



WHAT IS THE SVS DOING ABOUT THE ISSUE OF A FREESTANDING VASCULAR SURGERY BOARD



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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Ex officio member, SVS Vascular Board Task Force (2024-25)
- Immediate Past President, SVS (2023-24)
- RRC-S (ACGME) Writing Group Member: 2021-23
- Member Residency Review Committee (RRC) – Surgery (ACGME): 2014-21
- APDVS representative to the RRC-Surgery: 2015-21
- Chair, Vascular Surgery Board (VSB): 2010-2013
- Board of Directors – ABS and the VSB (2007-2013)
- President (by election) APDVS (2008-2010)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Establishment of PEEC-approved (SVS, NA-ISCVS) VS programs: 1979-1982
- First written examination and ABS certifies in Vascular Surgery: 1982
- Unsuccessful attempt to establish independent VSB (ABVS): 1996
- Vascular Surgery Board (VSB) established as the first specialty board of the ABS: 1998
- ACGME approval of alternative VS pathways (S-I became 5-2, 4-2 in 2003; 0-5 in 2005)
- Recognition of VS as a primary specialty by the ACGME: 2005
- VSB has been highly functional (see recent summary by Kellie Brown, MD, VSB Chair)
- The 35 member SVS Strategic Board of Directors agreed to create a Task Force to gather data, analyze complexities, and examine the pros and cons of continuing in VSB in its current, federated fashion or pursuing a freestanding VS Board – 13 Jan 24

SVS PROCESS LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2024

**Freestanding or Federated Board Certification:
An Analysis of the Optimal Path Forward for Vascular Surgery**

- Twice monthly meetings
- Detailed feasibility and projected cost analysis
- Potential impact on sole VS and dual certificate VS and GS holders
- Potential impact on branding
- Over 30 SVS members volunteered to serve on this TF
- Process and TF membership published on SVS Website (see link below): 21 March 2024

- Mike Dulung, MD, Chair
- James Black, MD
- Karan Chaudh, MD
- Glen Darling, MD
- Alan Dietzek, MD
- Dennis Goble, MD
- Elizabeth Gorenese, MD
- Tom Huber, MD
- Vik Kashyap, MD
- Emma Quijano, MD
- Matt Solomon, MD
- Natalie Sriharan, MD
- Gabriela Velazquez, MD

Ex-officio: Calligaro, Eagleton, Mills

<https://vascular.org/news-advocacy/articles-press-releases/svs-launches-vascular-board-certification-model-task-force>

SVS Launches Vascular Board Certification Model Task Force

Mar 21, 2024
Martin Gomez

The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) Executive Board has established the Vascular Board Certification Model Task Force to address a vital report entitled "Freestanding or Federated Board Certification: An Analysis of the Optimal Path Forward for Vascular Surgery" by the end of 2024.

The task force will engage in months of intensive research and exploration, culminating in a thorough analysis and eventual presentation of its findings in the final report. An interim report is slated for completion by late July and is anticipated to be presented at the January 2025 Strategic Board of Directors Meeting.

The SVS Executive Board acknowledges the substantial response received from its members volunteering to serve on the task force, totaling over 30 submissions. The selection process for task force members proved challenging as the Executive Board aimed to ensure the representation of diverse perspectives within the specialty. The final roster of the task force members is as follows:

- Mike Dulung, MD, Chair
- James Black, MD
- Karan Chaudh, MD
- Glen Darling, MD
- Alan Dietzek, MD
- Dennis Goble, MD
- Elizabeth Gorenese, MD
- Tom Huber, MD
- Vik Kashyap, MD
- Emma Quijano, MD
- Matt Solomon, MD
- Natalie Sriharan, MD
- Gabriela Velazquez, MD

"We look forward to this group's work as it explores this issue related to the current status and future direction of our specialty," said SVS President Joseph Mills.

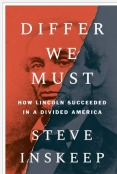
Task Force

KEY POINTS AND TIMELINE

- SVS initiated this review of Board Certification model to conduct a 20-year assessment of progress made by ABS and VSB and analyze whether the current model (federated) or a freestanding model best aligns with the needs of our specialty to care for our patients.
- Purpose of TF was to review and summarize facts and data and to prepare a white paper for the SVS leadership to review: **This process is nearly complete.**
- Includes detailed analysis of potential costs, pros, cons, knowns and unknowns
- **The TF findings will soon be shared with all SVS members;** there may be a need for a survey of VSB diplomates and/or SVS members to test several scenarios and projections.
- SVS will begin discussions and deliberations with the VSB and the ABS.
- The SVS BOD will discuss TF findings in January 25, with the goal of reaching a well-reasoned, strategic determination by VAM 2025 (June).
- The submission of the ABCVM proposal to the ABMS has been noted – discussion about which will occur at ABMS no sooner than February 2025, possibly later.

NOW IS A TIME FOR UNITY

- TF findings will be shared with SVS members and VSB diplomates in the near future.
- **Consensus** must be built across all VS societies.
- **The final decision should not be an emotional one, but must be driven by facts, data, and fully align with a common vision for the future of our specialty.**



A "free society" can "never be perfectly" attained, but it can be "approximated". Lincoln