SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR TECHNOLOGY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

THE INAUGURAL MEETING — EDITORIAL

Eighty-five vascular technologists attended the successful launch of the Society for Vascular Technology of Great Britain and Ireland at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford in October, 1992.

Delegates were welcomed by Peter Morris, Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford, who accepted an honorary membership along with Terry Needham, Programme Director at the St. Clare's Riverside Medical Centre, New Jersey, who outlined the progress of the American Society of Vascular Technology.

The newly elected President, Jackie Walton, said, "The Society has succeeded in bringing together a wide range of people from throughout the UK involved in the field on non-invasive vascular investigation. Members can be confident that the Society will provide a national focus for education and training and the setting of profession standards in this very rapidly expanding field."

The meeting went on to confirm the election of committee members:

President:	Jackie Walton (Oxford)
Vice-President:	Rachel Harris (Bath)
Membership Secretary:	Abigail Crow (Birmingham)
Conference Secretary:	Tim Hartshorne (Leicester)
Tresurer:	Jacqui Robinson (London)
Committee Members:	Susan Cole (Bristol)
	Mary Ellis (London)

Jackie Walton, President

President Jackie Walton & Membership Secretary Abigail Crow chat to Terry Needham

DIASONICS SONOTRON — TECHNICAL UPDATE

Variable Summation Technology

Diasonics has launched VARIABLE SUMMATION TECHNOLOGY (VST) on all Prisma and Spectra Units.

VST incorporated three major breakthough technologies **Confocal Imaging** – the first implementation of continuous focussing on both transmit and receive throughout the field of view on single ultrasound image providing superior resolution and image uniformity.

Matched Impedance Transducers – Diasonics new series of MI transducers incorporate composite materials with low acoustic impedance that is more closely matched to that of the body. The result is enhanced clarity of the near field and wider bandwidths for excellent resolution and penetration.

VST Impact on Colour Flow Imaging – Conventional fixed wall filters cannot finitely separate blood signal from tissue clutter, thus minimising the chance of accurate flow detection. Diasonics have used a fundamentally new approach to wall filtering and elimination of tissue motion artifact. By using a proprietary signal separator algorithm to sparate low flow signals from tissue movement, cleaner signals and increased sensitivity at higher frame rates is achieved.

For further information please contact: Diasonics/Sonotron Ltd, 2 Napier Road, Bedford MK41 0JW Tel: 0234 340881

Events and Courses — Coming Soon

16–18th March	**Hewlett Packard Healthcare Education** present a 3-day practical course on **Basic Vascular Scanning Techniques,** covering 2-D imaging, spectral Doppler and colour-flow Doppler in the extracranial arterial, lower limb arterial and lower limb venous circulations. The course is to be held at Bristol General Hospital. Cost £450 + VAT. Telephone (0344) 369209 for details and registration forms.
2nd–6th June	American SVT Annual Conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington DC. Details from any Committee member.
11th June	SVT Study Day at the University of Derby, to include current research developments, case studies, a work-shop on venous assessment and other workshops on topical issues. There will also be a round table discussion on the future of education and training in vascular technology in the British Isles. More details in the next newsletter. Approx. cost £30.
17–18th September	ATL UK Ltd present a hands-on vascular colour Duplex weekend featuring carotid, venous and transcranial colour imaging techniques. To be held in the Lake District. More details available from Dee Banks (0462) 679371.
24th September	1-day meeting of controversy and debate on contentious issues in diagnosis of vascular disease, hosted by ATL at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Details as above. ATL also plan to organise smaller evening seminars featuring case study panels on key clinical topics throughout the year in each Regional Health District. ATL are keen to hear requests from all regions for specific topics in 1993. These meetings will offer an opportunity for delegates to try the new 'High Q' real-time vascular analysis feature and the colour transcranial imaging capabilities on the Ultramark 9 HDI.
September, October	SVT Annual Meeting. Date and Venue to be announced.
18–20th November	Vascular Surgical Society Annual Meeting at the Royal College of Music, Manchester.

Education and Training in Vascular Technology
— The American Perspective

As a new organisation, one of our primary concerns is the subject of education, training and standardisation. This is undoubtedly an area of considerable change and development as we face the decline of the DMU and the concurrent appearance of a number of new under- and post-graduate courses in medical ultrasound.

In the United States the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) administers a series of certification exams and associated credentials that are nationally and internationally recognised. Last October I travelled to Boston to sit the vascular speciality exams. The vascular element of the ARDMS scheme comprises two examination papers - Vascular Physical Principles and Instrumentation (2 hrs) and Vascular Technology (3 hrs) leading to the Registered Vascular Technologist credential. The syllabus for these exams is comprehensive and detailed covering physics; imaging principles; physiology; fluid dynamics; safety and quality assurance; anatomy; arterial, cerebral and venous disease testing. All questions are in multiple choice format and the pass mark is around 70%.

Prerequisite requirements for the ARDMS exams encompass qualifications from a variety of backgrounds (nursing, technical, degree, other) together with with a stipulated term of full-time clinical ultrasound/vascular experience. After certification the scheme encompasses a rigorous continuing medical education programme with 30 credits to be gained each year.

My impression of this system of training and certification is that it is both comprehensive and effective when combined with proper in-house training and academic support. I would recommend it fully as having a potential role in training in the British Isles.

The SVT committee are keen to hear ideas and thoughts from members on the topic of education and training. Write to Rachel Harris c/o Vascular Studies Unit, Royal United Hosptial, Bath or come to the workshop in Derby on June 11th where this topic will be discussed.

Rachel Harris

LOGO COMPETITION

We have had several entries for the Logo Competition.
Any more artistic talents out there?!

Send your design to Jackie Walton
c/o Vascular Studies Unit
Nuffield Dept. of Surgery,
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU

Closing Date: 27/03/93
Winner to be announced in the next Newsletter

SITUATIONS VACANT

VASCULAR STUDIES UNIT,
Royal United Hospital, Bath
Tel: (0225) 824440

Registered General Nurse "E" Grade or Equivalent Radiographer Grade or Medical Technician Grade required to work active Clinical Vascular Studies Unit.

Applicant will be working with inpatients and outpatients looking at arterial and venous blood flow problems using non invasive techniques. Although thorough training will be given a knowledge of Vascular Disease or previous experience would be helpful.

Salary Scale from £12,400 — £14,350.

For informal visit and enquires please contact Miss Rachel Harris, Senior Physicist on (0225) 824440. For application form please send a stamped addressed envelope to Employment Services, Human Resources Dept. at the above address. Application and copy of Curriculum Vitae to be sent to Professor Michael Horrocks, Professor of Surgery, Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath, Avon BA1 3NG.

Closing date for application 10 March 1993.

CALL FOR PAPERS

FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND CASE STUDIES FOR THE SVT STUDY DAY ON JUNE 11TH AND THE SVT ANNUAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER.

SEND YOUR ABSTRACTS TO:
TIM HARTSHORNE
VASCULAR STUDIES UNIT,
LEVEL 6, PHASE 2,
LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY,
LEICESTER LE15WW

PLEASE INDICATE AT WHICH MEETING YOU WISH TO PRESENT.