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## **“The role of an interventional vascular scientist in venous procedures and my journey so far”**

Working as a vascular scientist for 12 years in the NHS, developing the role of a vascular scientist through the treatment of varicose veins, was important to me.

Minimally invasive varicose vein treatment meant, patients can be treated as day cases and out-dated methods of venous stripping for primary varicose veins have been replaced. The technical feasibility of these non-invasive methods plus their ultrasound dependence clearly put them within the skill set of vascular scientists. However, the NHS sadly did not have scope to develop this role; therefore, private practice was the way forward.

Through vascular surgeon mentoring, coupled with direct observational learning and competencies, we worked on developing my skills to treat varicose veins at a consultant level. The one-to-one teaching from vascular consultants led to understanding of how treatments work and why one was more suited than the other for a patient in every circumstances.

Through each training step a portfolio of evidence was gradually built as I transitioned into an Interventional Vascular Scientist, treating patients within the clinic in all venous treatments from micro-sclerotherapy to Radio-frequency ablation and Venaseal.

My knowledge and the teachings I received from my consultant mentors, developed into a two-year training programme for all staff.

Interventional Vascular Scientists represent much needed benefits in cost for the NHS and clinical/waiting list benefits for patients but a long overdue career development for senior Clinical Vascular Scientists too.

This Lecture will chart the course we developed, my successes and failures; outlining the process that you could follow too.