

HSVES Working Groups: a novel initiative towards the improvement of ongoing vascular research and education in Greece

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MANUSCRIPT

In March 2021, the Hellenic Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (HSVES) established the HSVES Working Groups (WG) project. The aim of this initiative was to bring experts and enthusiastic volunteers in a close collaboration in order to provide education, share expertise and facilitate exchange of best practice in the various topics of Vascular Medicine and Surgery. Working groups are a common practice in various medical and scientific territories. The European Society of Cardiology has been running a Working Groups program which has proven its value throughout Europe's Cardiology.¹ Similarly, the Hellenic Cardiology Society has been a pioneer on medical team-work process in Greece.²

The HSVES WG aim is dedicated to research and education, to reduce the burden of vascular diseases and improve the outcome of patients suffering by vascular diseases. Each WG has a pre-specified field, aiming to the promotion, design, coordination, research organization and knowledge dissemination on this specific scientific area. These objectives can be achieved by educational seminars and meetings, registries, studies, position papers, consensus documents, national guidelines, and other activities that each WG may carry out.

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ISSN 2732-7175 / 2021 Hellenic Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Published by Rotonda Publications
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The HSVES WG project consists of 16 distinct groups of Vascular Surgeons and other physicians and scientists, aiming to provide research and education data on specific topics regarding Vascular Surgery and Medicine. The initiative runs under the guidance and authority of the HSVES, the leading scientific society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Medicine in Greece. The currently existing HSVES WG listing is presented in [Table 1](#). The HSVES WG details of operation are described in its Regulations Document which has been conducted by the HSVES.³

Vascular Infections
Hemodialysis Access
Vascular Ultrasound and other Diagnostic Modules
Vasculitis
Aortic Aneurysmal Disease
Diabetic Foot
Thromboembolic Disease
Cerebrovascular Disease
Lymphedema and Arteriovenous Anomalies
Venous Disease
Extremities Arterial Disease
Aneurysms of Peripheral Arteries
Renal and Mesenteric Ischemia
Entrapment and Compression Syndromes
Issues Regarding the Vascular Surgery Profession
Hellenic Vascular Registry (HEVAR)

Table 1. The HSVES Working Groups list.

Each WG is comprised by members. WG members have to be active members of the HSVES of any kind (Full, Senior, Junior, Honorary or Other members), as defined in the HSVES Constitution and Articles of Rules Document. Each WG is directed by its Board of Directors (BoD). The BoD of each Work-

ing Group is elected by the members of each WG and consists of the President, the Deputy President and the Secretary. The BoD has the full responsibility for the design and actions of the WG.

The HSVES WGs functions run through an innovative communication platform, the WG Apella. Apella is an online area, located within the HSVES official website. A separate meeting area for each WG exists within the Apella. In each meeting area its members can suggest ideas, design actions, comment and communicate, thus organizing the WG activities.

WGs are groups of people who work together to achieve pre-specified goals. They are designed to bring together individuals who possess the relevant knowledge and skills and will act both individually and collectively to undertake assigned tasks and activities in order to achieve the predefined objectives of the group. A necessary prerequisite for someone to participate in a WG is his/her selfless will to offer to the common good, this being the main underlying idea of the HSVES WG project development. Despite the various difficulties that the COVID-19 pandemic has created to the societies, it has increased the possibilities of communication using the various aspects of technology. This may become a boost in scientists' interactions, something that can be used for the benefit of the further improvement and development of Vascular Medicine and Surgery in Greece. The future outcome will prove or re-

ject the endeavor. The voluntary participation, and the diffuse dissemination of responsibilities to every member all over the country can be a way to move forward.

Funding - Conflicts of interest: The manuscript was not funded by any company or organization.

AML, TP, DS, AP, GP, TG, PT, GG, and KD are members of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. AML, TG and AC are members of the Board of Directors of the Professional Association of Vascular Surgeons of Greece. MP does not report any conflict of interest.

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