

Vascular Society of Southern Africa (VASSA)

VASSA was established 40 years ago with the steering committee formation in 1982 and its first meeting in Pretoria in 1986.

It has become increasingly obvious that the specialty of vascular surgery needs a focused, dedicated approach to surgical skills which should also be a requirement for vascular surgery fellows in South Africa. Currently a Fellowship in vascular surgery requires a registrar to complete 5 years in general surgery and a 2-year fellowship thereafter.

VASSA intends to end their association with the South African surgical societies with which it had combined meetings on biennial basis and collaborate more closely with the ESVS. As such, a combined world class meeting at a specific venue on a biennial basis is proposed with the added involvement of the WFVS and other sister societies with International Faculty. Cape Town is suggested as the fixed venue for this international meeting. The vision of the WFVS and ESVS can make a significant impact on sub-Saharan Africa bringing Vascular Surgery here to International Standards.

During the covid period, VASSA started Vascular Grand Rounds online with participating VASSA members, fellows and contributions from international speakers. Eight such meetings were held each in 2020 and 2021; usually on a Saturday morning lasting 2 hours. With the reality of face-to-face meetings now, these rounds will be held online every 3 months. VASSA would like to invite their sister groups, ESVS and WFVS to participate in these meetings.

The Vascular Education Forum is a Vascular Society initiative to promote the mission statement of VASSA namely:

- i to aim at the improvement & advancement of the study of vascular disease in general.
- ii to function as a mouthpiece for medical and paramedical persons with an interest in vascular disease
- iii. the advancement of the knowledge and science of vascular surgery
- iv. to stimulate research in all aspects of vascular diseases

This initiative is also for the education of the general public and general practitioners.

The Vascular Fellow Symposium was established under the auspices of VASSA to assist their Vascular Fellows in preparation for their examinations.

VASSA looks forward to collaborating with ESVS and WFVS to elevate the standard of Vascular Surgery in sub-Saharan Africa.