



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
FALL 2021**

**GVS 10th PRESIDENT
CHARLES B. ROSS, MD, FACS, DFSVS**



Dear GVS Colleagues:

It is tradition that every religious faith, regulatory body, and professional society, etc. has a calendar year. Each year begins with hope and longing for what might be experienced and achieved; and each year ends with gatherings and celebrations. Following essentially two-years of virtual meetings and remote conferences, the 9th Annual Scientific Session of the Georgia Vascular Society was held at The Ritz-Carlton, Reynolds, Lake Oconee on September 10-12. This represented one of the most joyful and successful meetings I have ever attended. More than 100 vascular surgical colleagues, medical students, residents, and vascular APPs participated, making this the largest attendance in the history of the society. The vendors and their clinical representatives, with whom we interact daily, strongly supported the meeting. As a society, we all salute the diligence and vision of immediate past-president Dr. J. Sheppard Mondy, III, and the program committee of Dr's. Christopher Ramos (Chair), Mrinal Shukla and James Chang which made the meeting such a success. Finally, the meeting would not have been possible without the amazing work of our Executive Director, Liz Burkhardt and her staff.

Beyond the fact that we had all been couped up for the better part of two years, this year's meeting was exceptional for many reasons: First, the visiting faculty was incredible, and the topics delivered were immediately relevant and prescient. Dr's. Margaret Tracci (UVA, Charlottesville), Sam Money (Ochsner, New Orleans), Russell Samson (FSU, Sarasota), Matt Corriere (UM, Ann Arbor), and Scott Stevens (UT, Knoxville) delivered incredibly insightful and helpful scientific presentations in the Saturday session; and presentations ranging from governmental relations, health and well-being, patient-centered research, and ethics on Sunday. The panelists interacted fluidly and challenged us all to be the absolute best we can be in our love for and practice of vascular surgery.

The second and third factors which made the meeting so special really go hand in hand, alpha and omega. Sessions devoted to presentations from students and trainees were amazing. The presentations, each delivered with outstanding professionalism, brought new research and challenging cases, and stimulated insightful discussion by surgeons from the audience. Training programs from institutions from all over the state were represented. Congratulations to Dr. Richard A. Meena, Emory University, who won the Robert B. Smith, III, MD Award for Best Resident Abstract Presentation. The meeting closed, in such an appropriate manner, with personal tributes from Dr. Michael Rosenthal to his father, and our first GVS President, Dr. David Rosenthal and from Dr. Will Jordan to his father, Atlanta vascular surgeon, Dr. Daniel Jordan.

So many changes have happened in our society over the past two years. I had the pleasure of serving as treasurer under our 8th President, Dr. Will Jordan in 2020. During that time, we had to be nimble to survive the economic challenges caused by the pandemic. During that time, Ms. Burkhardt and the executive committee, tightened our belt and strengthened our financial position, and updated our website. Dr. Mondy continued that under his leadership. I encourage everyone to visit our website where you will see these changes and will also find pdfs of the past meeting's presentations and links to the tributes.

I would be remiss, as well, if I did not mention our meeting's venue. During the pandemic, The Ritz-Carlton, Reynolds, Lake Oconee, refurbished their hotel and conference center. This facilitated safety protocols which we followed meticulously for our meeting. For those not in attendance, the outer walls of the main conference center retracted to allow an open-air meeting. We enjoyed the breeze of fresh air and natural light while sitting with proper spacing and comfort. One could hear birds singing while enjoying the presentations without any degradation of the acoustic and visual quality. For our families, extra amenities facilitated a safe and comfortable environment. We are incredibly pleased that for the next two years, the meeting will continue to stay at The Ritz-Carlton, Reynolds, Lake Oconee.

I am a founding member of the Georgia Vascular Society, but I am not originally from Georgia. I am a Kentuckian by birth, and I started my practice there in 1991. In the year 2000, primarily for work I did in Kentucky to help my colleagues develop endovascular skills, as well as work in outcomes as leader for Kentucky/Indiana in the Multistate Carotid Endarterectomy Project, I was honored to serve as President of the Kentucky Vascular Surgical Society. I was fortunate to be recruited from Louisville in 2012 to a leadership position in the Piedmont Heart Institute as part of the practice of Drs. Patrick Battey, Robert Powers, and Eyal Ben Arie. In 2016, upon Dr. Battey's ascension to President and CEO of Piedmont Atlanta Hospital, he stepped out of his counselor position in GVS, and I was fortunate to be able to take his place in leadership. Since then, it has been a pleasure to serve. I am now deeply humbled and so excited to serve as the 10th President of the Georgia Vascular Society.

Over the next year, speaking on behalf of our executive committee and membership at large, we look forward to more vascular surgeons and APPs joining our society. Please check the website periodically for updates. Do not forget to support our Georgia Vascular Foundation. Continue to generously give your time and attention to students and APPs who have vascular interest. Reach out and let us know how we can help and make plans now to attend our 10th Annual Scientific Session, September 9-11, 2022, at The Ritz-Carlton, Reynolds, Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia.

Charles B. Ross, MD, FACS, DFSVS