Why Vascular Surgery Needs An Approved Independent Board And To Be An Independent Specialty: Status Of The American Board of Vascular Surgery

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46th Annual VEITH Symposium
November 19th, 2019
New York, NY

Disclosures
• Chairman, American Board of Vascular Surgery

American Board of Vascular Surgery (ABVS)
Why should we be an Independent specialty?

Reasons for:
• Increased Recognition and Respect of our specialty
• Control of our destiny - Vascular Surgery RRC
• Benefits accorded to ABMS member boards

Vascular Surgery
An Invisible Specialty
• Medscape “Lifestyle Report 2017” more than 14,000 physicians surveyed top causes of burnout.
• General Surgery - 16th
• Vascular Surgery - not recognized
US News and World Report Recognition

16 specialty areas recognized
- Cardiology and Heart Surgery - Yes
- Vascular Surgery - No

Departments of Vascular Surgery?
Elevated Level of Respect/Recognition

ABS/Vascular Surgery
- Department of General Surgery (General)
- Limited or no control of departmental priorities & budget which may impede the success of academic, employed and private practitioners

Independent Vascular Board
- Department of Vascular Surgery
- Larger hospitals
- Tickle down effect to smaller hospitals – recognition and respect (ask any cardiac surgeon)
- Greater influence in leadership selection process for Heart and Vascular Service Line

Outnumbered!

Control our destiny
We must train more vascular surgeons to meet a growing demand and remain relevant

Independent ABVS Vascular RRC

As part of ABS:
- application for Vascular RRC rejected

Independent ABVS:
- all ABMS member boards have their own RRC

Vascular Surgery RRC
- Facilitate more applications
- Innovate new, more specialized programs
- Aortic fellowships, Venous, etc
- No interference from other specialties
- Negotiation with other specialty programs on equal footing i.e. – General Surgery
- Certification to only those physicians completing a Vascular Surgery RRC accredited program

“Membership has its privileges”
American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)
What is their roll and why is it important to us?

ABVS Guide to Medical Specialties

- Build relationships with physicians, medical educators, *hospitals and health systems, credentialing professionals, thought leaders, *policymakers, and *payers to encourage systematic improvements

*Hospital administrators, politicians and insurance industry!

ABVS: Economic Assessment
Can we afford it?

Other small boards have supported themselves for decades without excessive cost to their members
- American Board of Colon&Rectal Surgery (~2,000 members)
- American Board of Thoracic Surgery (~4,000 members.

990 Forms/Personal communications
- 2017 ABRS: Costs $339,681 Revenue $401,863 Reserves $817,057
- 2016 ABTS: Costs $292,762 Revenue $2,162,963 Reserves $12,713,612
- Costs analysis *ABVS
- Costs $889,975
- Revenue $>1,000,000 annually

*See appendix
Can ABVS survive and prosper separated from the ABS?
- Similarly small independent boards have done well
- >90% of issues that will arise at ABMS level will affect us both
- Support from both groups, ABVS and ABS, will be mutual when issues that affect both groups arise
- Negotiate conflicts with the ABS

Vascular Surgery will have a seat at the table – represent ourselves!

Independent ABVS
What must we do?
- Become member board of American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)
  - Must meet the requirements to be a distinct and separate specialty – We do
  - Have support of representative national society (SVS)
    - Not yet
  - Have support of “parent board” (ABS)
    - Maybe but not without support from SVS

Where we stand now
- Both the SVS and ABVS leadership believe that they represent what is best for the future of Vascular Surgery and in the best interests of the majority of Vascular surgeons and patients
- Survey the SVS membership on proposition to pursue Independent Board status
  - ABVS and SVS will provide membership with information for (Independent ABVS) and against (stay with “new” ABS)
  - Abide by results of survey

Vascular Surgery and the ABS
We share a great history
It doesn’t mean we have to share our future

Thank You