



Enrico Ascher, MD

Enrico Ascher is a New York City vascular surgeon and surgical educator who completed his training in general surgery at New York Medical College. He then followed up with a one-year accredited vascular fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein Medical College in 1981–82. The program was directed by Frank Veith. Dr. Ascher stayed in the Bronx at Montefiore as a young attending where he continued to work with Dr. Veith and also with Dr. Henry Haimovici, both of whom he considers important surgical mentors.

After seven years at Montefiore, he moved to Brooklyn, New York to become the first board-certified vascular surgeon in Brooklyn. There he established a vascular surgery service and an accredited vascular surgery fellowship at Maimonides Medical Center, working there from 1983 until 2012. In 2012, he moved to NYU Langone Hospital in Brooklyn, becoming Chief of Vascular Surgery and establishing a vascular fellowship.

Besides his dedication to surgical training, Dr. Ascher has focused clinical

research interests on lower extremity arterial disease and innovative ways to make open surgery and endovascular surgery less invasive. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed articles in these areas. Academically, he has held appointments at five medical colleges in New York City, including attaining the rank of Professor of Surgery at Mount Sinai Medical School, which he has held since 2002.

Dr. Ascher's leadership skills have led him to the presidency of the Eastern Vascular Society, the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, the World Federation of Vascular Surgery, the International Society of Vascular Surgery and in 2006, the Society for Vascular Surgery.

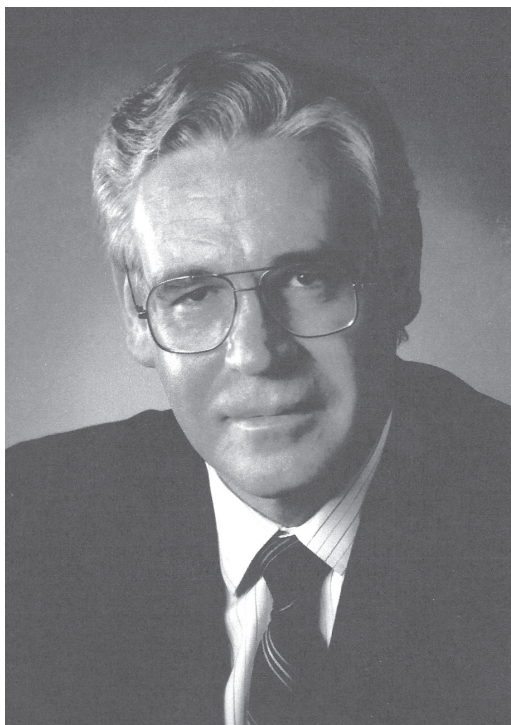
Dr. Ascher has organized many national and international teaching meetings over the years including the important Pan-American Congress on Vascular Surgery which began in 1990 in Rio de Janeiro and meets every other year, bringing together surgeons of North and South America. He also organized the Vascular Fellows Abstract Competition that began in 1985, with an annual meeting held each year in New York City.

He was raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, coming from a family in which all four children became physicians. He was born in Cairo, Egypt, where his father was in the petroleum business. The economy in Egypt changed when Gamel Nasser became president in 1954. The Ascher family, therefore, moved first to Europe and then permanently to Brazil when Dr. Ascher was six years old. He attended medical school at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, where he graduated in 1974. After a year of surgical training in Rio de Janeiro, he elected to move permanently to New York City for further training, where he remained for his entire distinguished surgical career.

Scan the QR code below or enter the YouTube link to watch the entire interview with Dr. Enrico Ascher conducted by Kenneth J. Cherry, MD, and James S.T. Yao, MD, brought to you by the SVS History Project Work Group.



<http://tinyurl.com/AscherXE>



Ronald J. Baird, MD

Ronald Baird was a leading Canadian vascular and cardiac surgeon who trained under some of the great mid-20th century surgeons. Some of the legendary surgeons who guided him were Gordon Murray, Bill Bigelow and Bill Mustard in Toronto. Dr. Baird practiced during a time of incredible innovation in vascular surgery, with new devices and procedures. Beginning his career in the 1960s, he became an expert with a large practice in Toronto treating renal hypertension with endarterectomy and patch or using bypass. He performed many different operations for portal hypertension and was beginning his practice just as Dacron prostheses for aortic aneurysms were becoming available. By the 1970s, when saphenous vein aorto-coronary bypass became common, this and all types of open heart surgery also became an important part of Dr. Baird's practice. He performed the first human heart transplant in Toronto.

Dr. Baird became an authority on many historical developments such as the development of heparin. This was a special interest for him as his mentor,

Gordon Murray, had been the first surgeon to use heparin back in 1937. Dr. Baird was very involved in the organizational side of medicine and on one memorable occasion traveled to the Soviet Union for two months in 1960 to observe surgery and exchange ideas during the Cold War.

