



American Venous Forum

Promoting venous and lymphatic health

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

VENOUS2020 Welcome Letter	2
Vein Disease Care: The Russian Experience	4
Treatment of Superficial Venous Reflux	6
Appropriate Use Criteria for Chronic Venous Disease	8
C-TRACT at VENOUS2020	10
AVF Early Career Course Recap	11
AVF Day of Science – Before & Beyond Hemodynamics	12
VENOUS2020 David S. Sumner Session	15
JVS-VL January 2020 Issue Preview	16

VEIN SPECIALIST NEWSLETTER

Annual Meeting Issue

December 2019 | [veinforum.org](#)

VEIN DISEASE CARE: THE RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE



Evgeny Shaydakov,
MD, PhD, FRCS

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Phlebology in Russia has come through its own long and thorny way from 1888 when Dr. Trojanow resected a proximal segment of the great saphenous vein to eliminate pathological superficial reflux, to 1981, when Dr. Vedensky reported the first results of external correction of venous valve insufficiency using a plastic spiral. Our history is full of many other inquisitive investigators, talented clinicians, and excellent organizers. Our history is also exceptional for a number of bright training programs with enthusiastic and patient teachers, with different perspectives on the diagnostics and treatment of venous diseases. Within the last two decades we have been observing intriguing changes in the paradigm of treatment of venous pathology. Endovascular treatment of superficial venous disease, iliofemoral stenting, and novel anticoagulants have significantly improved the outcomes. Most treatment modalities for venous disease has become low risk outpatient procedures performed by physicians of various, often-times, non-surgical specialties. The number of venous procedures performed annually has drastically increased in Russia, like throughout the world. This situation justified creation of a professional society in Russia that would support and guide physicians in this flourishing and evolving field.

The Saint-Petersburg Society of Phlebology (SPSP) was established in 1996 to improve awareness and education in venous and lymphatic disease and to facilitate an open communication between healthcare specialists, scientists, regulatory authorities and industry. In the beginning of the 21st century, the SPSP has initiated the process of integration into the international professional society. The first annual meeting of the SPSP was held in December 2007. It was attended by about 50 participants from Russia, with a great lecture from Professor Bo Eklof, MD, a vascular surgeon from Sweden, and the past president of the American Venous Forum (AVF). That first meeting in a cold and snowy Saint-Petersburg brightly decorated before the Christmas became a warm annual tradition. Providing yearly lectures and sharing his experience in venous disease, Bo Eklof gradually turned out to be more than a lecturer and teacher, he became a close friend to SPSP who sincerely fell in love with Russia and believed in constructive progress of phlebology in our country. Within the next decade many world-renowned leaders in the field actively participated in the annual SPSP meeting: Drs. Robert L. Kistner, Anthony Comerota, Lowell Kabnick, Andrew Nicolaidis, Michel Perrin, Peter Neglen, Niels Baekgaard, Lars Rasmussen, Jan Christenson, George Gerulakos, Oscar Maleti, Marcia Lugli, and others.

Participation of specialists from Europe and the United States have contributed to a sweeping popularization of venous procedures in Russia. Under the leadership of SPSP, the 16th annual meeting of the European Venous Forum (EVF) was held in Saint-Petersburg in 2015, that was later recognized as one of the best EVF meetings. Ever since then, the SPSP has become a truly international society and eventually has been accepted to the International Union of Phlebology (UIP).

INSIDE THIS EDITION

VENOUS2020 Welcome Letter 2

Vein Disease Care: The Russian

Experience 4

Treatment of Superficial Venous Reflux 6

AUC for Chronic Venous Disease 8

C-TRACT at VENOUS2020 10

AVF Early Career Course Recap 11

AVF DOS: Before & Beyond

Hemodynamics 12

VENOUS2020 David S.

Sumner Session 15

JVS-VL January 2020 Issue Preview 16



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December 2019 | veinforum.org

VEIN DISEASE CARE: THE RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE *continued*

Evgeny Shaydakov, MD, PhD, FRCS

The annual meeting of the SPSP has turned into the leading scientific and social phlebology event in Russia and former Soviet Union countries with more than 700 delegates representing more than 50 countries from all over the world. Three years ago, SPSP established a Gold Medal for outstanding contribution in phlebology. Bo Eklof and Robert Kistner became one of the first recipients of the Medal.

It has to be said that without active support from the leaders of AVF this progress would not have been possible. Collaboration with AVF members has always been one of the top SPSP priorities. The President of the SPSP, Professor Evgeny Shaydakov, became an active member of AVF in 2007, and a member of AVF's International Committee in 2018. This year the annual meeting of the SPSP will be remembered by the first AVF International Committee session where our colleagues Drs. Malay Patel (India), Lowell Kabnik (USA), Victor Canata (Paraguay), Tomasz Urbanek (Poland), Kursat Bozkurt (Turkey), and Jorge Ulloa (Colombia) will come to Saint-Petersburg to share their knowledge and experience in venous disease. We would like to invite all AVF members to Saint-Petersburg to exchange clinical experience, discuss recently published studies in the field, report novel scientific data, shape the protocols of future studies, and enjoy Christmas in our magnificent city. Active participation of AVF members in the annual meeting of the SPSP may partially fulfill the goal of AVF to expand its representation on the international arena and initiate fruitful international collaboration for the sake of our patients.



INSIDE THIS EDITION

VENOUS2020 Welcome Letter 2

Vein Disease Care: The Russian
Experience 4

Treatment of Superficial Venous Reflux 6

AUC for Chronic Venous Disease 8

C-TRACT at VENOUS2020 10

AVF Early Career Course Recap 11

AVF DOS: Before & Beyond
Hemodynamics 12

VENOUS2020 David S.

Sumner Session 15

JVS-VL January 2020 Issue Preview 16



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