

“Fighting vascular disease...improving vascular health.”

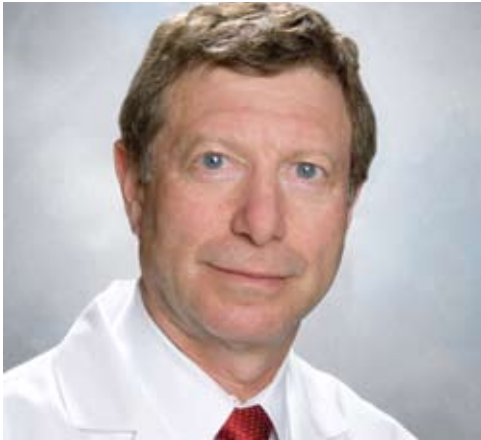
Annual Report 2008

Vascular Disease Foundation



**INSIDE: Vascular Disease Foundation Annual Report,
P.A.D. Coalition Milestones and Venous Disease Coalition Milestones**

A Message from the President



Dear Friends and Supporters:

We are pleased to provide you with the 2008 annual report of the Vascular Disease Foundation (VDF). VDF celebrated its 10 year milestone with a successful fundraising Gala in Washington D.C. At the Gala, we acknowledged past VDF leadership, Drs. Alan Hirsch, Peter Gloviczki, and Alain Drooz, and presented the Julius H. Jacobson, II, MD, Award for Physician Excellence to Dr. William R. Hiatt for his outstanding contribution to the field of vascular disease. We also honored two individuals who have made a significant impact on public awareness of vascular disease, Anthony Hooper, president of U.S. Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Melanie Bloom, whose public appearances raise awareness about deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, which unfortunately took the life of her husband, David Bloom.

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VDF continues its efforts to reduce death and disability from vascular disease, which affects over 40 million Americans in the United States each year. Our two Coalitions, the Peripheral Arterial Disease (P.A.D.) Coalition and the Venous Disease Coalition (VDC) have also made great strides towards our mission through their programs. The VDC completed its first full year and worked in conjunction with the office of the Surgeon General to announce the "Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism." The P.A.D. Coalition marked its fifth year and expanded its membership to 76 organizations that collectively represent more than 1,020,000 health care professionals and 500,000 consumers. We are proud to present many of our Coalitions' exciting accomplishments in this report.

VDF continues to grow steadily and we are reaching more Americans every year to educate them about the risk factors, warning signs and symptoms of vascular disease. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like thank you for your continued support of VDF. Together, we continue to make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans in the fight against vascular disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Creager". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark A. Creager, MD
President (2007 – 2008)
Vascular Disease Foundation

2008 Highlights

What a milestone 2008 has been!

It was a very exciting year for the Vascular Disease Foundation (VDF), as we celebrated our 10th anniversary in Washington D.C. with a fundraising Gala that acknowledged many of those who have made a significant impact on raising public awareness of vascular disease and helped VDF become a recognized organization. We have also remained unwavering in our mission to reduce death and disability from vascular disease and improve vascular health.

The Venous Disease Coalition helped acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH announce the “*Surgeon General’s Call to Action for the Prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE)*” in Washington D.C. in the fall. VDF also continues a steady upward pattern of growth which enabled us to move into bigger office space and hire additional staff.

Moving forward, VDF strives to provide trustworthy science-based and peer-reviewed information to the public. The foundation is also exploring different avenues of expansion as we look forward, but the purpose of this report is to highlight our key accomplishments of 2008. The achievements of our two Coalitions are included in this report as well. The activities of VDF and the Coalitions are presented in categories that serve our mission and strategic goals:

- Interactive Outreach
- Public Outreach
- Professional Outreach
- Media Outreach
- Partnerships

And as always, many thanks to our sponsors, partners and supporters who work with us toward our mission of reducing death and disability from vascular disease and improving the vascular health for all.

Cover photo: Le Keisha Ruffin (left), her daughter Caitlyn and husband Craig. Mrs. Ruffin was VDF’s patient spokesperson for the “*Surgeon General’s Call to Action.*”

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Vascular Disease
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Interactive Outreach

Web Site

VDF expanded its interactive outreach in 2008. The VDF Web site continues to be *the* trusted resource for information on vascular disease. In 2008, www.vdf.org experienced a total of 444,391 visitors, averaging over 37,000 per month. This translates into an increase of approximately 44 percent over total visitors for 2007.