Born in 1930, Dr. Baird was the son of a Canadian railway porter and an American mother. His whole career was spent in Toronto, from his birth through his training and for the entirety of his practice. A 1954 graduate in medicine from the University of Toronto, he became a Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Toronto, the Toronto Western Hospital and the Toronto General Hospital. He held Fellowships from the Royal College of Surgeons in Canada in general surgery and in cardiovascular surgery and thoracic surgery. He was awarded a Master of Surgery degree from the University of Toronto and the Medal in Surgery from the Royal College.

Dr. Baird was a past President of the North American Chapter of the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, and the Canadian Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons. He was an honorary member of the Southern Society for Vascular Surgery, the American Association for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and the Society for Vascular Surgery.

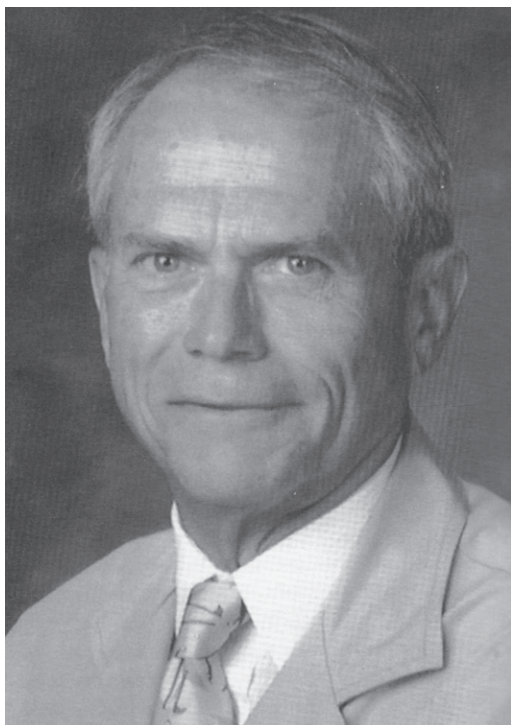
During his distinguished career he wrote extensively on surgery of the heart and the arteries, and he developed several new procedures in both fields of surgery. He was proud to have trained over 60 surgeons.

Dr. Baird died of pneumonia on March 26, 2017 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Scan the QR code below or enter the YouTube link to watch the entire interview with Dr. Ronald J. Baird conducted by Walter J. McCarthy, MD, brought to you by the SVS History Project Work Group.



<http://tinyurl.com/BairdXR1>



William H. Baker, MD

William H. Baker was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. His physician parents both practiced in the city, his father in urology and his mother in obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Baker attended Chicago public schools, Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and the University of Chicago School of Medicine, graduating in the class of 1962.

His University of Chicago surgical internship was followed by a year in surgical residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals. He then spent two years in the Army at Fort Lawton in Seattle, Washington, and overseas with the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Viet Nam. He returned to Chicago to complete a general surgical residency at the University of Chicago Hospitals. He was then able to enroll in a fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of California San Francisco with Jack Wylie, W.K. Ehrenfeld and Ronald J. Stoney in 1969–1970.

Dr. Baker then joined the surgical faculty at the University of Iowa where he established a vascular service and fellowship. In 1976, he was recruited to

the faculty at Loyola University of Chicago, where he remained for the rest of his distinguished career. At Loyola, he was the Chief of Peripheral Vascular Surgery, the program director of both general surgery and the vascular surgery fellowship and Director of the Peripheral Vascular Diagnostic Laboratory.

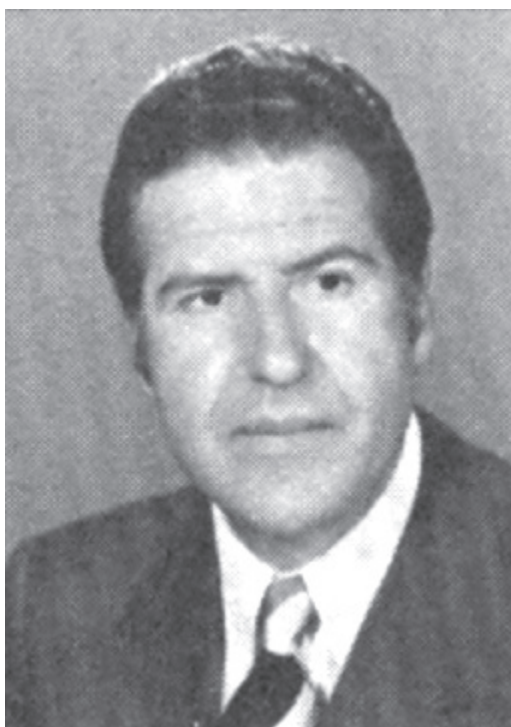
Dr. Baker is an author of approximately 150 articles and 60 book chapters. He is perhaps best known for his carotid endarterectomy-related surgical contributions and publications. He was the President of the Association of Vascular Surgery Program Directors, the North American Chapter of the ISCVS, the Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society, the Central Surgical Association, the Midwest Surgical Association and the Chicago Surgical Society. He is particularly proud of the expertise of the Loyola Vascular Section and of the accomplishments of the Loyola vascular fellows.

