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Secretary's Report

As we approach Christmas and the beginning of a New Year, it is time to reflect on the year past, and in particular on the Silver Jubilee meeting in Athens.

Athens 2011

Despite all the economic difficulties that beset not only Greece but the whole of Europe, I believe that the meeting was a success. There was a record number of registrations. It is easy to dwell on the social events, particularly the Opening Ceremony in the Herodus Attikus and the Gala Dinner at the Island Restaurant, but the key to a good meeting is the scientific content, and I believe this was excellent, and is getting better year on year.

I am grateful to those who stepped in to fill the places of those who were unable to get to Athens. It was very much appreciated. I am also grateful to those who, behind the scenes, had to improvise at very short notice to get large numbers of delegates in to the centre of Athens on the Thursday when all public transport was on strike.

Bologna 2012

We should now begin to look forward to 2012 and our meeting in Bologna between Wednesday lunchtime and Friday evening 19-21 September (please note the date and the changed days of the week). Much of the detail of the program is already in place, and more will be revealed in due course. We anticipate a full program as in 2011 with scientific sessions, symposia, workshops and a rejuvenated Revision Course. Why not bring your partner to the meeting and stay on for an extra 2 nights to take in some of the sights around Bologna over the weekend? This is a great opportunity not to be missed!

Workshops

For 2012, we are planning 17 workshops outside of the annual meeting in Bologna, and another 14 workshop sessions at the AGM. You can find out more about them by visiting www.esvs.org. Please remember that we are keen to provide workshops and symposia at large national or regional meetings.

We need six months notice of the event, but if you would like to consider these options please contact training@esvs.org or Juerg.Schmidli@insel.ch

President 2013-2014

Following Professor Carlo Setacci, our President for 2013 will be Professor George Hamilton from the Royal Free Hospital in London. His meeting will be held in Budapest. We already need to start thinking about candidates for President in 2014, the closing date for which will be in the Spring of 2012, with election taking place in Bologna. The Presidency is open to any member of the ESVS assuming they have the following characteristics:

Criteria for candidate for President

1. Significant contribution to the ESVS and vascular surgery in Europe
2. Supported as an appropriate candidate by the National Society of his or her country
3. Good command of the English language
4. Commands the respect of his/her peers

I would be very happy to receive recommendations or nominations at any point up to the end of April. Please ensure the person is happy to be considered, and let me know by emailing esvs.secretary@btconnect.com.

And finally

Please be aware that the website will open for the submission of abstracts on 1 March 2012, about 2½ months from now. We look forward to receiving your very best abstracts for the meeting so we can continue to grow the quality of the meeting.

We plan to repeat the very successful video competition held in Athens, so look out for this when abstract submission opens too.

I would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous, exciting New Year 2012.

Simon Parvin,
Secretary General





Through the Lens

This year's 25th anniversary meeting in Athens was judged a great success, with an attendance record of 1,725.



The scientific programme concentrating on quality retained 60 papers shared in 10 sessions, 12 symposia, 14 workshops and parallel Nurses/Technicians and Trainees activities. All sessions were very well attended and provided insight to global leading research projects and innovations in our field, alongside with educational lectures and training activities on contemporary vascular and endovascular practice.



The social perspective of the meeting was outstanding. The Opening Ceremony took place in the ancient Greek stone theatre, Herodus Attikus where approximately 2,500 congress delegates and accompanying persons had a unique cultural and artistic experience under the warm Athenian sky.

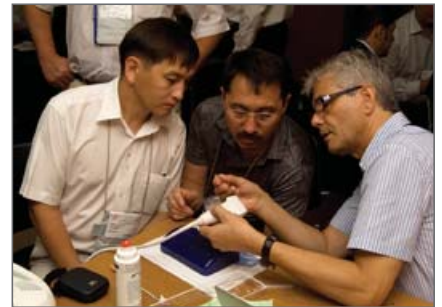


More than 100 delegates had also the opportunity to enjoy a run and compete in the Panathenaikon stadium, the first stadium of the modern Olympic Games and the finish of the legendary marathon. Finally an extraordinary Gala Dinner by the sea and breathtaking fireworks sealed the 25th anniversary in a celebrating atmosphere.

An immense amount of work had gone into organising the meeting and it finally proved to be very special, landmarking our willingness to build together the next 25 years of ESVS history. We now look forward to 2012 and our meeting on Bologna. Be there!



"A leader in promoting optimal care for patients with vascular disease by supporting high quality research, providing educational opportunities, organising meetings, seminars, lectures, conferences and by sponsoring the EJVES".



