

PROGRAM

REGISTRATION & HOUSING INFORMATION

2025 VASA HANDS-ON PRACTICUM ON HEMODIALYSIS ACCESS



MAY 16 - 17, 2025

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



Dear Delegate:

The Vascular Access Society of the Americas, once again has the privilege to extend an invitation for you to participate in the 'Hands-On Practicum' on Hemodialysis Access to be held on May 15–17, 2025 at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO.

Vascular Access Practicum is a unique one-and-a-half-day activity enabling attendees to obtain 'Hands-On' experience with vascular access related procedures. There will be opportunities to observe live surgical and interventional vascular access procedures, to learn the use of US in evaluating a vascular access and performing cannulation. The Practicum will provide an opportunity to view, use and learn about emerging technologies. This is a platform for discussion of various approaches to patients with vascular access problems with renowned leaders in the field of vascular access.

This educational activity is geared towards educating physicians from all specialties interested in vascular access and Allied health colleagues involved with dialysis patient care.

Physician activities include:

- Observation and discussion of surgical and interventional access procedures
- Utilization of new devices and instruction on surgical and endovascular techniques (fistulography, angioplasty, stenting etc.) in animal and cadaver models in the laboratory
- Techniques for implanting various graft materials
- Experience with using ultrasound in vascular access planning and evaluation with ESRD volunteers

Nursing and Allied Health activities include:

- Observation of central venous catheter insertion and vascular access surgical procedures
- Physical examination skills for evaluating vascular access in ESRD volunteers
- Experience with the use of ultrasound for the evaluation of a vascular access
- Evaluating and understanding the 'in center' and 'home hemodialysis machines
- Learning cannulation techniques including 'buttonhole' using 'fistula arm' simulators
- Getting the 'feel' for cannulating different access graft materials

In addition to these main activities, delegates will have ample opportunity to view and handle different graft materials, peritoneal dialysis catheters, dialysis needles, dialysis catheters, and review catheter care and participate in related activities. There will be opportunities to use virtual simulators to experience endovascular and clinical interventions, cannulation with US guidance, and improve cannulation techniques. The vascular access clinic experience will provide a 'firsthand experience' with the decision-making process for a new patient evaluation and access follow-up.

The Vascular Access Society of the Americas continues to evolve and grow with members committed to creating and maintaining access, including surgeons, interventional nephrologists, and radiologists, as well as dedicated vascular access nurses and allied health care personnel.

We invite you to utilize this unique educational opportunity planned with the goal of imparting excellence in vascular access skills and patient care techniques to those who care for dialysis patients.

The VASA Board and the Program Committee is committed to make this endeavor a productive and engaging experience for all delegates and supporting industry partners.

VASA is looking forward to seeing you in St. Louis.

Sincerely,

Dirk Hentschel, MD
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Surendra Shenoy, MD, PhD
PRACTICUM CHAIR

John Lucas, MD
PRESIDENT VASA

LEARNING & PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES



At the conclusion of the educational activity the physician participant should be able to:

1. Identify patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) who need referral to nephrology, education related to treatment modalities available for renal replacement and timing of referral for vascular access planning and creation.
2. Develop an optimal access plan for ESRD life span of an end stage renal disease patient.
3. Identify different vascular access modalities and their appropriate use.
4. Understand the surgical and medical decision-making process of access placement.
5. Discuss various techniques available for peritoneal dialysis catheter placement.
6. Discuss the principles of surgical procedures used to create vascular access.
7. Define characteristics of 'mature vascular access'.
8. Understand the principles and be able to perform physical examination to evaluate a vascular access.
9. Learn principle of Duplex Ultrasound evaluation and its role in vascular access
10. Understand the concept and possess knowledge of surgical and radiological procedures used as maturation assist.
11. Recognize long term problems associated with vascular and discuss the various radiological and surgical methods to correct them.
12. Identify problems in vascular access and associated risks to the patient and take timely remedial action.
13. Learn to communicate the potential risks to the patient and appropriate way to relate the problem to health care providers.
14. Understand the common vascular and endovascular techniques used in vascular access and use them to optimize patient care.
15. Discuss the role of catheter dialysis, safe catheter placement technique, catheter complications and need for catheter reduction program.
16. Have a knowledge of new surgical and interventional approaches, new technologies available and new technologies in development.



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PROGRAM CHAIR

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Mexico

Jaime Velez, MD
Surgeon
Columbia, South America

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, MAY 16 Physician Activities

ARENA 1.

Delegates spend time in Surgical education laboratory with faculty honing and perfecting surgical and endovascular skills. Activity includes animal and cadaver dissection including experience with exposure, fistula creation, graft placement, tunnelling techniques, fistulography, angioplasty, stent deployment, surfer technology and HeRo grafts.

ARENA 2

This session will provide opportunity to view live surgical and interventional procedures related to vascular access while interacting with the surgeons/ interventionalists and involving in an open discussion with our experienced faculty.

ARENA 3

This area will provide hands on training with use of duplex US and techniques of vessel mapping, access flow evaluation, managing access complications such as Aneurysm evaluation etc. using our ESRD volunteers. Ther also will be several virtual simulators to gain experience with cannulation, US guided cannulation and endovascular interventions.

FRIDAY, MAY 16 Affiliated Staff Activities

Include Arena 2, Arena 3, (see above) and:

ARENA 4

This area will have cadaver and simulation models related to vascular access, peritoneal dialysis access and cannulation. It will also have devices including various grafts and dialysis catheters along peritoneal and hemodialysis catheters.

Beside these activities all delegates will have ample opportunity to evaluate different graft materials, devices and tools used for dialysis access interventions, cannulation and all aspects of dialysis patient care.