Disease information pages with the most traffic were: DVT, Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), Aortic Dissection, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Congenital Vascular Malformation (CVM), Buerger's Disease, and Raynaud's Phenomenon. Other pages with high levels of traffic were: Pamphlets, PodCasts, Online Store and Resources.

In addition, new content was added in 2008 including: new disease information on thrombophilia, five new HealthCasts and 12 downloadable patient educational PDF files.

Interactive Resources

Keeping In Circulation Online: In 2007, VDF launched the "www.keepingincirculation.org" Web site. This site continued to grow in popularity in 2008 and offers the current issue of VDF's free educational newsletter and all of the newsletter's back issues archived along with a searchable database by topic.

Audio Podcasts - HealthCasts: VDF's popular online audio podcast program continued in 2008, and is the second most viewed item on VDF's Web site. There are a total of 28 audio podcasts available at: www.vdf.org/interactive/podcasts. Five new episodes were added in 2008.

Ask the Doctor Live Chats: VDF continued its popular "Ask the Doctor Live Chat" series hosting four online chats in 2008. Transcripts are archived on our Web site.

Public Outreach

Educational Resources

Patient Educational Sheets: In 2008, VDF created patient educational sheets for 12 of the 17 diseases that are covered on our Web site. These sheets are available for free download.

Educational Pamphlets: Two colorful, new educational pamphlets were added to the VDF list of offering in 2008. They are: Focus on the ABI and Focus on Ischemia.

Children’s Activity Book: VDF now offers a fun and colorful children’s activity book that teaches youngsters how the vascular system works. Activity books are distributed through public meetings and are available on our Web site.

Keeping in Circulation Newsletter

Our free quarterly newsletter continues to provide trustworthy, educational information on vascular diseases Updated in 2008 with new graphics and cover, the newsletter is requested by both professionals and the public with mailed circulation increasing 26 percent from 2007.

Events and Meetings

Team VDF – The Chicago Marathon: VDF once again sent a team of runners to this marathon to raise funding for the Foundation and awareness of vascular disease.

AARP: VDF Staff and volunteers displayed a booth at the AARP Life@50 National Convention in Washington D.C. in September, 2008. Educational information on vascular disease was distributed to many of the 30,000 attendees. In addition, VDF former board member Dr. William Flinn presented on peripheral arterial disease.

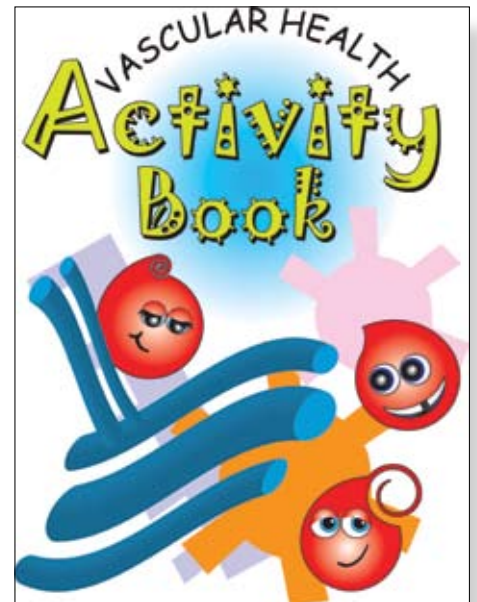
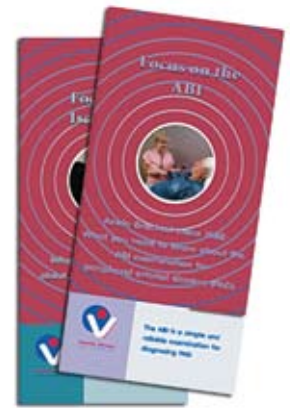
Professional Outreach

Meetings

VDF conducted 38 ABI workshops across the country in 2008 to teach various medical professionals proper technique for administering the ankle-brachial index or “ABI” test to patients. Hands on training and educational materials were handed out to 2,000 professionals and materials were provided to thousands more.

Events

VDF was present at 10 prominent meetings across the county and provided materials to thousands of professionals attending those events.



VDF Milestones 2008

Dr. William R. Hiatt



Advocacy

In 2008, Anton Sidawy, MD, President-elect for VDF, participated on a panel at the Social Security Administration Policy Conference on Cardiovascular Disorders in the Disability Programs. VDF was the only advocacy organization invited to present information on the impact to patients and families from peripheral arterial disease, chronic venous insufficiency and lymphedema.

