neuropathy, this surgery may exacerbate the problem.

I understand that if I experience any of the above problems, I will notify my surgeon immediately.

*By signing below, I agree that I have reviewed and understand the information above and that I
have received a copy of the Potential Risk Factors of Fistula/Graft Surgery in the Upper Extremity.*

Additionally, I would like to appeal to all Program Directors in the State to submit abstracts for the Spring Meeting. Abstracts will be due by January 20, 2008.

Leadership Development Program on the way – check your mailbox and consider applying now.

Deadline: January 15, 2008!

What is the Leadership Development Program?

We are pleased to present this exciting program for physicians in New Jersey that combines elements of mentoring, organizational education, skills training and guided experiences. The program was originally modeled after the American Academy of Ophthalmology Leadership Program, and has been conducted by the American College of Emergency Physicians/New Jersey Chapter at the state level. In 2008, the program will be expanded to include many of the physician specialty organizations that work with B. Lynch Associates, Trenton, NJ.

Between 6-10 participants will be selected for the 2008 program year. This is a competitive process and the Leadership Development Program selection committee will carefully review each application that is received by the January 15 deadline.

Check out the website (www.vascularsocietynj.org) for a PDF copy of the brochure.

Watch your mailbox for the 2008 application!

From the Statehouse

Beverly J. Lynch

Happy trails to our great Commissioner of Health and Senior Services Fred Jacobs, MD, JD, who is stepping down at the end of this year. Rumor has it that Heather Howard, policy director for Governor Corzine, will be named his replacement. Congrats to Dr. Jacobs for a job well done!

Elections have come and gone, and now we are in the midst of "lame duck" session, which will end on January 7 with the 212th Legislative Session. The Legislature (with some 16 new faces in the Senate and 26 in the Assembly) will be sworn in on January 8 when the new two year session convenes. The Democratic majority in the Assembly will be 49-31; in the Senate the democrats control by a margin of 23-17. Senate President Dick Codey and Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts, Assembly Minority leader Alex DeCroce were re-elected leaders of their respective caucuses; Sen. Tom Kean, Jr., was elected minority leader of the Senate.

Call for Scientific Abstracts

*The 30th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Vascular Society of New Jersey will be held on
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
at Nanina's In The Park, Belleville, NJ.*

We are now soliciting scientific abstracts for presentation at the meeting.

Abstracts are due by January 20, 2008.

There will be two types of presentations again this year:

(1) **Paper Session:** All types of submissions – clinical, research or basic science -- are encouraged. Participation by residents and fellows with member sponsorship are encouraged. (Note – Papers remain eligible for submission to the Eastern Vascular Society or other major scientific meetings.)

(2) **Case Presentation:** Members are requested to submit interesting and educational cases for audience participation and discussion. Case material with pertinent laboratory and radiological data should be submitted by the above deadline.

Submissions should be sent by email to the society offices at:
Imyers@blynchassociates.com

Presenters will be responsible to provide the society with their presentation in advance of the meeting, to minimize audiovisual delays.

Registration materials will be forwarded in January outlining the entire program. For more information or if you have questions, please contact VSNJ at (609) 392-7553.

Mark your calendar for March 12

and

Submit your Paper/Case Presentation Today!

*Raymond J. Holmes, MD
Program Chairman*

Coming up ...

2008

Wednesday	March 12	Annual Scientific Meeting Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, NJ (NOTE: New Location!)
Thursday	October 30	VSNJ Annual Fall Meeting Highlawn Pavilion, West Orange, NJ

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