

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Endorsement and Certification Committee of The European Society for Vascular Surgery (ECC-ESVS)

G. M. Biasi, Chairman ECC-ESVS

Department of Vascular Surgery, Bassini Teaching Hospital, University of Milan, Via Massimo Gorki 50, 20092 Cinisello Balsamo, Milan, Italy

Vascular surgery is evolving and expanding very rapidly, as of course are many other fields of medical sciences. Vascular surgeons are continuously confronted with the need to cover the daily surgical activity (it is well known that the rate of postoperative success is directly related to the work load) and to participate in continuing medical education (CME) programmes. On the other hand, travelling to scientific meetings becomes more and more expensive and time consuming and therefore it is mandatory to achieve as much qualified information as possible in the most rational and practical way.

Professional organisations (medical associations or unions), scientific societies or any other national or international body, should be committed to providing vascular surgeons who wish to be professionally qualified, with the most updated information on what to do, where to go, etc. In addition to this, the progressive diffusion of the legislative regulations in Europe, with the possibility especially for young European surgeons to practice their professional activity in different European countries, urgently require that standardised training programmes and creditation systems be proposed and adopted.

The Endorsement and Certification Committee of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ECC-ESVS) was established in September 1996, bearing in mind these principles, with the following objectives:

- (a) To develop criteria for ESVS endorsement of international, national or local events in vascular surgery and related disciplines, having received specific requests from the organisers.
- (b) To apply these criteria for ESVS certification of relevant events, as an instrument of ensuring the highest scientific standards and quality.
- (c) To invite individuals or groups to organise ESVS endorsed and certified events that include:
 1. Master class workshops in the theory and practice of vascular surgery.
 2. Seminars, lectures and conferences.
 3. Live operative sessions, videos, etc.
 4. Symposia with general and specialised subjects.
- (d) The ECC-ESVS to set-up scientific programmes consisting of master classes, courses, seminars, panel discussions, case presentations, live operative demonstrations and hands-on workshops with the support of training models, of 2-3 days each to be organised each year in different European centres (Centres of Excellence). This will constitute the training programme of the European School of Vascular Surgery. Those who intend to subscribe and attend these yearly programmes will be credited upon completion of the courses. The educational programmes will be specially designed for young vascular surgeons in training, for vascular surgeons who have already completed their training programmes and who wish to participate in advanced, well recognised CME training programmes.
- (e) To initiate and apply new information technologies (CD-ROM, internet, satellite etc.) in vascular surgery.
- (f) To initiate and develop consensus documents on pertinent subjects.

- (g) To create forums for peer review of research projects and consideration of strategic issues.
- (h) To contribute to the realisation of research projects.
- (i) To allocate funds for the realisation of the objectives of the Committee.
- (j) To develop collaboration between individuals, commercial firms, foundations, national and international public agencies etc. and the Committee

with the purpose of creating additional financial opportunities for fulfilling the objectives.

The Committee is not involved in Board Assessments or in Specialty Board Certification.

Those who are interested in applying to the ECC-ESVS for further information or any comments or suggestions are welcomed to contact directly the office of the Chairman of the Committee.