CSP marks its first founding anniversary! The department of UT CTVS hosted its second Annual Research Forum on March 8th 2013 to celebrate this achievement and honor the all collaborators who worked on various projects in the past year. They were invited to present their research in a moderated, rapid-paced format to the Forum at the UT Medical School. A panel of judges evaluated each presentation and selected the best presentation for the CSP ACE (Advocating Cutting-Edge research) Award.

Kyle Mitchell, a UT second year medical student bagged the top spot this year and received a plaque and a gift card honoring his research project. Several of these abstracts were accepted into national and regional cardiothoracic and vascular meetings as well as peer-reviewed journals. A snapshot of the program:

- "Femoral Artery Pseudoaneurysm" - Samuel Leake, BS
- "Antibiotic PMMA Beads in abdominal Aortic Graft Infection Femoral Artery Pseudoaneurysm" - Fernando Kubrusly, MD
- "80 Year Old Man With Thoracic Aortic Injury" - Sapan Desai, MD
- "Outcomes of Carotid Artery Dissection After Repair of Acute Type A (DeBakey I) Aortic Dissection" - Ali Sawai MS II
- "New Chapter in Treatment of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease and Hiatal Hernia: Is Collis Gastroplasty a Procedure of the Past?" - Kyle Mitchell, MS II
- "Mid-term Outcomes of TEVAR for Patients with Blunt Traumatic Aortic Injury" - Hunter Ray, MS II
- "Screwed Aorta – Management of Aortic Injury after Spinal Instrumentation" - Harleen K Sandhu, MD

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The much anticipated and eagerly awaited return of Dr. Charles C. Miller, III Ph.D., finally happens! Dr. Miller has been a long-standing proponent of improving healthcare through translation of research findings into medical innovation and practice. He has held office as a professor and chairman of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine Department of Biomedical Sciences, associate dean for research, and associate dean for the TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at El Paso and in collaboration with TTUHSC-Lubbock. Prior to this, he was professor and vice chair for research with our department at the UT CTVS along with his appointment as the professor at the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence Based Medicine, and professor of epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health-Houston. Dr. Miller began his academic career in 1993 as assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Pulmonary/Critical Care Section and Design and Analysis Unit at Baylor College of Medicine - Houston. He was soon appointed as the chief of the Division of Clinical Research and Outcomes, Department of Surgery at Baylor a post he held until 1999. Following this he was offered the privileged positions as an associate professor and later quickly advanced on to become the professor & vice chair for research at the UT CTVS in 1999 and held a decade long term with us following which he went on to assume the office at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. Dr. Miller’s return to Houston is a huge gain not just for our department but for the university as a whole as he will continue on his leadership in the Health Services Research and Healthcare Quality at the UT Health Sciences Center at Houston. Although he will retain position as an adjunct professor at TTUHSC-El Paso fostering research and scientific collaborations between Houston and El Paso, holding his office full-time amidst us will indeed prove to be a great asset and hope to have him mentor us amateurs in the arena of cardiovascular research.

As the beacon of excellence in research methodology and practice, Dr. Miller we are honored to welcome you back aboard!

Upcoming Events

Abstract Deadlines

3. Western Surgical Association. Abstract Deadline: June 1, 2013
4. Southern Surgical Association Abstract Deadline: July 1, 2013

National and International conferences

1. SVS Vascular Research Initiatives Conference-Lake Buena Vista, FL. April 30th, 2013
7. SVU Annual Conference - San Francisco, CA. May 30 – June1, 2013
Redefining Par Excellence!

The Houston Aortic Symposium - Frontiers in Cardiovascular Diseases: The Sixth in the Series was held this March and outperformed itself in all aspects. This two-and-a-half day continuing medical education symposium was held at The Westin Oaks Hotel from March 21 to 23rd. The annual affair that is designed to target vascular and cardiothoracic surgeons, interventional radiologists, cardiologists, anesthesiologists, and other health care professionals garnered many distinguished attendees for the 2013 annual symposium this year. We had a record 363 registrants, a 7.5% increase compared to last year, with an unparalleled nationwide and international representation encompassing 26 US states and 23 countries.

