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The Division of Vascular Surgery

The Division of Vascular Surgery is a multi-faceted regional referral center treating the full range of arterial, venous, and lymphatic diseases. The Division's substantial clinical volume is accommodated by significant investments in technology and a comprehensive team approach for evaluation and post-operative care. The Division pursues innovation in vascular care for the improvement of patient outcomes and creation of new scholarship in the field. Our Division is focused on education at every level and is involved in undergraduate, medical student, vascular technologist, resident, and post-residency education.

In September 2007, Dr. George Meier joined the Division as Chief of Vascular Surgery after a 10-year tenure as Program Director and Chief of Vascular Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Under his leadership, the Division has established a high-quality Non-Invasive Vascular Diagnosis program, led by Tish Poe. Ms. Poe has begun regional and national education programs in non-invasive vascular diagnosis at the University of Cincinnati as part of this effort. The Division expects this program to grow into a regionally and nationally prominent effort over the next few years.

Patient Care

The Division offers treatment of vascular disorders at University Hospital, University Pointe in West Chester, University Pointe Ambulatory Surgical Hospital, The Christ Hospital, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Outpatient non-invasive vascular diagnostic testing is available at both the UC Physicians Medical Arts Building adjacent to University Hospital and at the University Pointe office adjacent to the West Chester Medical Center.

The Division of Vascular Surgery offers a full range of minimally invasive procedures in the treatment of arterial and venous disease, and operates as a regional center for the treatment of complex vascular problems. The Division also performs standard open vascular operations for aneurysms in the chest and abdomen, re-operative aortic repair, and lower extremity revascularization. In addition, the Division remains a recognized leader in the clinical applications of endovascular

surgery. Innovations in vascular care include laparoscopic aortic procedures, novel endovascular approaches for thoracic transection and trauma, and minimally invasive approaches for critical limb ischemia. The expanded clinical base provides an excellent educational experience for vascular surgery fellows and general surgery residents.

Dr. Joseph Giglia is one of only a few surgeons in the country who performs laparoscopic aortobifemoral bypass to treat aortoiliac arterial occlusive disease. The procedure is a key innovation in the treatment of peripheral arterial disease (PAD), a condition where large blood vessels in the abdomen and limbs become narrowed. Dr. Giglia's work provides the benefit of minimally invasive techniques, namely faster recovery time and less pain, with the durability of the traditional gold standard by-pass procedure. Dr. Giglia's laparoscopic approach is one step toward robotic-assisted treatment of aortoiliac occlusive disease and eventually for laparoscopic treatment of aneurysms.

Dr. Giglia has pioneered a novel endovascular treatment of blunt aortic trauma with a self-expanding stent lined with aortic extender cuffs that was published in March 2006 in the *Annals of Vascular Surgery,* co-authored by Dr. Amy Reed. This procedure is available at University Hospital and has the potential to minimize the significant morbidity and mortality associated with the standard open surgical repair in these multiply injured patients. As a result of these pioneering efforts, the Division has been included in the upcoming Gore endograft trial for blunt aortic trauma.

Dr. Hosam El Sayed has joined the Division to head the educational and clinical programs at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, adjacent to the UC campus. Under his leadership, the residents in vascular surgery now spend half their time at the VA, providing basic vascular surgery experience for their training. As the head of our carotid stenting program, Dr. El Sayed has established a state-of-the-art effort at the Cincinnati VA to meet the needs of our high risk veterans with carotid disease.

The Division offers a full range of treatment for venous disease. Many minimally invasive therapies including percutaneous mechanical thrombectomy, venoplasty, and stenting have been utilized to treat patients with superior vena cava syndrome and extensive deep vein thromboses. For many the pain associated with varicose veins is related to venous reflux which often forces dramatic lifestyle changes. Dr. Reed has introduced minimally invasive treatment for venous reflux to the Division which is now being performed in the Division out-patient offices at University Pointe. It uses a specially designed radio frequency ablation catheter (Closure®, VNUS) to occlude the saphenous vein and prevent reflux without the painful and often disfiguring standard stripping procedures.

The Division of Vascular Surgery expanded its Vascular Non-invasive Lab at University Pointe in September 2008, now offering five day a week non-invasive lab services. The vascular lab continues to grow and offers referring physicians and patients in the Butler/Warren county areas

the most technologically advanced diagnostic tests and minimally invasive procedures, including:

- Diagnosis and treatment of varicose veins
- Carotid ultrasound
- Abdominal vascular ultrasound
- Upper and lower extremity arterial non-invasive testing, including ABI (ankle brachial indices) to test for proper blood flow
- Upper and lower venous ultrasound to evaluate for DVT (deep venous thrombosis)
- Screening for AAA (abdominal aortic aneurysm), peripheral vascular disease (PVD) and carotid disease

Education

The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine's Vascular Surgery Fellowship Program offers conventional and endovascular training in addition to comprehensive non-invasive vascular lab training. To assist general surgery residents in learning vascular anatomy, cadaver labs were set up last year with significant input from previous vascular surgery fellows. This allowed trainees to perform dissections, aortic exposures and endarterectomies without the time constraint of the operating room.

The Division's strong commitment to state-of-the-art surgical training in endovascular and complex open surgical techniques has allowed the Division to attract top candidates from across the country.

Dr. Amy Reed remains the Director of the Vascular Surgery Fellowship Program. Under her guidance the program has received full accreditation for 3 years and passed the Internal Review. In addition to a full standard operative caseload, all of the fellows performed more than 400 endovascular procedures during their fellowship and thus met all credentialing standards for endovascular privileg-

ing. Academic and scholarly pursuits are critical to a fellow's development and future career. Each fellow is expected to publish two papers and/or chapters during their clinical fellowship.