Awards

The 2008 Julius H. Jacobson II, MD Award for Physician Excellence was presented to Dr. William R. Hiatt, Novartis Foundation Professor for Cardiovascular Research and Chief of the Section of Vascular Medicine in the Department of Medicine, University of Colorado Denver and President of the Colorado Prevention Center. Dr. Hiatt's research has focused on the epidemiology, pathophysiology and treatment of peripheral arterial disease. Dr. Hiatt is a national and international leader as a clinical trialist, investigating novel therapies for claudication and critical leg ischemia and he has over 140 peer-reviewed publications.

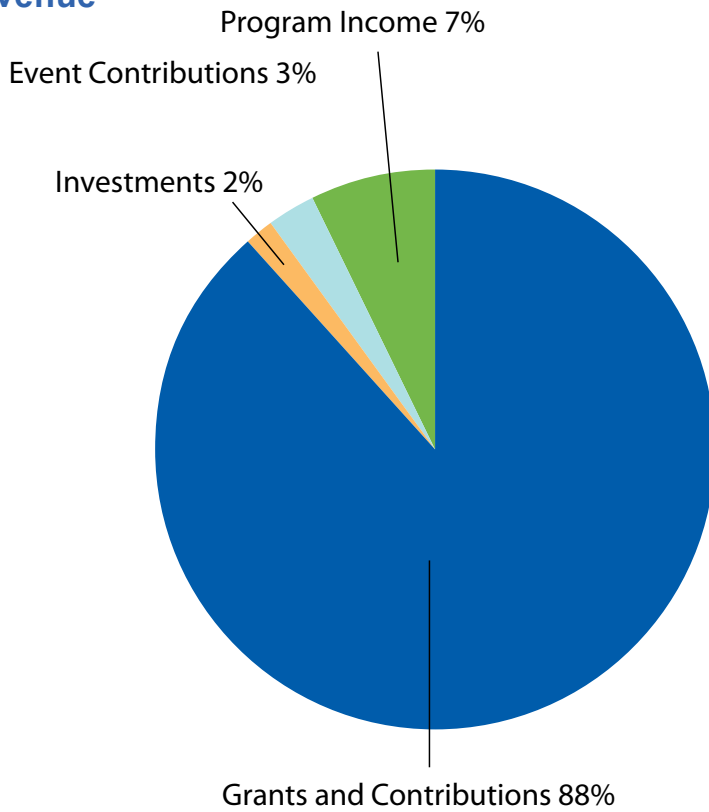
10th Anniversary Gala

To celebrate our 10-year anniversary, VDF held a Gala Celebration in Washington D.C. the evening before our Coalition meetings. Not only was the Gala to celebrate our 10 years in existence, but it was also a wonderful opportunity to honor those who have made a significant impact on public awareness of vascular disease. Melanie Bloom, Anthony Hooper, VDF founder Dennis Newman and VDF past presidents, Alan Hirsch, MD, Alain Drooz, MD, Peter Gloviczki, MD and William R. Hiatt, MD were all acknowledged.

