

VASCULAR PATHWAYS

News for fellows and friends of the vascular surgery residency and fellowship program of the UPMC Division of Vascular Surgery

Welcome to *Vascular Pathways*, the biannual e-newsletter for the UPMC Division of Vascular Surgery Residency and Fellowship Program. This publication aims to keep program graduates and friends up to date about program news and accomplishments.

A Message from the Program Director

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a great new year in 2018. This marks the fourth issue of *Vascular Pathways* and we hope you have enjoyed learning about our recent accomplishments.

To date, 44 vascular surgeons have graduated from our residency and fellowship programs. Our alumni have gone on to pursue successful careers at UPMC and beyond, advancing the field of vascular surgery through excellence in patient care and research.

We look forward to keeping you informed about the ongoing developments in our program, and to celebrating the accomplishments of our residents, fellows, faculty, and graduates. Please share any news or ideas for topics with Mark Byrne by emailing byrneme@upmc.edu.

Sincerely,

Rabih Chaer, MD
Program Director

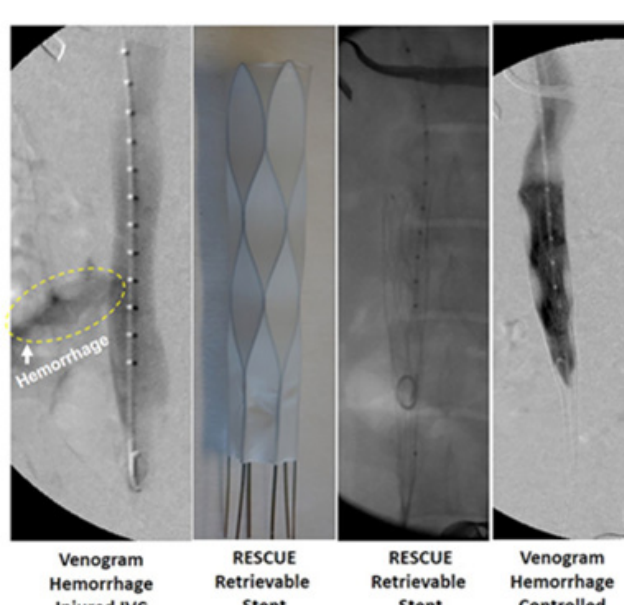
Resident Spotlight: Dr. Catherine Go - T32 Research Resident

Catherine Go, MD, was recently awarded "Best Presentation of the Year" at The Bridgeside Research Forum, a seminar given by postdocs and graduate students every Friday during the academic year. Of the 26 presenters this fall and winter, Dr. Go was one of six awardees.

Her talk - *A Retrievable RESCUE Stent in Non-Compressible Traumatic Hemorrhage* - discussed hemorrhagic shock, the leading cause of potentially preventable death in trauma patients.

The current therapy is aortic cross-clamping, which can be very morbid and continues to have poor outcomes. A new device, known as the REBOA balloon, has been gaining popularity as an endovascular alternative to aortic cross-clamping, but its use can also lead to visceral and spinal cord ischemia. Dr. Go, along with her colleagues on the research group led by Bryan Tillman, MD, PhD, has demonstrated this in pigs and developed a potential solution - a retrievable stent-graft they are calling the "RESCUE stent."

The RESCUE stent is designed to cover injuries of the aorta and inferior vena cava to temporize bleeding, while allowing visceral perfusion until definitive surgery can be performed. The group has already shown that this is feasible in the inferior vena cava and will soon be testing the aortic design in pigs.



RESCUE stent and its use in the inferior vena cava

Dr. Go is in her fourth year with our integrated residency program and her first as a T32 research resident. In addition to this most recent honor, Dr. Go has received the David L. Steed Teaching Award in Vascular Surgery for three consecutive years - 2015, 2016, and again in 2017.

Accomplishments

- [Ulka Sachdev, MD](#), and her team received a \$25,000 award as part of the [2017 Pitt Innovative Challenge \(PInCh\)](#) for their project - FitIt. FitIt is a smart compression stocking for patients suffering from chronic venous insufficiency. The stocking is designed to be adjustable and self-monitoring to reduce symptoms and improve quality of life. The award will help support prototype development and market research.
- [Ryan McEnaney, MD](#), was selected to receive a career development award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA's Career Development program is intended to attract, develop, and retain talented researchers working in areas of particular importance to improve the health and care of our nation's veterans. Dr. McEnaney's project, "Purinergic Signaling and Arteriogenesis," will be funded from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022. [Read more.](#)
- The work of [Bryan Tillman, MD, PhD](#), the principal investigator on multidisciplinary research funded by the NIH to improve the quality of organs for transplant, was featured in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#).

Save the Date Joint Meeting 15th Annual Pittsburgh Vascular Symposium 19th Surgical & Radiological Endovascular Symposium (SRES)

Thursday to Saturday, May 24-26, 2018
Fairmont Pittsburgh Downtown
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Join us this May for the 15th Annual Pittsburgh Vascular Symposium at the Fairmont Pittsburgh Hotel. To help celebrate this milestone, we welcome our European colleagues from the Surgical and Radiological Endovascular Symposium (SRES) to Pittsburgh for this 2½ day joint international conference.

This year's program will include discussion, case presentations, and care demonstrations from presenters from academic and clinical settings who will cover such topics as extremity arterial diseases, aortic aneurysms, thoracic aortic diseases and dissection, carotid artery stenosis, varicose veins, and vascular ultrasound.

We will also have a multidisciplinary panel of national and international speakers from vascular surgery, vascular medicine, cardiology, interventional radiology, and nephrology who will provide a state-of-the-art update on the treatment of vascular disease and discuss new innovations in the field. Questions and answer sessions, panel discussions, and a dedicated vascular ultrasound course will also be incorporated.

More information is available at on the [Vascular Symposium website](#).

Share Your Publication News

Have you had an article published recently? Share this news with the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute for inclusion in a new section of the [Our Research](#) page on the HVI website! Email the link to your article, along with a brief description, to HVIpublications@upmc.edu.

Request for Updates

Please email Mark Byrne at byrneme@upmc.edu with your current email address and any updates that you might like to share with your colleagues.

We invite your input as we develop this newsletter, as well. *Vascular Pathways* is your publication and we want to highlight all of the great work you continue to do since your residency and fellowship with the UPMC Division of Vascular Surgery.

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