

- PRESS RELEASE -

- March 23, 2010 -

Amsterdam, The Netherlands - The first *World Congress on Vascular Access* – in short WoCoVA - will be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands from 16 -18 June 2010. WoCoVA was established in 2009 as a foundation to create an independent platform to organize worldwide congresses on vascular access. WoCoVA 2010 will be the first congress of its kind and therefore a truly unique process in bringing vascular access professionals together from around the globe.

About WoCoVA

WoCoVA foundation is a non profit organization registered in the Netherlands especially to organize seminars, congresses and improve vascular access. The main goal of WoCoVA is to share knowledge and bring vascular access to a higher level. A specialized global scientific committee will offer scientific programs with experienced speakers, workshops and product presentations. The WoCoVA foundation works with highly trained specialists from around the globe, who are constantly improving skills and expanding knowledge by research and innovations. To realize WoCoVA 2010 we are working with a Local Organizing Committee, a Global Scientific Committee and a Support Committee.

What is Vascular Access?

About 90% of patients visiting a hospital will have a need for some sort of vascular access. Vascular access is described as “the ability to enter the vascular system” for administering drugs, fluids or obtaining blood for testing or haemodialysis. The focus during WoCoVA is on venous or vein access! A venous *catheter* is a tube placed in a vein in the arm, neck, chest or groin area. Vascular access has a potential risk of infections, thrombosis and tissue damage with long term discomfort.

About the congress

This first edition of WoCoVA will be held from June 16-18, 2010 in the brand new Elicium of Amsterdam RAI Convention Centre, where we expect to welcome more than 1.000 guests from all over the world. WoCoVA is a multi-disciplinary and multi-professional event and will attract visitors accordingly. A percentage of 80-90% of the visitors will be from outside the Netherlands. Colleagues from all national sister organizations on vascular access will be present at the congress. Also, all major companies with innovative products on vascular access will participate during WoCoVA 2010.

About the program

WoCoVA will cover all aspects of vascular access: indications for the choice of the device, insertion techniques, tip location methods and prevention and management of all Vascular Access Device (VAD) related complications, like infection, thrombosis, occlusion, pneumothorax, etc.

WoCoVA offers a scientific program, workshops, educational courses, satellite symposia and posters sessions. Discussion will focus on the issues of safety, cost effectiveness and efficiency of vascular access, as well as on the need for world-shared guidelines for clinical practice, each congress day has a focus on a specific topic.

Day 1: Wednesday 16th June 2010:	Peripherally inserted central catheters
Day 2: Thursday 17th June 2010:	Risk management in venous access
Day 3: Friday 18th June 2010:	Implanted access ports

About the keynote speakers

At this moment WoCoVA has over 60 speakers confirmed. The program offers two Keynote speakers: Dr. Maki and Dr. Berenholtz.

Dr. Sean M. Berenholtz, MD, MHS, FCCM is an Associate Professor in the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Medicine (Departments of Anesthesiology/Critical Care Medicine and Surgery) and Bloomberg School of Public Health (Department of Health Policy and Management). He earned his Masters degree in clinical investigation from the Johns Hopkins Graduate Training Program in Clinical Investigation at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. His research interests include applying clinical research methods to improve quality of care in the intensive care unit. Dr. Berenholtz is author of more than 50 articles and chapters in the fields of patient safety, ICU care, evidence-based medicine, and the measurement and evaluation of safety efforts

Dr. Maki is the Ovid O. Meyer Professor of Medicine, Head of the Section of Infectious Diseases at the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison, Wisconsin, and Attending Physician in the University of Wisconsin Center for Trauma and Life Support. In his activities as an infectious disease consultant, intensivist and hospital epidemiologist, Dr. Maki has devoted his research career to the study of pathogenesis, diagnosis and prevention of infections, particularly bloodstream infections caused by intravascular devices and the management of septic shock and other life-threatening infections.