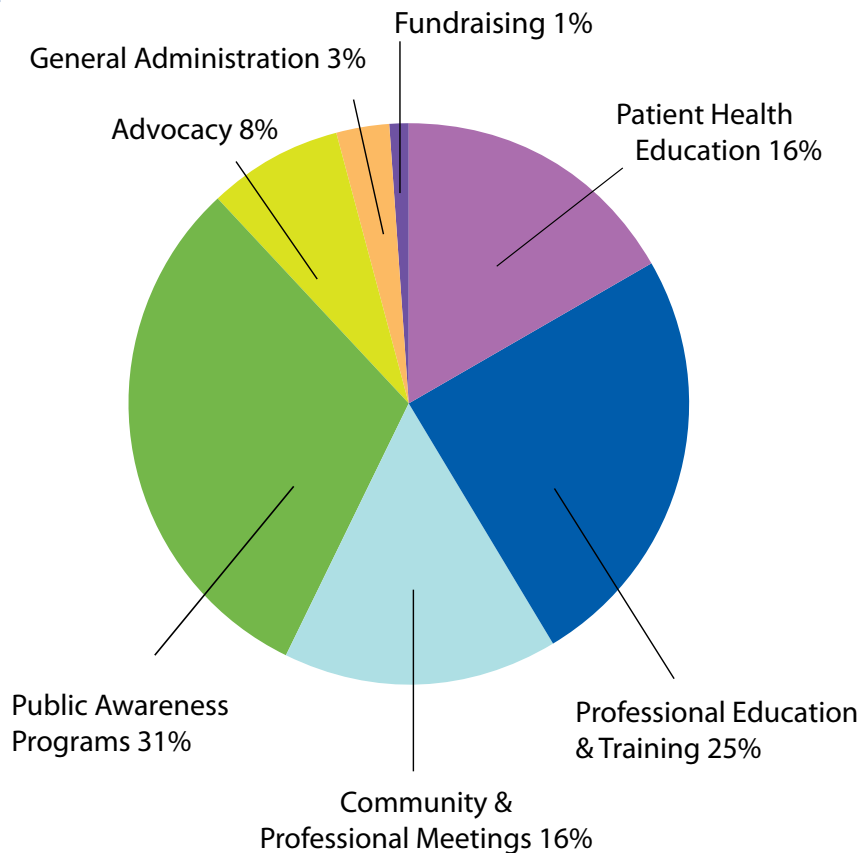


VDF Statement of Activities

Revenue



Expenses



2008 Audited Statement

Public Support and Other Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$1,540,616
Events and Other Contributions	\$53,047
Program Income	\$123,555
Investment Income	\$20,765
Total Support	\$1,737,983

Expenses

Patient Health Education	\$244,910
Professional Education and Training	\$368,769
Community and Professional Meetings	\$233,939
Public Awareness Programs	\$452,747
Advocacy	\$116,560
General & Administrative	\$51,746
Fundraising	\$14,326
Total Expenses	\$1,482,997



Overview

Marking its fifth year in 2008, the P.A.D. Coalition is the primary initiative of VDF, with a goal of working to improve the health and health care of people with or at risk for PAD. The Coalition expanded its membership and now includes 76 organizations that collectively represent more than 1,020,000 health care professionals and 500,000 consumers.

Interactive Outreach

P.A.D. Web Site

Redesigned in 2008, the P.A.D. Coalition's Web site offers clinical practice tools and educational materials for health care providers and the general public. The Web site had approximately 115,839 visitors for the year, an increase of 53 percent over 2007. In addition, a monthly e-newsletter keeps 4,219 subscribers informed about Coalition activities.

Public Outreach

Partnerships

The P.A.D. Coalition partnered with a number of organizations to expand its outreach to a broader base of members of the general public.

African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) Partnership: To inform African Americans about PAD, the P.A.D. Coalition partnered with one of the nation's largest African American congregations, the AME Church. Educational resources were distributed to 1,400 churches in September and included: a church bulletin insert, a "Stay in Circulation: Take Steps to Learn about PAD" cardboard fan with PAD messages and PAD articles for church newsletters.

CVS Caremark: CVS Caremark, the nation's largest provider of prescriptions, worked with the Coalition to educate consumers about PAD distributing PAD resources to their 6,200 retail stores nationwide. CVS Caremark also piloted a direct mail campaign to 25,000 high risk patients with information about the risk factors, warning signs and consequences of PAD.

Medicine Shoppe International: Approximately 1,000 Medicine Shoppe pharmacies also participated in this year's pharmacy campaign and distributed PAD information at their retail outlets.

National Council on Aging Partnership: To reach older adults with information about PAD, the Coalition joined forces with the National



Council on Aging to distribute PAD information and conduct educational sessions at senior centers. To date, 277 senior centers have participated in outreach activities.

National Awareness Campaign – “Stay in Circulation: Take Steps to Learn about P.A.D.”: In partnership with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the P.A.D. Coalition continued the implementation of this national public awareness campaign. In 2008, the NHLBI turned the campaign over to the Coalition for day-to-day management while remaining an active and engaged partner. Estimated media impressions to the general public for 2008 were 45.7 million.

Professional Outreach

Education

A large number of professional resources continue to be distributed through the P.A.D. Coalition Web site, at professional meetings and via the online store. In 2008, a number of partnerships helped create new resources and avenues for distribution of clinical practice tools:

AHA – P.A.D. Coalition Clinician Toolkit: In partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA), our PAD Clinician Toolkit was sent to 20,000 primary care providers.

