



# American Venous Forum 2011 Highlights

## Our continuing goals:

- Improve public awareness of the prevalence, risk factors, and dangers of vein disease
- Continue Medical Education Initiatives
- Promote Research Initiatives
- Expand the Venous Registry
- Foster Inter-societal Collaborations and Advocacy
- Standardize the classification of vein disease
- Create and disseminate Practice Guidelines
- Extend outreach to residents and fellows



## American Venous Forum

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### Message from the President of the AVF:

Dr. Seshaju Raju

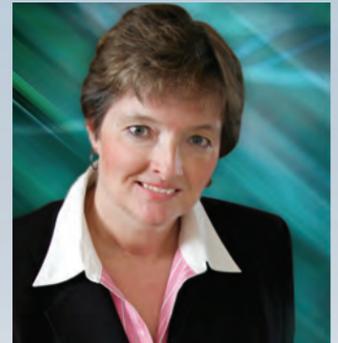
“Venous disease has been recognized since antiquity and it is thus fraught with dogma and tradition that has been the basis for treatment of venous disease for centuries. The AVF was founded just twenty-four years ago and in this relatively short time, its members have injected science into the field and have been able to shift the direction of venous treatment to a scientifically-recognized specialty. This is a laudable achievement of the AVF, and we will continue to be a force in the future of venous health care.”



### Message from the President of the AVF Foundation:

Dr. Joann Lohr

“The AVF represents the nation’s premier academic society for venous work. The AVF Foundation allows us to the opportunity to marshal support that funds the important initiatives of the AVF. It represents the future of venous disease; relying on sound leadership, professional dedication, designing and developing forward thinking initiatives and promoting research to scientifically guide us in caring for our patients. These initiatives would not be possible without the funding from supporters and industry alike.”



## American Venous Forum

**T**he American Venous Forum (AVF) is an international consortium of venous and lymphatic specialists dedicated to improving patient care.

## The American Venous Forum Foundation (AVFF)

The American Venous Forum Foundation (AVFF) is the charitable nonprofit organization of the AVF. Working in concert with the AVF, the Foundation is committed to advancing excellence and innovation in venous and lymphatic health by funding pioneering research, medical education and awareness. AVFF partners with individuals and corporations who share the vision of improving patient outcomes and quality of care for individuals with venous disease.



### Our mission

To promote venous and lymphatic health through innovative research, education and technology.

## Annual AVF Meeting:

# 24th Annual Meeting

February 8-11, 2012

Orlando, Florida

The 2012 annual meeting will be held in Orlando Florida on Feb 8-11, 2012. This premier meeting will feature up to date information regarding the latest in diagnosis and treatment of venous disease. This upcoming meeting will feature a new subsection of various topics including bio-engineering devices, AV malformations, ulcer care, latest in compression and sclerotherapy and best imaging techniques for iliac vein assessment.

### AVF National Venous Screening Program:

This successful and ongoing program was established six years ago and continues to increase public awareness of acute and chronic venous disease through education, identification and empowerment. Just launched as part of the new AVF website is the online screening assessment that can be accessed

by the general public. The NVSP has made great strides in four areas, increasing public awareness including a web based screening portal national comprehensive screening program, national VTE risk assessment, and specialty consultation services.



#### DVT Risk Assessment Program

- Simple VTE Risk Assessment
- DVT Risk Report Card
- Educational Materials

#### Comprehensive Venous Screening

- VTE Risk Assessment
- Varicose Vein Assessment
- Duplex for Venous Insufficiency
- Lower Extremity Inspection
- Venous Report Card
- Educational Materials

#### Online Venous Screening

- Free Public Web-based screening
- Go to [www.veinforum.org](http://www.veinforum.org)



### Response to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) on Ulcer Treatment, October 2011:

As a response to the AHRQ's call for suggestions, The AVF submitted a consensus statement and provided the AHRQ with recommendations for various treatment options for venous ulcers. In the 2011 statement to the AHRQ, the AVF pointed out that due to the lack of quality evidence it is premature to establish a treatment algorithm for venous leg ulcerations. Furthermore, the conclusions of meta-analyses reporting, show compression stockings were equivalent or better than bandages and inelastic bandages were inferior to other modes of therapy and should be carefully analyzed and not adopted as a blanket policy due to the limitations of meta-analyses, and need for more clinically-based evidence.

