The 38th Annual VEITHsymposium™ on Vascular Disease Management
New York City, NY, USA, 16–20 November 2011

The diagnosis and treatment of vascular disease is becoming increasingly complex and involves many specialties. The VEITHsymposium™ focuses on all important aspects of vascular disease management and brings together vascular surgeons, cardiologists, interventional radiologists and all other relevant specialists to provide a current overview of important developments, new technologies, controversies and new horizons in the field. This 5-day meeting has several special components on its first day, followed by plenary sessions dealing with all important aspects of vascular disease and its treatment.

The 38th Annual VEITHsymposium™ was held on 16–20 November 2011 at the Hilton New York (NY, USA) and was sponsored and accredited by the Cleveland Clinic (OH, USA). At this meeting, 533 faculty members from multiple specialties presented their views on various aspects of vascular disease. More than 4200 delegates with a vascular interest from all five continents and most countries in the world attended the meeting and there were over 650 individual presentations. In addition to being presented orally, talks (with their synchronized slides) and their related panels were recorded in their entirety and will be available on a web-based version of the meeting (see [1]) for those who missed talks or wish to refresh their memory of them.

On the first day of the meeting, there were six simultaneous components dealing with endovenous management of varicose veins (led by Jose Almeida, Miami Vein Center, FL, USA, and Lowell Kabnick, New York University, School of Medicine, NY, USA), hemodialysis access (led by Thomas Vesely, MO, USA, and Larry Scher, North Shore University Hospital, NY, USA), new horizons in cardiovascular surgery (led by Roy Greenberg and Bruce Lytle, Cleveland Clinic), wounds (led by Dieter Mayer, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland), and a multidisciplinary approach to stroke management (led by Allan Brook, Montefiore Medical Center, NY, USA). Although there was a great deal of interest and audience participation in the stroke management sessions, the endovenous management of varicose veins and the hemodialysis access components had the largest attendance – sometimes with standing room only audiences. There was also a linked interventional radiology meeting (AIHsymposium™) chaired by Jacob Cynamon (Montefiore Medical Center, NY, USA). In all components new findings and techniques attracted the greatest interest and generated the most excitement. Attendees could circulate through these various component meetings according to their interests. If they missed talks, most of them were captured on the web-based version of the meeting for later review.

Beginning on the second day of the meeting, important areas in vascular disease were discussed in depth at multiple sessions by multiple speakers who presented their views on specific topics in 5–6 min fast-paced talks. These talks were followed by panel discussions in which audience members could discuss the presentations or ask questions. Controversial issues were raised during contentious debates or by having individuals with sharply differing opinions on a topic present their views. Although there were some simultaneous sessions, these were limited to two at a time and usually dealt with widely divergent topics.

Over the last 4 days of the meeting various broad areas were discussed (Box 1). The entire program can be reviewed by accessing the VEITHsymposium website [2].

There were many highlights of the meeting, among the most important were the 26 lively debates on highly controversial topics. Those on carotid stenting versus endarterectomy, the value of chimney/periscope grafts, the role of chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency in multiple sclerosis and the value of the multilayer stent in treating complex aneurysms were regarded as the most interesting and stimulating – probably because they contained the greatest amount

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News & Views – Conference Scene

Box 1. Topics discussed during the VEITHsymposium™.

- New endovascular approaches to below-knee and lower extremity arterial disease
- Topics related to cardiac and thoracic aortic disease and their treatment
- Management of aortic dissection
- New developments in thoracic endovascular aortic repair and endovascular aneurysm repair
- A critical evaluation of carotid artery stenting in November 2011
- New developments in lower extremity stent grafts
- The chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency controversy in multiple sclerosis
- Various aspects of cardiac risk and diagnosis and treatment of submassive pulmonary emboli
- Prevention and treatment of complications
- New developments in endovascular technology and techniques
- Thoracoabdominal aneurysms and techniques for revascularizing covered renal and visceral arteries (chimney, periscopic, snorkel and sandwich grafts) and the multilayer stent
- Advances in medical treatments and treatment of medical problems
- Late-breaking new concepts and developments
- More on thoracic and abdominal aneurysms and their treatment
- Several sessions on progress in the treatment of venous disease
- New developments in the treatment of abdominal aneurysms and diseases of the abdominal aorta and its branches
- Various issues relating to government, industrial relationships, practice patterns, training, accreditation, ethics, costs, the US FDA, simulation and the future of health care and its reform
- A tribute to our military
- New and improved endovascular graft devices
- Vascular disease natural history and its modification by medical treatment
- New developments in evaluating carotid plaques
- New developments in vascular imaging and noninvasive testing
- New developments in diseases of the supra-aortic trunks and the carotid and vertebral arteries
- New developments in the carotid stenting versus endarterectomy controversy

Of course, many questions were left unanswered awaiting additional data. Thus, although the audience appreciated the cutting edge update in many areas and the airing of controversies, delegates will hopefully return to get more information and further updates in 2012 and beyond.

To learn more about VEITHsymposium 2012 or how to access the VEITHsymposium 2011 on-demand library, visit [2].

Financial & competing interests disclosure
FJ Veith is chairman of VEITHsymposium™. The author has no other relevant affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript apart from those disclosed.

No writing assistance was utilized in the production of this manuscript.

Websites
1. 2011 VEITHsymposium™ (online library). www.veithondemand.com
2. 2011 VEITHsymposium™. www.veithsymposium.org