



CURRENT VASCULAR SURGERY

Northwestern Vascular Symposium

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Preface

This year we celebrate the 41st Annual Northwestern Vascular Symposium sponsored by the Division of Vascular Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University. Established by Dr. John J. Bergan, M.D. (1927-2014) and Dr. James S.T. Yao, M.D., Ph.D., the first meeting was held at the historic Drake Hotel on December 2, 1976 and entitled *Venous Problems*. The faculty consisted of 33 national and international leaders to provide a multidisciplinary approach to venous diseases. Over the years, the program has changed from a topic-oriented program to a more comprehensive overview as developed by Dr. William H. Pearce, M.D. Once again, this year we have brought together 50 national experts for our 2½-day annual meeting to address timely topics and controversies in vascular and endovascular surgery. As has been the tradition, presentations cover the full spectrum of vascular surgery including changes in management of extracranial cerebrovascular disease, new treatment options for lower extremity arterial occlusive disease, hemodialysis access, improvements in techniques for complex venous disease, as well as developments in aortic stent graft repair in the chest and abdomen. In conjunction with the presentations are corresponding chapters found in this hardcover textbook with more in-depth details and “pearls” from the experts. Over the last four decades, our symposium has been held at iconic hotels in the heart of Chicago including the Drake and Fairmont. This year we have again chosen the InterContinental Hotel for our December Symposium venue given its prime location in the heart of Chicago along the Magnificent Mile. It is our sincere hope that you will find the contributions in this book valuable to your practice of vascular and endovascular surgery. We thank you for your continued interest and support of our annual meeting.

Acknowledgments

We thank our esteemed authors who have once again thoughtfully contributed to this year's book. Their willingness to share their personal expertise and knowledge is what makes our book a success to other practitioners. Special thanks to Sara Minton, our executive course director, for her hard work in assembling and proofing the chapters and for keeping us on track with the deadlines of the Symposium. Without her, the symposium and book would not have been possible. We would also like to thank W.L. Gore & Associates, Incorporated for their continued generous educational grant which helps support the Symposium and printing of the book.

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