### The Venous Registry (AVR):

American Venous Registry (AVR) was developed with these specific aims:

- To identify practice patterns for venous disease diagnosis and treatment across the United States; &
- To provide a platform for physicians specializing in the treatment of venous disease to share and evaluate data with a national aggregate towards the ultimate goal of improving patient care and shaping the future of venous therapy.

The Registry will allow participants immediate access to their own data and to obtain specific reports in real time (e.g. demographics and outcomes) for their own records and practices.

The AVR has been approved by the American Board of Surgery for physicians to use the database to obtain their Maintenance of Certification (MOC), and is under review by the American College of Radiology for the same purpose. We anticipate receiving CMS certification through their patient quality initiative program (reimbursement incentive for use of the database).

The AVR includes demographics, clinical features, management details, therapeutic product usage details, and follow-up of major venous diseases. It has been introduced in several phases: the Venous Stenting Module was released in January 2010, the Varicose Vein Module in February 2011, and the Filter Module in June 2011. There will be a subsequent roll-out of additional modules related to thrombectomy/thrombolysis, venous ablation, sclerotherapy, venous ulcer management, and upper-extremity DVT, over the following months/years.



### A brand new AVF Website

([www.veinforum.org](http://www.veinforum.org))

was launched

October 2011. Highlighting

AVF's mission and initiatives

with more robust educational content

to serves our general public medical providers,

AVF members and our industry partners.

### Joint Partnership with the Society of Vascular Surgery (SVS) in presenting "Clinical Practice Guidelines..."

The 2011 guidelines published by the joint AVF/SVS committee, featured nine key recommendations regarding optimal management of varicose veins. Highlights of the report include the recommendations of best therapy for varicose veins, venous ulcers, perforators, and pelvic congestion.

### AVF Research Grants:

At the annual AVF meeting, the BSN-JOBST Research Fellowship has been awarded since 1995. This year, the grant will be a \$50,000 award, double the amount given in the past to the research project proposal selected for its purpose, design and importance to research in the venous field.

The AVF will also present two Servier Traveling Fellowship Awards at the annual meeting, supported by an Educational Grant by Servier International (Les Laboratoires Servier). The Award will enable two researchers in venous disease to present

their work at the European Venous Forum Meeting in June 2012 and the following year report back to the AVF on their experience.



"The National Venous Screening Program represents an outstanding example of how a professional medical organization can provide reliable health information to thousands of Americans.

- Robert McLafferty MD,  
Incoming President of the AVF



### AVF Educational Initiatives:

Ongoing are the Fellows courses in venous education held 2-3 times per year with the goal of increasing venous awareness while following the AVF Curriculum. The Attendings' course

was initiated in 2010 with an annual teaching program for development of technical skills and treatment options for the practicing physician or surgeon.



### The Ulcer Initiative Project

The Ulcer Initiative project was the result of the PVS-6 (Pacific Vascular Symposium-6) meeting in 2009. The goal of the Ulcer Initiative project is to reduce the incidence of venous ulcers by 50% over the next decade. The primary goal is to develop an inter-societal set of guidelines for treating venous ulcers, the establishment of the prevalence of venous ulcers, and the performance of a meta-analyses to assist in establishing basic factual evidence to support the project.



### Partnership with Industry Leaders:

Through multiple AVF initiatives the organization has worked with corporate partners to sponsor increasing public and professional awareness of venous disease through education, identification and treatment. At the annual meeting, there will be industry updates and exhibits from key companies that offer the latest products for diagnosis and treatment of venous disease. Ample time will be provided for industry to intermingle with over 500 venous practitioners.