This was the highest attendance ever! Dr. Safi and his group welcomed a team of around 15 Chinese physicians and allied health professionals, who observed and worked with the group prior to attending the meeting.

The convention, held in honor of Dr. Frank Veith, was opened with the combined introductory address given by the two leaders in cardiovascular science and HAS collaborators Dr. Hazhim J Safi and Dr. David D. McPherson. There were four moderated sessions each day on the two days with postgraduate course, wetlabs and research sessions on the final day. Many distinguished speakers graced the panels on the scientific sessions comprising of local and invited faculty. Of our local faculty, Dr. Porat spoke on the “Israeli Experience with BOTH Sapien and CoreValve”; Dr. Milewicz on “Genetics of Aortic Disease”; Dr. Charlton-Ouw on “Aortic Graft Infections”; Dr. Azizzadeh on “Blunt Traumatic Aortic Injury: Midterm Results”; Dr. Safi on “Open TAAA”; and Samuel Leake on “Outcomes of medically managed carotid artery dissection after acute aortic dissection” under the abstract presentation section.

In addition, the invited faculty consisted of Dr. Frank Veith, Dr. Juan Parodi, Dr. Nicholas Cheshire, Dr. Christoph Nienaber, and Dr. Peter Taylor to name a few who gave talks concerning various aspects of cardiovascular medicine and contributed to exemplary discussions across the board.

In accordance with the theme of the conference, a captivating and one-of-its-kind tribute was presented at the luncheon in honor of Dr. Frank Veith. The presenters were his former pupils, now independent figures of acclaim in vascular surgery, including Dr. Enrico Ascher, Dr. Keith Calligaro, Dr. Evan Lipsitz, Dr. Michael Marin, Dr. Russel Samson, and Dr. Luis Sanchez. They walked the audience through different spheres of Dr. Veith’s career in vascular surgery and during the evolution of endovascular era while pulling scintillating parallels from world history – as for instance the Roman Empire and the Spanish Inquisition!

The guest of honor was Dr. Juan A. Parodi. He captured the attention of his audience with his charismatic presence and presentation on the Endovascular Revolution. Dr. Safi commemorated the occasion as he presented him with a token in recognition of the singular contributions of both Dr. Parodi and Dr. Veith to the field of vascular surgery.

This year HAS proudly partnered with the journal AORTA as it marked a new beginning in the realm of the diseases of Aorta and its First-Order Branches. The Editor-in-Chief of the journal, Dr. John A. Elefteriades, introduced it as a new open-access, peer-reviewed publication that is expected to appeal to and be subscribed by a multidisciplinary group of specialists that will foster cross-fertilization of ideas between basic scientists and clinicians. The journal aims at impacting patient care worldwide by reducing the gaps in cardiovascular practice. The symposium is designed in a format that represents a worldwide overview and hybrid approach to important issues facing all practitioners in the field of cardiovascular medicine. All oral abstracts and poster abstracts that were submitted and presented this year at the HAS will be published online in the AORTA journal! Our aim for HAS 2014 is to have a “supplement edition” of the journal published with an exclusive coverage of the symposium.

Another aspect novel to this year’s venture was that of the wet labs. The postgraduate course and the wet labs held at the final day of the symposium were a huge success. The wet labs workshops that provided an opportunity for hands-on experience with new procedures and devices were well attended.

