
Preface

The VAS European Book: An International Expert Guide, like every major VAS' initiative, aims to broaden our perspectives and highlight the need for continuous improvement of knowledge through sustained collaboration. It promotes respect for and integration of individual expertise within an ever-evolving science that is closely tied to the “real world,” where people, patients, and we all live.

In most European countries, *Angiology* and *Vascular Medicine* are used as synonyms. For this reason, both terms are retained in the title.

Angiology/vascular medicine was defined by VAS in 1999 as follows:

Angiology/Vascular Medicine is the medical specialty dealing with vascular diseases (arterial, venous, lymphatic, and microcirculatory), focusing on prevention, diagnosis, therapy, rehabilitation, research, and education, to benefit patients and the general population. Angiology and Vascular Medicine are synonyms in different countries.

This definition was adopted by the UEMS Division of Angiology upon its creation in 2007 and published in 2013. It is now recognized as the European definition of the specialty.

This second edition of the book is not merely an update. It includes new qualified authors, emerging topics, and forward-looking approaches in the field of vascular medicine. It also highlights the central role of ethics as a fundamental pillar of medical practice. This is a European book, enriched by significant contributions from international experts.

The Book presents itself as a tool for European and international education, promoting European and global collaboration. It is part of an ambitious, ongoing effort to enhance the skills of specialists, physicians, and students, thereby improving the care we can offer and, ultimately, positively impacting our patients' lives and the future of our societies.

This is also an evolving project. We encourage young researchers and clinicians not only to study its contents but also to expand on the topics that interest them most, cultivating their expertise in vascular medicine with the passion and dedication that this fascinating field deserves. We also invite suggestions and proposals from specialists for the next edition (planned every 5 years). Though this is a well-structured initiative, it remains open to innovation and contribution.

A book is a “meeting place for minds.” It is not rendered obsolete by new technologies but instead transformed, also available as an e-book, and serving as a stimulus for future collaborative experiences. It supports other ongoing and future educational and action-based projects that form part of VAS's

commitment and goals linked to the WHO and the EU's broader health and equity vision and plans, and to the UEMS for quality accreditation.

We extend our gratitude to all the contributing authors, as well as to ISL and ESL, for their constant support in pursuing our shared goals.

We also thank our colleagues—both junior and senior—whose dedication energizes the departments, units, centers, and outpatient clinics of angiology/vascular medicine across all countries. Their unwavering commitment brings expertise and humanity to the care and prevention of vascular diseases under all, often difficult, circumstances.

We continue to work toward increasing institutional and health system attention to vascular diseases and toward securing recognition of angiology/vascular medicine as an official specialty across the EU and globally, in response to the needs of patients, the general population, and the scientific evidence.

The editors, together with the VAS boards and committees, hope you find this book stimulating and inspiring, an opportunity to strengthen and coordinate our collective efforts through broad, stable, and creative collaborations. Together, we can achieve ambitious shared goals, contribute to transforming healthcare, and ensure access to qualified prevention, appropriate care, and the respectful integration of technology with human and social needs.

On behalf of the book editors and the VAS boards

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