The Jubilee ESVS Annual Meeting in September 2011 in the beautiful city of Athens was well attended from European Trainees and included a comprehensive and entertaining scientific program.

For the first time in an ESVS meeting, a substantial and pulsating session of "Challenging Cases" presented from EVST members took place. During the session, high-quality presentations were followed by intense discussions concerning several controversial topics in vascular and endovascular surgery. The 3 prizes went to:

P. Grewal, Royal Free Hospital, London, UK

Juxta-renal AAA Anatomically Difficult for EVAR, Requiring a Combined Branch and Double Fenestrations

A.H. Perera, Imperial College Healthcare, London UK

Staged Open, Endovascular and Hybrid Repair of Complex Concomitant Mycotic Aneurysms following an Insect Bite

C. Castagno, Vascular Surgery Unit, University of Turin, Italy

Laparoscopic Nephrectomy, Ex-vivo Repairs and Autotranplantation: a Safe Approach to Renal Artery Aneurysm

We congratulate all the presenters for their participation and we are looking forward to their abstracts for the forthcoming Charing Cross Symposium in London and of course for the next year's ESVS meeting in Bologna. A similar session will most likely be organized for the 2012 London Cardiovascular Symposium following a kind invitation from Mr Geroulakos.

Back to the ESVS Athens meeting; the EVST representatives had the opportunity to demonstrate the "European Training Models" in a very well-attended hall. All crucial differences in vascular and endovascular training within the European countries were highlighted. It is noteworthy, that in a number of European countries, the endovascular training program remains still suboptimal. Hence, the drastic action of EVST (workshops, intra-European exchange programmes, travel grants etc) might play an essential role. On the topic of training, widely recognized vascular surgeons mixed with EVST members an excellent session "EVST Contemporary Issues in Vascular Training". Particular emphasis was given to the need for harmonization of training across Europe, the mastering of endovascular skills, the utilization of the e-learning activities of vascular trainees and finally, the organizing of training- and vascular centres in the European countries. Finally, the scientific EVST program closed with the EVST Honorary Lecture, this year awarded to Professor Becquemin, who spoke on 'Innovations in vascular surgery training in the 21st century'. The lecture gave a fantastic insight into the new innovative methods

of vascular training, which provide the best way to safeguard our discipline, achieve competence and professionalism and ensure patients' safety. We are thankful to Professor Becquemin for delivering this lecture.

During the EVST General Assembly we summarized last year's activities, we shared our thoughts and opinions regarding the impact of EVST on the optimization of our training quality, we welcomed our new national representatives, we voted and elected our executive committee, we settled unclear points concerning our work and activities and finally and we performed an open discussion regarding the future of our society. We all afterwards joined the "EVST Cocktail Party" in Galaxy bar on Hilton's Roof Garden enjoying the magnificent view.

The benefits of EVST membership are increasing and we would urge to invite colleagues from all European countries with an interest in Vascular Surgery to join.

Find out more about EVST at www.esvs.org

On behalf of the EVST Council



Efthimios Avgerinos, EVST Secretary General



Theodosios Bisdas, EVST National Representative of Germany

ESVS Workshops: Behind the Scenes

Eyston Vaughan-Huxley, September 2011

'Just remind me why I signed up for this again...' is the prevailing thought at 6am while I am putting together 30 desk lamps in preparation for the day ahead. Each year the ESVS hosts the FEBVS examination and series of workshops at its international conference, this year in Athens. I'm on the aeroplane home over the snowy mountains of Austria reflecting on an exhausting week trying to write this article with a snoring Argentinian man next to me. I hope he can't read English.

Having been a technical tutor in the workshop group for the last 2 years, it seems to be a recurring theme that no matter how much preparation we do, we cannot ever be truly ready for the challenges that face us each year in getting the exams and workshops to run smoothly.

This year was no exception. At 4pm the day before the examinations, the team were becoming increasingly concerned as to the whereabouts of the boxes that had been shipped from Copenhagen with all the kit required for the week. We had searched the aptly named Megaron conference centre for several hours to no avail. Information had been filtering through from the conference staff that the boxes had been delivered but were turned away as the conference staff did not take deliveries and had therefore been returned to a DHL warehouse, by a different delivery company, somewhere in Athens, which was now closed. This was, however, just a rumour from the Swedish conference staff that could not speak Greek.

