

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 Coordinator

Greetings from Pittsburgh!

Welcome to the second issue of *Vascular Pathways*, the UPMC Division of Vascular Surgery Residency and Fellowship Program e-newsletter.

We hope you enjoyed our first issue, which highlighted some of our recent accomplishments and the results from last year's match. In this issue, we want to highlight some of our current residents and fellows and their experiences at UPMC.

As always, we are eager to celebrate your accomplishments and news. You can draw attention to the great work you are doing by sending an email message to me at byrneme@upmc.edu and we will highlight it in an upcoming issue of *Vascular Pathways*.

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and wish you a very prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark Byrne

Residency and Fellowship Program Manager

Why Did You Choose to Come to UPMC for Your Training?

We recently polled our residents and fellows to see what it was about our program that brought them to Pittsburgh and to UPMC. Their responses are below.

Jon Henry, MD - 2nd Year Fellow

I chose to come to UPMC for my vascular fellowship as it simply, in my opinion, the most complete fellowship in the nation. You will have the opportunity to do every aspect of vascular surgery and feel very well prepared to be the next academic leader or a successful private practice surgeon. I see no weakness in this fellowship.

Nathan Liang, MD - 4th Year Resident

I chose UPMC because of the operative volume and variety of the program, as well as the dedicated opportunity to pursue meaningful research. I really believe that these things, as well as incredibly supportive faculty, make our program stand out from others.

Natalie Sridharan, MD - T32 Research Resident

I went to medical school at the University of Pittsburgh and became familiar with the division of vascular surgery and the residency program early on. I saw how great the program was first-hand, how well-trained the residents were, and how hard they worked. I also saw how well the trainees worked together and how close they were to each other. When it came time to apply to residency, I explored other places, but didn't find anywhere that matched my home: Pittsburgh!

Catherine Go, MD - 3rd Year Resident

I chose UPMC vascular surgery for the breadth of training and the research opportunities. Most importantly, though, the staff, residents, and faculty feel just like family — they are warm, supportive, and always willing to teach!

You can read more about why our residents and fellows chose UPMC on our website at UPMC.com/VascularSurgeryTraining.

Please feel free to share your own story with us. Email Mark Byrne at byrneme@upmc.edu to tell us why you decided to join our program.

My Perspective: Andrew Leake, MD, Chief Resident



The last six and a half years have flown by and it is hard to believe I will be finishing in the next several months. My experience at UPMC has been similar to most past trainees with amazing operative experiences from complex open abdominal cases, the latest

endovascular technology and to a steady dose of bread and butter vascular cases. There continues to be amazing staff with an array of surgical techniques and management styles giving us a wide perspective. Another constant is the bright group of junior residents who will no doubt be future leaders in vascular surgery. There have been some minor changes over the years at UPMC, but under Dr. Makaroun it continues to be a world-class vascular division with a very bright future.

My Perspective: Amanda Phillips, MD, First-Year Resident



Prior to starting in the integrated vascular surgery residency at UPMC, I thought I knew what I was getting into. I felt excited to finally make meaningful clinical decisions, and simultaneously terrified that the learning curve would be insurmountable and the horror stories

I've heard about surgical intern year would come true. But my experience thus far at UPMC has been truly exceptional. The training is challenging in every way, and at this point I've become well acquainted with sleep deprivation, hunger, and the dreaded anticipation of my pager going off. But knowing that I'm part of a system centered around taking care of patients makes it all worthwhile. It's a sentiment that's shared among my fellow residents, a group that already has established a very deep camaraderie. It's a hard but fulfilling culture UPMC has harvested, and I can honestly say I've never been happier.

Save the Date! 15th Annual Pittsburgh Vascular Symposium Coming in 2018

Join us in 2018 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 two-day joint meeting - Thursday and Friday, May 24-25, 2018.

The SRES is an annual meeting of international specialists who treat vascular disease, including radiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, cardiologists, and specialists in vascular medicine.

For more information on SRES, please visit www.sres-symposium.org.

Accomplishments

- **Rabih Chaer, MD**, program director - is the new President-Elect of the Eastern Vascular Society - the youngest surgeon to ever assume this role.
- **Dr. Natalie Sridharan**, T32 research resident, received funding from the UPMC Heart & Vascular Institute's Fellows Grant for 2016 to help with her research on remote ischemic pre-conditioning for carotid endarterectomy procedures.

Request for Updates

Please email **Mark Byrne** at byrname@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, part of the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute.



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