American College of Physicians and P.A.D. Coalition Produce New Patient Video: Titled “A Guide to PAD” this DVD and accompanying booklet features Olympic legend Peggy Fleming and Coalition experts, and reviews how to manage PAD and improve vascular health.

National Library of Medicine’s MedlinePlus Magazine and Physician Outreach: The September 2008 issue of this publication included a special section on PAD, a cover letter from the Coalition and a pocket guide of the PAD Guidelines for clinicians’ offices. NIH MedlinePlus is sent to more than 200,000 clinician offices and serves as reading material in waiting rooms. In addition, each U.S. Senator and Representative receives an issue.

Total estimated distribution of professional materials, including Clinician Toolkits, Guidelines Pocket Guides, PAD Resource CDs, Slide Sets on PAD Guidelines and Wall Charts: 234,829 resources.

2008 PAD Research Awards

Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine

Presented to Danielle Laurin, PhD for “Ankle-to-Brachial Index and Dementia: The Honolulu-Asia Aging Study” (Circulation. 2007;116:2269-2274)

Vascular Medicine

Presented to John P. Cooke, MD for “B2-Microglobulin as a Biomarker in Peripheral Arterial Disease Proteomic Profiling and Clinical Studies” (Circulation. 2007;116:1396-1403)

Vascular Interventions

Presented to Steven P. Marso, MD for “Quantifying Improvement in Symptoms, Functioning, and Quality of Life After Peripheral Endovascular Revascularization” (Circulation. 2007; 116: 569-575)

2008 P.A.D. Community Service Awards

Presented to:

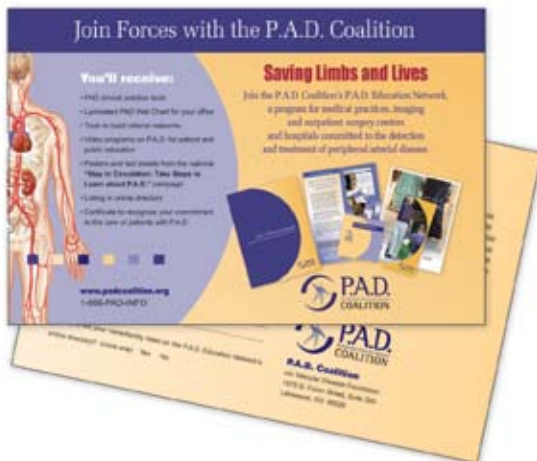
National Award

American College of Cardiology

Local Award

Diabetes Treatment Center at Desert Springs Hospital (Las Vegas, Nevada)

P.A.D. Coalition Milestones Continued



P.A.D. Coalition's Education Network for Professionals: During 2008, the Coalition continued the roll out of the P.A.D. Education Network, a new membership program that provides medical practices and hospitals with PAD educational resources. By the end of the year, the Network had more than 100 clinician and hospital members.

Advocacy

The P.A.D. Coalition Advocacy Committee continues to advocate for policies to improve access to evidence-based diagnostic and treatment strategies.

Economic Analysis of Potential Screening Benefit: The Coalition continues efforts to introduce legislation that would add a PAD ABI (ankle-brachial index) testing benefit to the "Welcome to Medicare" examination. Congressional members asked the Coalition to perform an economic analysis of the potential benefit to determine the impact on the Medicare budget. The study considered the cost of the ABI with the proposed populations and testing intervals, current Medicare reimbursement rates for the ABI, the number of people that would likely utilize the benefit and potential cost savings.

Bibliography on Exercise Rehabilitation Therapy: The exercise work group completed a bibliography on PAD exercise rehabilitation therapy to assist the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with a benefit category determination for this service.

Presentation to CMS Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee: Joshua Beckman, MD, Chair, P.A.D. Coalition's Advocacy Committee, represented the Coalition at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's Town Hall Meeting of the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee.

Media Outreach

The Coalition worked through the media to increase awareness of PAD. A press release and radio media tour focused on the lack of awareness of PAD among American women. The story was picked up by the United Press International (UPI) and interviews with Coalition experts were aired on 2,390 radio stations, reaching approximately 20 million listeners.

Additional highlights for Coalition exposure include:

- Women's Day (circulation 4,200,000)
- CNN's Accent Health (11.7 million viewers)
- Heart Insight Magazine (circulation 500,000)
- Consumer Reports on Health (print circulation 640,000)
- Mended Hearts' Heartbeat Magazine (circulation 76,000)



Venous Disease Coalition Milestones 2008



Overview

The Venous Disease Coalition (VDC) is the most recent major initiative of VDF having completed its first full year in 2008.