'Well we're stuffed then...' was the reply from our team leader, or words to that effect. We agreed it would be extremely disappointing for all involved if we fell at the first hurdle, not least for the delegates and examiners that would have travelled several hundred miles to be part of the event. In fact we weren't even sure anyone was going to make it as Greece was in the middle of public service strikes, which included the air traffic controllers.

In our best Greek, the Anglo-Dano-Spanish team sourced a beaten up Ford Transit with no seatbelts and a friendly Athenian that we later discovered had only been in the job for 2 days, to head out into the city in search of our missing boxes. Along the way, we were hurtled through the streets, stopping in the middle of a 3 lane main road to collect a man who jumped in the back of the van and was swiftly dropped off in the pedestrian only area at the Acropolis.

'Do you know where you are going?' was my question. *'Well I think so'* was the answer. *'Other side Athens, 30 kilometre... 20 minute only...'* You have got to be kidding me! So after 2 1/2 hours, and several requests for directions and many U turns across fast moving traffic lanes, we arrived at a warehouse large enough to house an army capable of a comprehensive invasion of a small country.

'yes... err... box... Megaron...' was music to my ears as we found the man in reception. *'Come...'* It suddenly dawned that we did not know how many boxes there were or even what they looked like.



They've got to be in here somewhere...

Fortunately for us, the man with the forklift truck did know his way around and brought four extremely large boxes to the back of the Transit. It turns out we should have brought a lorry. We were able to pack about half of the equipment in only, although I soon realised that my best suit was probably not the best attire for the task and my phone had just run out of batteries. So back on the road to Athens, we missed most of the Examiners' Dinner and then set about setting up the equipment before being semi-forcefully removed from the Megaron by the security team 4 1/2 hours after closing time.

Beepbeepbeep ... that's my alarm and its 6.10am. I should probably have gone to bed earlier last night and that one last glass of wine was definitely not a good idea.

The success of the exams and workshops requires organisation, flexibility and ability to predict possible fall down areas, proficiency with audio-visual equipment and above all good communication and teamwork. The day appeared to run smoothly, although keeping all of the examiners in the room at one time was a task and it is very interesting watching a Spaniard giving a Hungarian instructions in English. In addition there is always that one trainee that fails to understand the concept of moving from room 1 to 2 to 3... Several litres of coffee were drunk and perhaps a few cigarettes were smoked. Lunch consisted of a quick turnaround and 5 minute to shovel in some food. One of the team had also been volunteered to have their legs Ultrasounded so we were particularly short on time...



A quick recharge of the batteries over lunch

Behind the Scenes ... continued

Eyston Vaughan-Huxley, September 2011

It is amazing quite how much mess 20 trainee vascular surgeons can make. The post exam clear up took over an hour and then we had to prepare for the next days workshops in the hope that we might not have to be in quite so early. Thousands of instruments everywhere, endless suture ends, some in and some not in sharps bins, sloops all over the floor and enough graft to anastomose Athens to London. And there are still more heavy boxes to shift and unpack. Tired, but with setup complete, we were informed of a room change to our workshop for the following morning.

The ESVS are very generous in organising several evenings out during the week and gives good opportunity for socialising with much of the food and drink being paid for. It was at 11pm after dinner that I met another Professor. This one needed the endovascular simulators that were left behind in the warehouse at 7am the next morning. *'Here we go again...'*

Did I not learn from yesterday evening that an early night and a clear head is the way to be most productive in the mornings? The ensuing hours were spent search around the Megaron for the simulators that were 'definitely delivered', again to no avail, and several calls to the man at the warehouse to explain our predicament. He eventually put me through to the delivery driver who confirmed that the British approach of speaking louder and slower in English to a foreigner does not increase the likelihood of them understanding you. With about 20 minutes to spare before the workshop start, the simulators arrived. I was delighted to inform the Professor that they had arrived. *'Oh very good... you do know we have three here already?'*



The Carotid workshop in full flow.

The workshops and exams have definitely been a lesson in initiative. The carotid, complex aneurysm and leg anastomoses models are an ingenious design and a fantastic training tool. They appear to get more realistic each year, whilst the endovascular simulators are state of the art technology. The Spanish consultant in our team has taken it one step further this year by creating an incredibly realistic thrombus from a combination of resin glue and a spicy Italian sausage.

The sessions are also a very rare opportunity to be in the same room as, and if time allows to be taught by, some of the most eminent, inspiring and highly respected surgeons in their field. As a junior trainee, its not often you get operative teaching, almost entirely one on one, from a Professor of Vascular Surgery, Royal College of Surgeon council members and past and present Presidents of the both the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland and The European Society for Vascular Surgery. What a privilege - all the hard work and early mornings are absolutely worth it for these special opportunities. It is also invaluable operative simulator experience and gives excellent insight to an examination that I am sure I will sit in the years to come.

