



Vascular Society of New Jersey

Monthly Report- December 2011

From the President

Paul B. Haser, MD

November was a very satisfying month, as I can roll in both the Thanksgiving celebration as well as the very successful Fall meeting, with our own nobel laureate as the very well received speaker, into the "very satisfied" category. While it was a bit rainy at the start of the Fall meeting evening, the cool breeze swept all the clouds away so that by the end of the evening the view from the Liberty House was quite spectacular. Thanks to all who made the arrangements, including our two industry sponsors, (Medtronic and W.L. Gore). The food was excellent and while not all the members took advantage of bringing guests along, it was especially nice to meet several of our society's bright and energetic children who are considering medicine - and especially vascular surgery.

November's elections did not bring a great deal of change in the legislature, but we can take advantage of the connections that Beverly Lynch and her group have already established to promote vascular surgery. Keep your eyes open for the carotid screening program we are arranging in Trenton - a real opportunity to establish professional ties with many of our law-makers and their staff.

Remember that March 7, 2012 is the annual Spring meeting and that there will be an RPVI crash course for members interested in qualifying for this examination as a promotion of the ICAVL process for your labs and your added recognition as non-invasive vascular laboratory specialists. Please note that we have a program being arranged which will include many issues which your RVT's and nurses might also find interesting.

ATTENTION VASCULAR SURGEONS: CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

The 34th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Vascular Society of New Jersey will be held on

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

at Nanina's In The Park, Belleville, NJ.

Winning presentation will receive

5th Annual Robert W. Hobson, II, MD Award

Engraved plaque and \$500

Abstracts are due by January 27, 2012.

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: lauren@amg101.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 February outlining the entire program. For more information or if you have questions, please contact VSNJ at (609) 392-7553.

From the Statehouse

Beverly Lynch & AJ Sabath, Advocacy & Management Group

One Room-Surgery Licensing Bill Advances with the Support of the ASC Community

As you may have been aware, we have been heavily engaged in assuring that one room surgery centers would not be adversely effected by a bill originally sponsored by Senator Vitale in response to a scathing report on the lack of patent safety and oversight by the state on one room surgery centers. Senator Vitale's bill initially sought to license and tax one room surgery centers the same as multi room centers.

We met Senator Vitale and the Assembly co-sponsor Dr. Herb Conaway to voice our concern and seek amendments. After listening to our issues and concerns, both lawmakers agreed to amend the bill during the November 21st Assembly Health Committee hearing to clarify that all CMS and non-CMS certified, accredited medical office ORs would have to meet physical plant requirements for state licensing and would be exempt from paying the ASC tax but would still be subject every other state licensing requirement, including but not limited to unannounced inspections, infection control, pharmacy and data collection.

Now the bill goes to the full Assembly for final passage, although there may be additional technical amendments but nothing we expect that would alter the November 21st amendments. After being voted out of the Assembly, the bill then goes to the full Senate for a Concurrence Vote on the amendments from the Assembly (a Concurrence Vote is an up or down vote on the amendments from the other house - the bill cannot be amended anymore). If the Senate approves the bill then it goes to the governor for final consideration.

Leadership Shuffle in Trenton as New Jersey Democrats Pick Two New Legislative Leaders

On November 10, 2011 both houses of the legislature met to provide unanimous support from fellow Democrats to reelect Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver as caucus leaders. An earlier threat of a coup against Oliver was averted. However, the No. 2 post in each house, that of majority leader, changed hands. The new party leadership has Sen. Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen, as Senate majority leader and Assemblyman Lou Greenwald, D-Camden, moving up to majority leader in the lower house. Democrats retained their majorities in the Senate and Assembly, picking up one seat in the lower house. Their majorities are not vetoproof.

Cosmetic Surgery Tax Roll Back

In June 2004, New Jersey became the first state to pass a law that explicitly taxes cosmetic surgical procedures with high hopes of using the new tax revenue to close a budget deficit. But the anticipated revenue was never generated. In an effort reverse the negative impact of this bad tax, New Jersey is now poised to become the first state to repeal such a tax. A measure currently making its way through the lame duck session of the legislature will roll back the 6-percent sales tax on elective procedures, phasing out the tax 2-percent a year over a three year period. The measure has passed the Senate already and is moving rapidly through the Assembly. The roll-back bill is likely to appear on the desk of Governor Christie by the end of year, where he is expected to sign the measure into law.

PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM (PMP) LAUNCHED

After years of waiting to implement a law signed back on January 4, 2008, the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs is launching the New Jersey's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) to assist physicians in treating patients with issues related to addiction, and to halt the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs.

Letters from DCA were sent to all prescribers on November 7, 2011. But in case you did not receive your letter, we

reiterate what the program is all about:

The PMP is an active database that collects prescription data on Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) and Human Growth Hormone (HGH) dispensed in outpatient settings in New Jersey, and by out-of-state pharmacies into New Jersey. Since September 1, 2011, it has collected detailed data on more than 1.5 million prescriptions; by the end of the year, it is expected to include more than 3 million prescriptions.

As a qualified prescriber, you must register for secure, online access to the PMP.

Access to the PMP will be granted to qualified prescribers - those who are licensed by the State of New Jersey and in good standing with their respective licensing boards (the State Board of Medical Examiners). To obtain access, prescribers must first register with Optimum Technology, the vendor contracted by the State to manage the PMP.

Registration is free. To register for access to the PMP, take the following steps:

1. Go to www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/pmp and click on the "Practitioners: New Registration" link. It will take you to a secure website managed by Optimum Technology.
2. Enter the required information on the "New Registration" page. This will include your name, State license number, and other identifying information.
3. Once the site has verified that you are a qualified prescriber, the site will direct you to a link for the "Request for Access" form.
4. You must print out and complete the "Request for Access" form. Sign the printed version, have it notarized, and mail the notarized original to Optimum Technology at the address provided on the form.
5. After the form has been submitted and information processed, you will receive an email from Optimum Technology containing your user name, password, and instructions for accessing the PMP.

Before issuing a prescription, registered prescribers will be able to access the PMP and request the CDS and HGH prescription history of the patient. The registered practitioners will be required to certify that they are seeking information for a specific, current patient.

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 7, 2012
VSNJ 34th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
NANINA'S IN THE PARK
BELLEVILLE, NJ