In retirement, Dr. Baker plays golf, a little tennis, and bicycles. His four granddaughters live in Oak Park, and he and his wife, Ann, enjoy them immensely, both in Oak Park and at their home in Michigan. He continues to teach, tutoring grade-schoolers in Chicago two mornings a week, and attends the vascular conference at Loyola.

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<http://tinyurl.com/BakerXW>



Panagiotis E. Balas, MD

One could say that Panagiotis Balas' career, like so many surgeons of his generation, was very much shaped by his early contact with Dr. Michael DeBakey in Houston. Born and trained in Greece, he arrived in Houston for a clinical fellowship in 1960. He was very impressed by Dr. DeBakey's mission to train surgeons from all over the world. Dr. Balas followed Dr. DeBakey's example by introducing vascular surgery to Greece and by hosting many international meetings there. He made many visits to China and Russia and made a personal effort to encourage surgeons to visit the West for conferences and training. Years later, in 1977, he presented his mentor, Dr. DeBakey, with a sculpture of one of Dr. DeBakey's hands crafted by a Greek sculptor. Dr. Balas commented, "You always said if you had a third hand, you could get more accomplished."

Dr. Panagiotis ("Taki") Balas was born in Kalamata, Greece, but grew up in Athens. Both his father and his uncle were physicians. He graduated from medical school in 1953 and began an internship in general surgery. He worked at

the first surgical clinic in Greece at the Athens University Medical School under Dr. Nicolas Christeas. Dr. Christeas had been a student of Dr. René Leriche in Strasbourg in 1938 at the same time that Dr. Michael DeBakey studied there.

Following six years in Athens, Dr. Balas took a research fellowship at the New England Medical Center under Dr. Allan Callow, earning an MS in Surgery. In 1960, he was appointed to a clinical fellowship in Houston under Dr. Michael DeBakey, where he stayed for three years.

Upon his return to Greece in 1963, Dr. Balas began introducing modern vascular surgery to his home country. He performed many vascular surgical firsts in Greece. He also developed an audio-visual department that captured his work on color movie film. Dr. Balas is very well known for his work in microvascular surgery, specifically for a procedure in which he saved an amputated finger. He also performed the first reimplantation of a completely amputated upper extremity.

Dr. Balas began work as a meeting organizer in 1966 when he founded the Michael DeBakey Society, an annual international congress. He continued these efforts by hosting the International Union of Angiology (IUA) Congress in 1980 in Athens, as well as the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery meeting in 1981. While hosting the IUA Congress, Dr. Balas served as its president. During his term, he shifted the organization from a primarily French group to a more inclusive, international body, changing its constitution and its main language to English for both the subsequent meetings and for its journal.

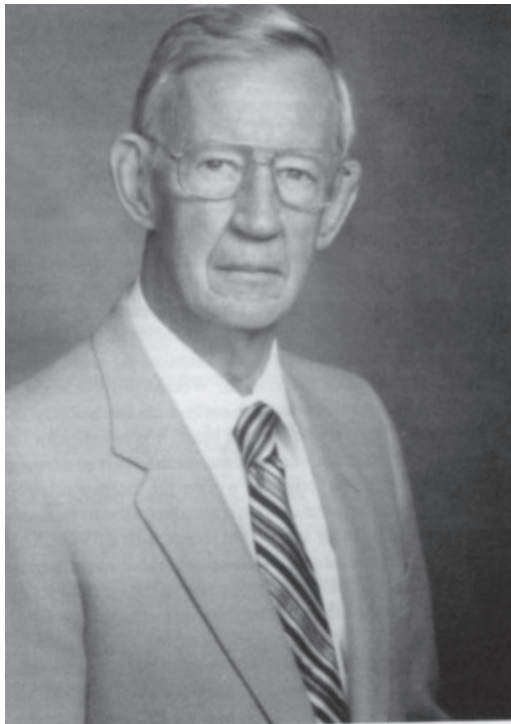
The theme of international exchange was the driving force behind Dr. Balas' writing. In articles, he featured the influence of European vascular surgeons on North American vascular surgery and the returned influence of American surgery on European practice by the many surgeons who were trained in the U.S.