Highlights include:

- Growth from 19 to 35 members.
- Distribution of over 151,000 educational materials to the general public and health care providers.
- Acting Surgeon General RADM Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH issued “*The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism*” at the VDC’s second annual meeting in Washington D.C.

Public Outreach

Interactive Outreach – www.VenousDiseaseCoalition.org

Launched late in 2007, the VDC Web site grew steadily in 2008 with a total of 27,473 visitors for the year; an average of 2,289 visitors per month. New content for 2008 included disease information on thrombophilia, additional resources for patients and professionals and of detailed information on the Surgeon General’s Call to Action, including audio and video of the day’s events.

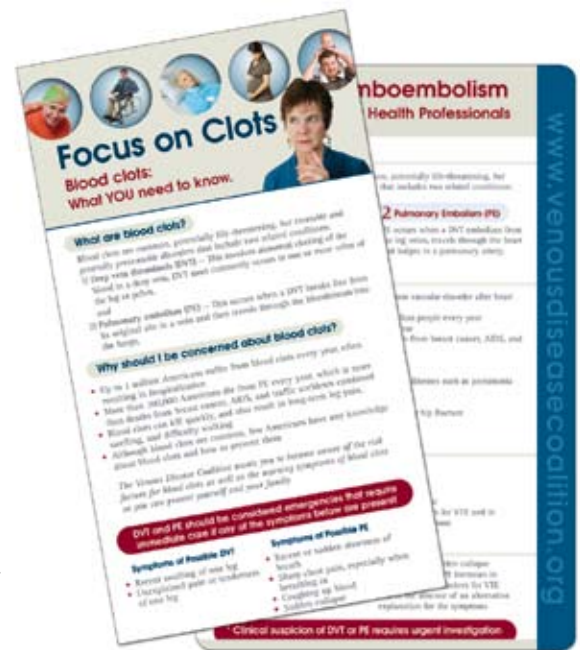
Educational Resources

Through a partnership with The Spirit of Women, the VDC distributed over 151,000 educational pieces to over 65 hospitals hosting the program. Two pieces were distributed during the campaign, one designed to alert the general public to the dangers of blood clots and the other outlining treatment guidelines for venous thromboembolism disease for health care professionals. Materials were also distributed to all hospitals in Oklahoma, in recognition of DVT Awareness Month.

Professional Outreach

Venous Disease Coalition’s 2nd Annual Meeting

The second annual meeting of the Venous Disease Coalition was held in Washington D.C. on September 15. More than 130 attendees comprised of top doctors, members of governmental health agencies and major health care professional organizations were in attendance. The meeting focused on ways to increase public and health provider awareness of venous thromboembolism disease.



VDC Milestones Continued



Surgeon General's Call to Action

Acting Surgeon General RADM Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH issued “*The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism*” at the VDC’s annual meeting. The plan emphasizes the need for:

- Increased awareness about DVT and PE
- Evidence-based practices for DVT
- More research on the causes, prevention and treatment of DVT

Press and Media Exposure

Through several press releases and media alerts VDC was able to secure coverage from two of the most highly regarded and widely read medical consumer reporters: Lauran Neergaard of the Associated Press and Dr. Ranit Mishori of Parade Magazine. Press release information was picked up by a total of 90 media outlets and the audience reach was approximately 20,322,000 readers. The AP story ran in an estimated 169 media outlets and reached 301,579,100 readers, which included such prestigious national publications as USA Today and the Washington Times. Major daily newspapers, including the Denver Post, Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun, Seattle Times and Dallas Morning News also picked it up along with prominent Web sites like Yahoo!Health and AOL News, and the Web sites of major broadcast stations, including MSNBC, ABC News and Fox News.

The Parade Magazine article written by Dr. Ranit Mishori was published in 445 newspapers across the country on Sunday, November 8, with a total circulation of 32,399,437. An interview on (CKLW-AM 800) with VDF Board Member Suman Rathbun, MD resulted in a 10-minute live broadcast in southern Canada, Detroit and Indiana.

Each of these efforts greatly increased the VDC’s Web site traffic, which prominently displays information and video of the Surgeon General’s Call to Action.

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