Role of our vascular journals in dealing with political, training and governance issues facing Vascular Surgery

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Disclosures

• I have no conflicts of interest relating to this presentation

Independence and Vascular Surgery

• 1972: Publication outlining optimal training in vascular surgery\(^1\)

• DeWeese codified inherent differences between General and Vascular Surgery\(^2\)

• These differences are even more pronounced in the endovascular era


Independence and Vascular Surgery

• Vascular Surgery training programs approved by RRC-S in 1982.
  • 10 years following published recommendations

• Certification
  • Special Qualifications in General Vascular Surgery
  • Added Qualifications in General Vascular Surgery
  • Added Qualifications in Vascular Surgery

Independence and Vascular Surgery

• American Board of Vascular Surgery incorporated 1996
• 1997 (J Stanley, SVS President)
  • 91% of those surgeons holding a certificate in VS supported an independent VS Board
• 1999 (R Berguer, SVS President)
  • SVS Business meeting: 2/3 voted in favor of an independent VS Board
• Stated goals:
  • High-quality training in VS
  • Optimal patient care

Independence and Vascular Surgery

• 2009 report on 219 VS Fellows’ perception of the future of VS:
  • Major challenges:
    • Competition from IR and IC
  • 29%: lack of an independent Board was important
  • 17%: unaware of the existence of the ABVS
What is the role of our journals in highlighting our specialty’s issues?

- Pub Med search
  - Independent VS Board
  - American Board of Vascular Surgery
  - American Board of Surgery / Vascular Surgery

Since 1997: 19 published articles on the subject, and none since 2007

Publications by year

ABVS

What is the role of our journals in highlighting our specialty’s issues?

- Role of our journals:
  - Educate our junior colleagues as to the historical aspects of these important issues
  - Identify areas where progress has been made, and those areas that require additional change

What is the role of our journals in highlighting our specialty’s issues?

- Role of our journals:
  - Healthy, respectful discourse
  - Provide a forum for the Vascular Board to keep its constituents updated