PROGRAM AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 15

7:00 pm Registration and welcome reception

FRIDAY MAY 16TH

6:30 am Breakfast and registration
 7:15 am Welcome address and introduction attendees split for physician and allied health programs
 7:35 am Delegate Groups escorted to their respective activity Arena
 7:45 am **Physician Session I / Affiliate Staff Session I**
 9:45 am Refreshment break
 10:15 am **Physician Session II / Affiliate Staff Session II**
 12:15 pm Box lunch (exhibits arena)
 1:00 pm **Physician Session III / Affiliate Staff Session III**
 3:00 pm Coffee break (all delegates) at exhibits area
 3:45 pm Vascular access clinic (all delegates)
 Break at exhibits
 6:00 pm Busses depart for dinner
 6:30 pm Dinner

SATURDAY MAY 17

7:00 am Breakfast symposium
 8:10 am **General Sessions** (all attendees)
 Access basics: How I do it?
(video and didactic presentations)
 10:20 am Coffee break
(proposed simultaneous sessions)
 10:50 am Advances and innovations in dialysis access
 10:50 am Allied health session
 Presentations on advances (results of new trials), innovations and new devices in development
 11:30 am Access complications, billing and compliance
 12:30 pm Optional case presentations
(with box lunches)
 2:00 pm Conclusion



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REGISTRATION

[Registration](#) will be available until Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 12:00pm CT. After this time, please register on-site. Limits for hands on Practicum Portion have been established.

Registration Fees	Through May 1st	After May 1st
Physician	\$700	\$750
Clinical Staff / Non-Physician (employee of industry, see below)	\$200	\$250
Clinical Staff / Non-Physician Friday ONLY	\$100	\$150
Resident / Fellow Verification of your training status requested. Contact lindsaym@wustl.edu for access code.	\$200	\$250
Employees of Industry	Please contact sweeneycathy@wustl.edu for access code.	

Fees include enrollment, continuing education credits, educational materials, lunch, refreshment break and daytime self-parking (paid registrants only).

Registration/Payment Policy: Your full payment in advance completes your registration and ensures your enrollment in this course.

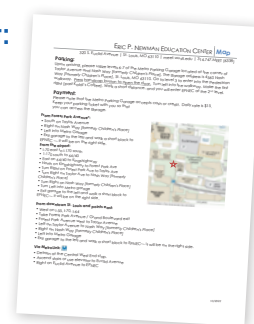
Cancellations: Registration fee less \$25 administrative charge is refundable if cancellation is received in writing by emailing CME@wustl.edu by May 1, 2025. Registration fees are not transferrable.

About St. Louis

A hub for international research and a destination for patients seeking exceptional care, St. Louis is the ideal place to train and excel in health, medicine and research. [Learn more.](#)

Directions and Parking:

Please view the [guide](#) before arrival.





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ACCREDITATION



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™
WITH COMMENDATION
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and the Vascular Access Society of the Americas. Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Vascular Access Society of the Americas (VASA) Practicum 2025

EPNEC | St. Louis, MO, United States | May 16, 2025 7:00 am – May 17, 2025 12:00 PM

Coordinator: Lindsay McHargue, WUSM

CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR THIS ACTIVITY

American Medical Association (AMA)

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis designates this live activity for a maximum of 10.5 AMA PRA Category I Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis designates this live activity for a maximum of 10.5 ANCC contact hours.

Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE)

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 10.5 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.



IPCE CREDIT™



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Monday prior to the course, an email with directions to the online syllabus and onsite information will be sent to the email address utilized to register for the event.

Location

Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC),
320 S. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

Parking

Validation provided for paid registrants who self-park in the Metro Parking Garage. Overnight parking cannot be validated. Click [Directions/Parking](#) for more information.

Suggested Hotel Accommodations

**Make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel*

Doubletree by Hilton St. Louis Forest Park
(Adjacent to the conference center)

Address: 4550 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110

By phone at 314-256-7777 and ask for *Group VASA Conference*, or [Book Online](#) with the group name.

Start Date: May 14, 2025

End Date: May 18, 2025

Cut-off Date: April 16, 2025

Rate: \$163 King, per room, per night +tax

AC Hotel St. Louis - Central West End

Address: 215 York Avenue, St. Louis MO 63108

By phone at 314.367.2566 and ask for *Group VASA Conference*, or [Book Online](#) with group rate for Vasa Symposium Room Block.

Group Name: VASA Conference

Start Date: May 14, 2025

End Date: May 18, 2025

Cut-off Date: April 18, 2025

Rate: \$169, per room, per night +tax

Please Note: Washington University is not responsible for airline, hotel reservations or any other travel expenses. Please confirm registration acceptance prior to purchase of nonrefundable or penalty airline tickets.

Transportation

- Taxis from the airport are approximately \$40.
- Uber and Lyft are also available.
- MetroLink runs from the airport to the Medical Center (Central West End Station) for approximately \$4.00.
- Masking is optional but strongly recommended for those showing signs or symptoms or with recent exposure to someone with a respiratory infection.

EPNEC Day of Phone

(314) 747-6338

Callers should ask for the VASA course

Accommodations

Continuing Medical Education at Washington University School of Medicine fully complies with the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act rules and regulations thereof. If any participant of this meeting is in need of accommodations, submit written requests at least one month prior to seminar date.

For Further Seminar Information

Continuing Medical Education

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
(314) 362-6891 (800) 325-9862

Website: cme.wustl.edu Email: CME@wustl.edu

Funding

This activity is supported in part by educational grants from various commercial organizations. A complete list of commercial supporters will be available at the time of the conference. Some companies may also exhibit.

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