Phenomenal quality scientific posters and exhibits were presented that demonstrated the advances and significant progress made in the industry associated with cardiovascular medicine. The seamless format of the conference allowed for a chance to evaluate and explore these exhibits in between the plenary sessions.
Dr. Azizzadeh represented our group of vascular surgery associates at both national and international fronts in the past three months. He spoke at many prestigious platforms as he was invited to share his opinions and expertise on open and endovascular management of vascular diseases. He talked about “Diagnosis and Treatment of Aortic Transection” and “Medical and Surgical Treatment of Acute Type B Aortic Dissection” at the International Symposium of Complex Thoracic Aortic Pathology, Hospital Virgen de la Salud, Toledo, Spain. Nationally, he was invited to the Advanced Thoracic Aortic Symposium at New Orleans, LA where he spoke on “TEVAR complications” and “Treatment of other isolated thoracic aortic lesions”. Under his mentorship, Hunter Ray – a second year UT medical student presented on “Mid-Term Outcomes of Endovascular Repair for Patients with Blunt Traumatic Aortic Injury” as a plenary discussion at the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, Miami, FL. At the local front, he was a key player at the Houston Aortic Symposium 2013 where he moderated sessions and also spoke on the “Mid-term Outcomes of TEVAR for Traumatic Aortic Injury”. In addition, 2 of his recent papers got published in the esteemed peer-review Journal of Vascular Surgery that included “Results of a multicenter, prospective trial of thoracic endovascular aortic repair for blunt thoracic aortic injury (RESCUE trial)” and “An outcome analysis of endovascular versus open repair of blunt traumatic aortic injuries.”

Dr. Charlton-Ouw’s research project on “Outcomes of Medically Managed Carotid Artery Dissection After Repair of Acute Aortic Dissection” was accepted for plenary discussion and presentation at the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery 2013, Bahamas. On the local front, in addition to the moderating and oratory roles at the Houston Aortic Symposium 2013, Dr. Charlton-Ouw also moderated the Peripheral Intervention session at the Concepts in Contemporary Cardiovascular Medicine Symposium as well as spoke on “Aortic Stent Grafts: Role of Chimneys and Snorkels”. Furthermore, 2 of his recent papers got published in the esteemed peer-review Journal of Vascular Surgery on “Screwed aorta: A report of two cases” and “Management of limb ischemia in acute proximal aortic dissection” along with few others that have been accepted for publication and are under review.

Dr. Desai, our vascular surgery fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Charlton-Ouw and Dr. Azizzadeh presented on the “Endovascular Repair of a Ruptured Subclavian Artery Aneurysm in a Patient with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Using a Sandwich Technique”; “Outcomes Following Endovascular Repair of Peripheral Arterial Trauma” and “Identifying TAAA IV Patients at High Risk for Open Repair” as plenary discussions and presentation at the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery 2013, Bahamas and Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, Miami, FL, respectively.

Dr. Estrera was an invited discussant earlier this January at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons: Controversies in Thoracic Aortic Surgery, Los Angeles, California where he spoke on the “Acute Type A Dissection: Classic Proximal Aortic Reconstruction The Definitive Procedure”. In the local chapter, his presence was requested as an invite faculty at the Concepts in Contemporary Cardiovascular Medicine Symposium Houston, where he participated in live case presentation and plenary discussion on TAVR. Also, two of his research papers “Update on blunt thoracic aortic injury: Fifteen-year single-institution experience” and “Analysis of Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma During Ascending and Transverse Aortic Arch Surgery” in the prestigious Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and the Annals of Thoracic Surgery, respectively, were recently published.

Dr. Saqib’s original research article was recently published in the Journal of Vascular Surgery on “Predictors and outcomes of restenosis following tibial artery endovascular interventions for critical limb ischemia”. He also discussed a case on “Ruptured Arch Aneurysm after TEVAR” at the Houston Aortic Symposium 2013.

Dr. Shalhub, the recent most addition to our vascular group, has made her presence felt in genetics research on aortic diseases with her efforts on advocating research in this field ever since she came on board. She is the co-director of the Multidisciplinary Aortic and Vascular Disease Clinic and an active participant of the local chapter of the national registry on Genetically Triggered Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms and Cardiovascular Conditions. Of note, Dr. Shalhub is a member of the publication committee of the Association for Academic Surgery and is keen on advancing careers through mentorship, education, research and networking. Her most recent research paper on “Vasospasm as a cause for claudication in athletes with external iliac artery endofibrosis” was recently published online in Journal of Vascular Surgery.

Last but not the least:……

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