So we head home to the day job down on several hours sleep, one torn suit, many stories and several hundreds of pounds outstanding to O2 and Vodafone. We are all hugely excited about Bologna next year as yet more models and workshops are planned and more technical and organisational challenges lie in wait. The days will be undoubtedly long but will be thoroughly educational and rewarding. Thank you to all of the fantastic technical team members, the ESVS staff, all the tutors and the delegates for making these exams and workshops happen.

Many thanks to the following:

The workshop team:

Vikas Pandey, Martin Landaluce, Nadia Vallejo, Fernando Gallardo, Anne-Sophie Sillesen, Anisha Perera

The ESVS staff

The Megaron staff

The countless consultants for teaching and invigilating

All the delegates without whom there would be no workshops.

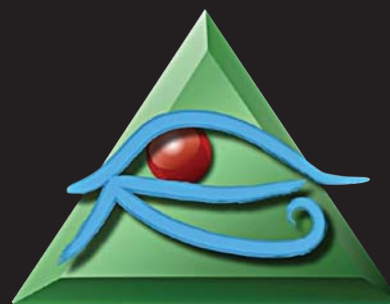
*...see you in Bologna!
19-21 September, 2012*

The e-Learning website of the ESVS, vasculareducation.com, continues to accumulate resources of value for vascular surgeons and trainees. The latest addition to the e-L site is a fully online 8-week 'taught' course in the use of OsiriX, the free Mac based software program for 3D reconstructions of CT angiograms. So far 104 participants have enrolled for this edition of the course, which runs until the end of January 2012.

Other resources on vasculareducation.com, which regular users will be familiar with, include peer reviewed Journal based vascular surgery MCQs, an interactive calendar populated with vascular meeting dates and submission deadlines, abstracts and files from previous ESVS meeting presentations, and examples of the blended learning workshops conducted by the Education and Training Committee in 2011. In addition, the selected vascular surgical video submissions from Athens 2011 are now viewable on the site, including the 1st and 2nd prize-winning entries.

Registration to use vasculareducation.com is obtained simply by going to the website and creating your own login and password, followed by confirming your email address. Members who are interested in joining the e-L team of the ESVS may email director@vasculareducation.com

Planning & Sizing with OsiriX for Vascular Surgery



An ESVS online course at www.vasculareducation.com
28 Nov 2011 - 28 Jan 2012

THEME 1 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2011
What is OsiriX • System requirements • Basic set-up and preferences • Notes about databases • Importing DICOM images (CD-rom, hard drive, PACS)

THEME 2 5 Dec - 11 Dec 2011
Viewer mode • Importing series and images • Series Management • Improving the images • Window levels and Width • Digital Angiography • Masks and subtraction • Basic measurements • ROIs, key images and other functions

THEME 3 12 Dec - 18 Dec 2011
Orthogonal reconstruction • Multiplanar reconstruction (MPR) basics • Taking short measurements in an AAA • Mode Thick Slab • Utilities

THEME 4 19 Dec 2011 - 1 Jan 2012
Brief introduction to Centerline • Creating a centerline with OsiriX CPR mode • CPR in TAA

THEME 5 2 Jan - 8 Jan 2012
Volume Rendering • An approach • Making a best VR with limited hardware requirements • Use of presets, CLUTS and shadows • Surface rendering • Virtual Angioscopy

THEME 6 9 Jan - 15 Jan 2012
Creating reports • Exporting series in DICOM • Anonymous export in other formats: video and images • Fly-thru technique • Utilities • Print images

THEME 7 (plugins) 16 Jan - 22 Jan 2012
Open ECG gated exams (4D) • Open CT-PET (5D) • Calculating volumes • OsiriX with iChat • Sending a series by mail or internet • Plugins for vascular surgery: CMIV. JPG to DICOM • "Cli Cli" Technique

THEME 8 23 Jan - 28 Jan 2012
Appendix • Links and acknowledgements • "Final" exam



EJVES HIGHLIGHTS

The War Against Error: A 15 Year Experience of Completion Angioscopy Following Carotid Endarterectomy

