Recent Publications & Presentations

Dr. Azizzadeh travelled across Asia, Europe and US mainland in the past three months to give various presentations on open and endovascular management of vascular diseases. In a snapshot, he gave talks on “TEVAR for Management of Traumatic Aortic Injury” and “Utility of Vahabn Stent Grafts for Lower Extremity Peripheral Arterial Disease” at the Adriatic Vascular Summit, Siena; “TEVAR in patients with complex anatomy” at Athina Hospital Grand Rounds, Beijing; “TEVAR Complications” and “Open and Endovascular Repair of Traumatic Aortic Injuries” at The Third PanGo Aortic Disease Forum, Beijing; “Long-term outcomes with TEVAR: The Impact of Indication and Case Selection” and “Traumatic Aortic Injury: Will TEVAR Ever Replace Open Repair as the Standard of Care?” along with an abstract presentation “Early Results of a Multicenter, Prospective trial of TEVAR for Blunt Thoracic Aortic Injury (RESCUE Trial)” at Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics, Miami; and “Complications of TEVAR for Treatment of Traumatic Aortic Injuries” at the VEITH Symposium, New York.

Dr. Banki was recently honored at the annual Faculty Promotion Dinner held at Memorial Hermann by the Medical School Dean Giuseppe Colasurdo, in recognition of her promotion to Associate Professor Dept. of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery. Congratulations! Dr. Banki. Dr. Charlton-Ouw travelled to Melbourne of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery. Dr. Estrera was an invited, earlier this September, by the Royal College of London Physicians, London to speak on the State-of-the-Art Research in Aortic Disease. He was invited as a moderator of scientific sessions and travelled to, China to do the honors and delivered a keynote lecture at The Third PanGo Aortic Disease Forum, Beijing, and the Ask the Experts session on “Updated Guidelines on Management of Aortic Arch Disease” at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2012, Los Angeles. He also spoke on “Wit lab: TEE Correlation of Anatomy Perforate Heart dissection,” at the 2012 Annual Meeting of Texas Society of Anesthesiologists, San Antonio. He was an invited discussant at the 190th Semi Annual Meeting of the Texas Surgical Society, San Antonio and spoke on the “Blunt Thoracic Aortic Injury: from The Red River to the Rubicon”; and at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association, Florida on “Elephant Trunk Procedure: Comparisons of Outcome Between Classic and Other Anastomotic Sites.”

Dr. Khalil was elected as the First Vice President of the Texas Surgical Society 2012-2013 earlier this year. This November, he travelled to Australia where he was presented with an Honorary Fellowship of the International College of Surgeons at the 18th Biennial World Congress of ICS, Brisbane 2012. Dr. Safi’s works were recently published in some of the most renowned journals in vascular surgery literature. These include, “Endovascular repair of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm does not confer survival benefits over open repair,” in the Journal of Vascular Surgery; “Impact of gender and age on outcomes of tibiotalar endovascular interventions in critical limb ischaemia” in the Annals of Vascular Surgery; and “Management of ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm,” in the Italian Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.

Dr. Salti travelled far and wide across the globe as honorary and guest speaker at many academic conferences in the past three months. He was invited as a panelist at the 30th Annual UCLA Symposium, Hollywood – CA and discussed “Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm: Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Surgical Management”; as the President’s invited guest at the 27th annual meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgeons’ Association Scientific Sessions 2012, Los Angeles. He also spoke on “Update on surgery for TAA pathology”, as a chair on the debate/discussion at the LONDON CARDIOVASCULAR SYMPOSIUM 2012 and presented “The results of open surgery for TAAA are so good that both of the above techniques are irrelevant”, as invited guest speaker at the Vascular Grand Rounds University of California, Los Angeles on “Management of Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm/Dissection”; on “History of TAAA Surgery/Latest techniques & development for TAA surgery ” at the Congress of Surgeons New Orleans; “Management of Progression of Aortic Disease after TEVAR: Open surgery will always be needed for some thoracic and TAAA” at the Veith Symposium, NYC; as a keynote speaker at the Munich Vascular Conference, Germany on “Open surgery remains to be the golden standard for TAAA in surgically fit patients”; and as an invited speaker on “Advances in aortic reconstruction” at Festschrift for Dr. Berguer, Ann Arbor, MI.

