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Review article

Introduction

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Available online xxx

Introduction

The August 2021 issue of *Seminars in Vascular Surgery* is the second of a two-part series focusing on the impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on vascular surgery and patients with vascular disease. As we write this editorial, worldwide deaths from COVID-19 exceed 4.2 million, with more than 198 million infections [1]. When the number includes excess deaths (factoring deaths from unreported infections and deaths related to disruptions of services), the number of COVID-19 deaths skyrockets to more than 13 million [2,3]. Each person who died has a name and a story. We send condolences to all who are mourning. With the highly contagious Delta variant running rampant, vaccination is more important now than ever [4]. We are optimistic that more than 4,111,866,262 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered worldwide as of August 1, 2021 and encourage the vascular community to stay vigilant [1].

In this issue of *Seminars*, we present a distinguished group of authors from around the world, enlightening the vascular community with their contributions. Dr Keng Siang Lee and Dr Sruthi Ranganathan (co-first authors) and their colleagues present “A Scoping Review on the Changes in Vascular Surgical Practice During the Early Phases of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Ryan Gupta MD et al write about “The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Vascular Surgery: Health Care Systems, Economic, and Clinical Implications.” Dr Elizabeth Andraska and colleagues discuss “Health Care Disparities

During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Jorge Miranda, MD and colleagues explore the “Influence of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Management of Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischemia.” Laura Nicolai, MD, PhD et al discuss a surgical technique in “Distal AV Fistula to Preserve Patency in SARS-CoV-2 Patients with Acute Limb Ischemia.” Linda Harris, MD and colleagues present “Venous Thromboembolism in Patients with COVID-19 Infection: Risk Factors, Prevention, and Management.” Dr Richard Anthony Meena and associates present “Venous Thromboembolism Is Associated with Increased Mortality among COVID-19-Positive Patients.” Young Kim, MD, MS et al describe the “Relationship Between Blood Type and Outcomes Following COVID-19 Infection.” Mary Ottinger, MD and associates discuss “Virtual Medical Student Education and Recruitment During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Judith Lin, MD, MBA and colleagues explore “A Look to the Future: Pandemic-Induced Digital Technologies in Vascular Surgery.” Also please note the corrigendum to Ali Hallal, MD et al’s “Mass Casualty Management During a Pandemic Surge: The American University of Beirut Medical Center Experience.”

We recognize all of the effort that the authors put into the articles. We hope that you enjoy this issue of *Seminars in Vascular Surgery* from cover to cover.

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<https://doi.org/10.1053/j.semvascsurg.2021.05.007>

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Editor's Addendum: This and the past issue of *Seminars in Vascular Surgery* was designed to focus on COVID-related issues in vascular surgery. The articles span a range of themes from specific techniques to deal with vascular complications of COVID-19, to practice issues and solutions in the setting of the COVID-19 shutdown, to advances in the way we manage trainee education and patient interactions now and in the post-COVID future. I invited Dr Wohlauer to curate this issue, as he was one of the leading voices in our field when COVID-19 first affected all of us in early 2020. He started an online social media platform that has allowed vascular surgeons around the world to come together to commiserate, support, and lift up each other in the depth of the COVID-19 disaster. He also initiated the Vascular Surgery COVID-19 Collaborative (VASCC) with co-founder Robert Cuff, MD, a multi-site collaborative designed to evaluate the effect of the systematic, widespread, and immediate postponement of vascular surgery due to COVID-19 on patient outcomes around the world, and to investigate thrombotic complications associated with COVID-19 infection. VASCC recently enrolled its 1,000 patients in its international database, and serves as one of the largest repositories of vascular surgery-related COVID-19 cases in the world. The June and September issues of *Seminars in Vascular Surgery* highlight what we have learned to date through this pandemic, through contributions from esteemed authors both in the United States and around the world. Thank you, Dr Wohlauer for your important contribution!

Caitlin Hicks, MD, MS, Editor-in-Chief

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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