As the role of "intra-operative monitoring" and "quality control" during carotid endarterectomy (CEA) remain an unresolved controversy, the authors seek to determine whether the prevalence of technical error has diminished with experience and whether their policy of intra-operative transcranial Doppler (TCD) and completion angioscopy was still associated with low rates of intra-operative stroke 20 years after its introduction. In a retrospective review of four consecutive cohorts of 400 patients undergoing CEA between October 1995 and March 2010 (1600 CEAS in total) the following results were reported: One hundred four patients (7%) had thrombus removed following angioscopy and prior to flow restoration, while 31 (2.1%) underwent repair of a distal intimal flap. The prevalence of intimal flaps diminished from 4.9% in the first 400 patients to 0.8% in the last 400 patients ($p < 0.006$). By contrast, the prevalence of retained thrombus did not decline with experience (8.5%, 3.7%, 10.3% and 5.4% for the four consecutive periods). Intra-operative TCD and completion angioscopy was, however, associated with extremely low rates of intra-operative stroke (0.25%, 0.25%, 0.5% and 0.25% during the four study periods).

This study has shown that some degree of inadvertent technical error (the principle cause of intra-operative stroke during carotid endarterectomy) occurs in about 10% of procedures. While the prevalence of large intimal flaps decreased with time, the prevalence of retained luminal thrombus prior to restoration of flow did not, a reminder to even the most experienced surgeon that he/she can still be responsible for inadvertent technical error. This can be prevented by angioscopy which has the advantage of being performed prior to flow restoration.

Sharpe R, Sayers RD, McCarthy MJ, Dennis M, London NJM, Nasim A, Bown MJ, Naylor AR. *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg* 2011 in press

MEET

Venue: Rome, Italy

Dates: 1-3 December 2011

Website: www.meetcongress.com

Controversies & Updates in Vascular Surgery

Venue: Marriot Rive Gauche & Conference Center, Paris, France

Dates: 19-21 January 2012

Website: www.cacvs.org

Leipzig Interventional Course (LINC 2012)

Venue: Congress Center Leipzig, Germany

Dates: 25-28 January 2012

Website: www.leipzig-interventional-course.com

Joint Interventional Meeting

Venue: Rome, Italy

Dates: 9-11 February 2012

Website: www.jim-vascular.com

34th Charing Cross International Symposium

Venue: Imperial College, London, UK

Date: 14-17 April 2012

Website: www.cxvascular.com/cxsymposium

Contact: info@cxsymposium.com

The 61st International Congress of the European Society for Cardiovascular and Endovascular Surgery

Venue: Valamar Lacroma Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Date: 25-28 April 2012

Contact: escvs-dubrovnik2012@kbd.hr

International Congress for Endovascular Specialists (iCON 2012)

Venue: Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Dates: 12-16 February 2012

Website: www.endovascularcongress.com

European Vascular Course (EVC 2012)

Venue: MECC Maastricht, The Netherlands

Dates: 11-13 March 2012

Website: www.vascular-course.com

Leading Innovative Vascular Education (LIVE 2012)

Venue: Alexandroupoli, Greece

Dates: 24-26 May 2011

Website: www.live2012.gr

SVS Annual Meeting

Venue: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Washington DC, USA

Dates: 7-9 June 2012

Website: www.vascularweb.org

European Society for Vascular Surgery 26th Annual Meeting

Venue: The Megaron Conference Centre, Athens, Greece

Dates: 19-21 September 2012

Website: www.esvs.org Contact: contact@esvs.org



JANUARY 2012

19 - 21 January Basic Course in Vascular Ultrasound
Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Deadline for registration: 02 December 2011

MARCH 2012

27 - 28 March ESVS Fundamental Open and Endovascular Workshop
Cordis Institute, Hamburg, Germany
Deadline for registration: 10 February 2012



MAY 2012

3 - 4 May Vascular Access Workshop
Bern

10 - 11 May Carotid Workshop
Mallorca



25 May Masterclass: Vascular Access
Thraki Palace Hotel & Conference Center, Greece
Hours: 14.00 - 18.00
The above course will take place during the LIVE 2012 international symposium. www.live2012.gr

25 May Workshop: Sizing and Planning for Aortic Endovascular Repair
Theoretical teaching and hands-on practice
Thraki Palace Hotel & Conference Center, Greece
Hours: 15.15 - 18.15
The above course will take place during the LIVE 2012 international symposium. www.live2012.gr



26 May Masterclass: Femoropopliteal and Tibial Revascularization
Thraki Palace Hotel & Conference Center, Greece
Hours: 14.31 - 18.30
The above course will take place during the LIVE 2012 international symposium. www.live2012.gr

For more information: Website: www.esvs.org, Contact: contact@esvs.org