CSP announces its 2nd Annual Research Forum will be held in March 2013 on Friday, the 13th at 7 a.m. The day recognizes and celebrates the achievements of our department in the field of cardiovascular research. It provides a platform for the summer research students and residents of the past year to come forth and present the fruits of their toil supported by their mentors. It presents an opportunity to enhance networking among students and faculty members and to augment faculty-student interactions. The forum will be held during the weekly grand-rounds session at UT Medical School. The format of the activities entails a 5 minute oral presentation and 2 minutes discussion for each of the eight presenters. The event will be moderated and presentations judged for the CSP Research Award. Non-mentor faculty members will serve as judges. Please mark your calendars and save the date!
A new interdisciplinary research review committee will oversee the submission process of various research protocols submitted on behalf of the department. This committee has been formalized under the name of the Research Review Panel (RRP). The RRP is established as a supervisory committee that will review each project proposal prior to its submission. This holds for all Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocols, prospective research projects, grant proposals, etc. At the current stage of inception, the RRP is comprised of Dr. Estrera and Dr. Charters-Ouw, and Dr. Sherene Shalhub. All proposed project protocols will be centrally forwarded to the department research coordinators, Samuel Leake and Fernando Klatovsky. These would then be passed on to the RRP members, who would then review and approve the proposed protocol during the monthly CSP meetings. All protocols must be submitted to the coordinators at least 1 month prior to IRB submission due date to obtain the RRP approval.

**PRICE enRolling**

PRICE is up and rolling! In the past few weeks, Dr. Charters-Ouw and his colleagues have enrolled their first 2 patients in the department’s first investigator-initiated prospective clinical trial - Propaten Randomized Investigation on Cost-benefit and Efficacy (PRICE). This is a randomized, controlled, blinded study that aims at comparing the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of heparin-bonded (PROPATEN) versus non-heparin-bonded polytetrafluoroethylene grafts for hemodialysis access. The study is now officially enrolling qualifying patients in whom no suitable native veins are available for dialysis access and require an artificial graft placement. The study is being held at the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Memorial Hermann Hospital Texas Medical Center, and Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital. Dr. Gordon Martin is the site lead investigator along with Dr. Naveed Saqib as the co-investigator at MH Southeast. Dr. Saqib, who would then review and approve the proposed protocol during the monthly CSP meetings. This week he recruited the first, outside Texas patient into the PRICE trial. Dr. Gordon Martin is the site lead investigator along with Dr. Naveed Saqib as the co-investigator at MH Southeast.

Under the mentorship of Drs. Hazim Sali and Diana Milewicz, will pursue studies using the research infrastructure provided by the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS, NIH, CTSA funded) at UT Health and Memorial Hermann Hospital (MHH). This center provides support services for clinical and translational researchers not only at the UT-Houston Medical School but also to the MD Anderson Cancer Center as well. Dr. Diana M. Milewicz is the President George Bush Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and the Director of Specialized Center of Clinically Oriented Research in Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms and Dissections (SCCOR-TAAD). She is a leader in the field genetic research on thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections. Works from her laboratory here at UT Health and MHH have previously demonstrated that specific genes can identify patients at risk for aortic dissections but also determine the risk for additional vascular diseases. This project will play a fundamental role in contributing to the escalating research intellect of our cardiovascular surgical group. A proposal will be submitted to the NIH for grant support of this cutting-edge project.
Dr. Sherene Shalhub, the newest recruit to our Vascular Surgery vanguard, has proposed a new research study, Dissection Related Early Aneurysmal Degeneration (DREAD), targeting patients with descending thoracic aortic dissections. The natural history of aortic dissections shows that due to the weakening of the thoracic aortic wall, the dissected aorta gradually dilates with time, with eventual aneurysm formation that can rupture and lead to death. This innovative project brings together both the clinical and genetic aspects of aneurysmal degeneration, a dreaded complication of this disease. The project brings together both the clinical and genetic aspects of aneurysmal degeneration, a dreaded complication of this disease.

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**CSP Connoisseurs**

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**Upcoming Meeting Deadlines**

1. CREF 3rd Annual Cardiothoracic Symposium Abstract Deadline: December 30th, 2012
5. Western Thoracic Surgical Association Abstract Deadline: January 6th, 2013
7. 9th International Congress of Update in Cardiology & Cardiovascular Surgery Abstract Deadline: January 15th, 2013
13. International Academy of Cardiology 18th World Congress on Heart Disease Abstract Deadline: February 15th, 2013

**Clinical Science Program**

The University of Texas Department of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery

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