

Dear Colleagues,

Our sixth annual OEIS meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, April 19-21, 2018, was a tremendous success with 462 attendees and 36 industry sponsors. The program was packed with new and hot-off-the-presses information ranging from scientific and technical presentations to the latest in regulatory and business-related topics. We sincerely thank all of our speakers, attendees, and industry sponsors who helped to make this meeting the best ever.

Outpatient vascular disease management has come a long way in a short time. It is hard to believe CMS first approved reimbursement for office-based angioplasty in January of 2005, and that the first office-based angiosuites opened just 12 years ago in April of 2006. Now, there are over 500 outpatient angiosuites across the nation, and the safety and efficacy of outpatient endovascular procedures are now well-documented.

The road here was not easy. Although many outstanding people made sacrifices to pave the way for us, and many physicians and industry representatives supported us along the way, we have endured slings and arrows as some resisted change and were critical of our progress. Furthermore, a very few among us abused the system and damaged our credibility, which led some physicians and regulators to criticize our efforts.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accordingly, in September of 2013, five interventional radiologists, five interventional cardiologists, and five vascular surgeons met in Dallas and founded OEIS to address and prevent the potential abuse of outpatient centers and to continue to optimize safety and efficacy for our patients. During the past five short years of its existence, OEIS

achieved several milestones: we now have over 450 active members; we initiated SCOCAP (Safety, Credentialing, Outcomes Measures, Compliance, Appropriateness, Peer Review) as our quality-based culture of care; we created a national registry for peripheral artery occlusive disease; and we partnered with CardioVascular Coalition to advance our cause in Washington.

NEW, ADVERSE STATE REGULATIONS

Despite these accomplishments, we still have many challenges ahead of us including reimbursement and liability issues as well as government regulation. Notably, during his presentation at the 2018 OEIS annual meeting, Dr. Bob Tahara highlighted recent changes in Pennsylvania law that forbid arterial endovascular procedures in the outpatient setting. Rest assured that OEIS, as well as the SVS, are working hard to keep this type of harmful and unjustified regulation at bay.

MOVING FORWARD

We need your help to fight these outside forces! It takes many voices to be heard well; we need your individual and collective voice. We need more physicians to join OEIS to increase the impact of our voice. We must rise to the occasion to address these issues. So, I appeal to you for your help!

You can also help in many other ways:

- Serve on committees
- Attend meetings
- Participate in the OEIS National Registry
- Contribute to the CV Coalition

- Become accredited and create a “safety first” culture in your practice
- Participate in peer review
- Learn from each other
- Adopt and follow the SCOCAP culture of safety and efficacy
- Establish a Six Sigma culture of perfection in your own practice
- Practice good medicine in an ethical and responsible manner
- Obtain and present data; *Data Drives the Day*

JOIN WITH US!

Many thanks to our current members for your continued support. If you are not yet an OEIS member, please join today and also spread this message to your peers. Get involved and engaged in our mission. Let us expand our voice.

Looking forward to hearing from you all!

Sam Ahn, MD FACS
President, OEIS