A standardized reading program, which repeats on a two-year cycle, has been developed and the fellows meet monthly with the faculty to review the assigned material. A formal lecture series has been developed in collaboration with other departments at the College of Medicine to enhance the fellows' understanding of vascular physiology, anatomy, embryology and pathology.

Dr. Amy Reed has chaired the Education Committee of the American Program Directors of Vascular Surgery (APDVS) the past two years. Under her guidance, the APDVS will be rolling out the first Vascular Surgery In-Training Examination (VSITE), set to be administered in spring 2008. She continues in her fourth year as a consultant to the American Board of Surgery Vascular Surgery Examination.

Research

Dr. Hosam El Sayed is the local Principal Investigator for the Open versus Endovascular Repair of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Trial, and received a Certificate of Achievement for his work in the trial. This 8-year multimillion dollar Veterans Affairs Cooperative Study critically compares morbidity, mortality, quality of life, and cost between the two methods of abdominal aortic aneurysm repair.

Dr. Giglia is working with the Department of Biomedical Engineering to develop techniques to decrease ischemia during thoracoabdominal aneurysm repair. He continues to work on laparoscopic techniques for aortic surgery. Dr. Giglia is also Co-Principal Investigator of a research project on "In vitro model of arterial aneurysms with wall stress sensing capability" sponsored by the Minimally Invasive Medical Technologies Center (MIMTeC) at the University of Cincinnati Colleges of Medicine and Engineering.

Dr. Amy Reed presented her research, "Major Lower Extremity Amputation after Multiple Revascularizations: Was It Worth It?" at the New England Vascular Surgery Society meeting in September 2007 in Boston. The paper was published in the May-June 2008 issue of *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. She was presented the Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) Women's Leadership Training Award at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery on June 6, 2008. Dr. Reed also participated in the Society for Vascular Surgery's DVD project that included her commentary on life as a vascular surgeon and has been distributed nationwide to medical students and general surgery residents. As a result of these and other efforts, Dr. Reed was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery in 2008.

Dr. George Meier is the President-elect of the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, the second largest organization for vascular surgeons in the U.S. Dr. Meier, an internationally renowned authority in endovascular interventions, presented over twenty major national or international presentations during his first year at the University of Cincinnati. Additionally, Dr. Meier is the guest editor for *Seminars in Vascular Surgery* for the December 2008 issue entitled: "Endovascular Revascularization for Infrainguinal Occlusive Disease: Where Are We Now?" addressing several areas of endovascular treatment for lower extremity disease. He also received the SVS/ACS Health Policy Leadership Scholarship for 2008 to the Brandeis University Executive Health Policy Leadership Course. As the Chair of the Communications Committee for the SVS, Dr. Meier is intimately involved in marketing of vascular surgery, including oversight of the recording of 50 video Podcasts at the 2008 American College of Surgeons meeting for website content for the SVS.

Community Connections

A goal of the Division is to increase public awareness and understanding of vascular disease. The Division of Vascular Surgery holds several free screenings per year at University Pointe and University Hospital in conjunction with the American Vascular Association's annual nationwide early detection education program. During Vascular Awareness Month, participants are screened for peripheral arterial disease, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and carotid artery stenosis. The vascular screening program targets men and women aged 60 and older with a history of high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes or heart disease. Vascular surgeons meet individually with each participant to review their screening results. Participants also receive a vascular report card outlining their test results to share with their family physician.

The Division sponsored a free vascular screening for the Cincinnati Police Department in 2007. Not only did this provide valuable information to the police force, but also an opportunity for education about abdominal aortic aneurysms, stroke from carotid artery disease and peripheral vascular disease.

All of our doctors are involved in actively educating the community about vascular disease and treatment through screenings, public lectures and media interviews.

Dr. Giglia was a 2007 "Health Care Hero" finalist in the Innovator Category for his laparoscopic approach to aorto-bifemoral bypass, sponsored by the *Cincinnati Business Courier.* Both Drs. Giglia and Reed have been listed among "Top Doctors" in vascular surgery by *Cincinnati Magazine.*

Faculty

George H. Meier III, MD, FACS

Professor of Surgery
Director, Division of Vascular Surgery
Director, Vascular Services, University Hospital

Dr. Meier specializes in the management of endovascular disorders, diabetic vascular disease, wound healing, and stroke prevention. He is board certified in General Surgery, General Vascular Surgery, and Surgical Critical Care.

Joseph S. Giglia, MD, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery
Director, Noninvasive Vascular Laboratory, University Hospital

Dr. Giglia has a special interest in complex aortic surgery, laparoscopic aortic surgery, and minimally invasive treatment of thoracic and abdominal aortic pathology. He is board certified in Vascular Surgery, General Surgery, and Surgical Critical Care.

Amy B. Reed, MD, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery
Director, Vascular Surgery Fellowship Program
Director, Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory, University Pointe

Dr. Reed specializes in percutaneous treatment of aortic aneurysms and peripheral vascular disease including complex lower extremity revascularization for limb salvage. She is board certified in Vascular Surgery and General Surgery.

Hosam F. El Sayed, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Chief, Vascular Surgery, Veterans Affairs Medical Center Cincinnati
Director, Noninvasive Vascular Laboratory, Veterans Affairs Medical Center Cincinnati

Dr. El Sayed specializes in endovascular treatments of all varieties, including carotid stenting and thoracic endografting. He is Board Certified in General and Vascular Surgery.

Further information on the Division of Vascular Surgery can be viewed on our website **http://surgery.uc.edu.**