To advance technological changes in vascular surgery, Dr. Balas participated in the founding of the International Endovascular Society in 1993 with Dr. Ted Diethrich. Soon afterwards, Dr. Balas performed the first endovascular treatment for abdominal aortic aneurysm in Greece in 1996. Among his many honors he was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1993.

Scan the QR code below or enter the YouTube link to watch the entire interview with Dr. Panagiotis E. Balas conducted by Norman M. Rich, MD, and James S.T. Yao, MD, brought to you by the SVS History Project Work Group.



<http://tinyurl.com/BalasXP>



Wylie F. Barker, MD

Wylie Franklin Barker was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on October 16, 1919. His New Mexico roots were deep, with family in the region since long before statehood—his grandfather established a ranch there in 1888.

Dr. Barker received his bachelor and medical degrees from Harvard University. This education was followed by 18 months of residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston under Dr. Elliot Cutler. He enlisted in the United States Navy, first serving six months of very active surgical duty at the Chelsea Naval Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and then aboard the *USS Grand Canyon*, a Navy destroyer tender headquartered in Naples, Italy, in 1946. This was followed by six months at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia.

He returned to the Brigham in 1947 for another 18 months of training during which he worked under the pioneer vascular surgeon John Homans. Dr. Barker then traveled west to Los Angeles in 1949 to assist Dr. William P. Longmire in forming a full-time university surgical department at the new UCLA

Medical Center. There he became Professor and Chief of General Surgery and the Director of the Peripheral Vascular service. He also served as the Chief of Staff of the Sepulveda VA Hospital from 1978 to 1983.

Among Dr. Barker's many publications, his textbook, *Surgical Treatment of Peripheral Vascular Disease*, was one of the most highly recognized. He is remembered for having developed a device for remote arterial endarterectomy with his colleague Jack Cannon. The instrument, a ring stripper which they fabricated from piano wire, allowed the removal of long segments of atherosclerosis from the superficial femoral artery through short incisions. Dr. Barker served as President of the Society for Vascular Surgery in 1973, and he remained at UCLA—where an endowed Chair has been established in his name—until his retirement in 1986.

Dr. Barker and his wife Nancy raised three children: Robert, Jonathan and Christina. Dr. Barker's special medical interests included peripheral vascular disease, diseases of the breast and inflammatory bowel problems. In retirement Dr. Barker enjoyed orchid culture, sold orchids and authored a book on that subject. A capable horseback rider since his New Mexico boyhood, he completed many seven- to ten-day high wilderness horseback trail rides throughout the Rocky Mountains.

Dr. Barker died at the age of 94 on October 31, 2013.

Scan the QR code below or enter the YouTube link to watch the entire interview with Dr. Wylie F. Barker conducted by Peter F. Lawrence, MD, brought to you by the SVS History Project Work Group.



<http://tinyurl.com/BarkerXW>



Jonathan D. Beard, MD

Jonathan Beard was born and raised in the southeast of England in Chelmsford, Essex. His father, John, was an electronic engineer and although Jonathan had a keen interest in electronics as a child, his father persuaded him to pursue a career in medicine.

He trained at Guy's Hospital in London where he also played rugby. During his time at Guy's, Mr. Beard undertook an intercalated BSc in physics applied to medicine and wrote a dissertation on fast Fourier transform analysis of blood flow waveforms. After qualifying as MB BS (Guy's Hospital, London) in 1979, he worked as an anatomy demonstrator at the Middlesex Hospital and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

During his training he was inspired by Mr. John Fairgreive, one of the original vascular surgeons in England. He subsequently was trained under the supervision of Professor Michael Horrocks and later worked under Professor Sir Peter Bell. Through these mentors he became involved with the European

Society for Vascular Surgery, and became interested in surgical writing. After working with the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* for nearly 20 years, he was appointed as Editor-in-Chief in 2005.

Mr. Beard was appointed as the first full-time vascular surgeon to the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals in 1990 where he helped form one of the first citywide vascular units in the country to offer 24/7 emergency vascular care.

He has a lifetime research interest in electronics and Doppler analysis of vascular problems and an interest in contributing patients to and directing vascular trials. His special interest in surgical education inspired him to obtain a master's degree in this area from the University of Sheffield. Clinically he has a passionate interest in amputation techniques, quality-of-life outcomes and also exercise therapy for intermittent claudication.

Professor Beard served as the President of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland in 2014 and as Professor of Surgical Education at the Royal College. In 1998 Professor Beard published, with his co-author Peter Gaines, a highly respected textbook, *Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*. The book is now in its 6th edition.

Professor Beard is married with two sons and his leisure interests include rugby, downhill skiing with his wife and children, road cycling, sailing his catamaran and singing barbershop.

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<http://tinyurl.com/BeardXJ>