



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
SUMMER 2022**

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



Dear GVS Colleagues:

It seems like it was only yesterday that our 9th Annual Scientific Session ended with Dr. J. Sheppard Mondy, III of Savannah passing the presidential gavel to me as the tenth president of our Georgia Vascular Society. The privilege of serving as president for our society is an honor and responsibility that I truly cherish. I am pleased to report that our society carried great momentum from the 9th Annual Meeting. Abstracts from the meeting were published in the January 2022 issue of *Annals of Vascular Surgery* (thanks to Dr. Agarwal's oversight), fulfilling a goal of the society for presentations to have a vehicle for publication. This spring, we enjoyed meeting in Atlanta for the Rosenthal Memorial Lecture Series with Russell Samson MD, DFSVS from Sarasota as our guest speaker. We now look forward to the 10th Annual Meeting, September 9-11, again at The Ritz-Carlton, Reynolds, Lake Oconee.

The program committee this year is led by chairman Mrinal Shukla of Augusta. Drs. Chris Ramos, Middleton Chang, Arun Chervu, and I serve with Dr. Shukla. We began planning the meeting, as soon as the last meeting ended, with the first task being selection of an incredibly distinguished faculty. Our visiting faculty are exceptional and include Drs. Fred Weaver (USC, Los Angeles), Gilbert Upchurch, Jr. (UF, Gainesville), Dawn Coleman (UM, Ann Arbor), Malachi Sheahan (LSUHSC, New Orleans), Claudie Sheahan (LSUHSC, New Orleans), and Chandler Long (Duke, Durham).

One of the highlights of last year's meeting was the Sunday morning session when the visiting faculty enlightened us and stimulated discussion about non-clinical topics pertinent to the practice of vascular surgery. We are doing that again this year. Dr. Weaver will discuss the value that vascular surgeons bring to their hospitals and systems. Dr. Upchurch will discuss millennials as they join the vascular workforce. Dr. Long will discuss the benefits of diversity. Dr. Coleman will share her combat experience. Dr. Mal Sheahan will give us an update from the VSB, and Dr. Claudie Sheahan will discuss the "curse" of online medical information. The floor mics will be open and interaction with the faculty will be welcome. To make it even more interesting, we have asked Dr. William Jordan and Dr. Tiffany Liang to moderate. This session promises to be a real winner.

A characteristic of Georgia Vascular Society that really sets us apart from others is our openness for student and resident participation in our meetings. This year, we had abundant abstracts submitted from multiple medical schools and training programs. Scholarships from the Georgia Vascular Foundation make it possible for these young people to stay at the hotel and participate in the scientific and social-fellowship aspects of the meeting. Please do what you can to contribute to the Foundation to allow it to continue this support, including our two named awards: W. Daniel Jordan, MD Medical Student Award and Robert B. Smith, III, MD Resident Award. My thanks to Dr. Chervu for his continued leadership of the Georgia Vascular Foundation.

For me, GVS means so much, not just the science but also the fellowship. It brings us all together to share our common concerns and joys associated with vascular surgery practice from the mountains to the coast. It also brings our spouses and families together. The Reynolds property facilitates an enjoyable time for all, even for those with small children, and everyone is always welcome at Saturday night's tailgate.

My thanks and appreciation, as always, to Liz Burkhardt, our executive director, for her diligence in dotting the i's and crossing the t's, attending to every detail, to make our meetings work and our society prosper. I have worked side by side with Liz for many years now, and her professionalism, friendship and camaraderie has been a blessing.

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve our society. Will look forward to seeing everyone at Lake Oconee.

Charles B. Ross, MD, FACS, DFSVS