



Introducing WoCoVA!

World Congress of Vascular Access

Amsterdam June 16th-18th 2010

Mark your calendars for June 16-18, 2010 when the first World Congress for Vascular Access will be held in the beautiful city of Amsterdam! A Conference Committee with representatives from countries around the world is actively working on content and theme. It will be multidisciplinary and multi-professional in scope and feature world class speakers who will address a broad scope of issues. Dr. Mauro Pittiruti from Italy is heading up the team planning the scientific content and to date, 16 countries have been invited to submit a speaker from their region. WoCoVA will be looking for sponsorship and invites all interested businesses, especially those who have or are building an international franchise, to participate. A foundation has been formed in Amsterdam to manage the project under the name of WoCoVA and the web site is www.wocova.com. Ton van Boxtel, longtime AVA member, has been instrumental in the formation of this endeavor.

Why WoCoVA?

In 2003 NAVAN, the National Association of Vascular Access was renamed AVA, the Association for Vascular Access, to recognize the growing number of international members and to acknowledge the Annual Conference in Canada in 2004. Since that time, an ongoing key strategy for AVA has been to expand our international presence. Various committees through the ensuing years have dedicated time and resources to examine how this might be accomplished. It has been evident that trying to create "Networks" similar to those we have here in the US would be a very difficult task. In addition many countries have their own professional organizations and want to retain their autonomy. Of intense interest worldwide, however, is the need for sharing information and opportunities and having access to resources. Thus, the idea of an independent international conference was proposed.

AVA will participate in this congress to create greater visibility within the international vascular access community and to identify opportunities for collaboration and affiliation in the many areas of education, publishing, certification, etc. in which AVA excels. This conference is a very exciting opportunity for all parties involved in vascular access around the world. It is hoped that this will be the first of many WoCoVA conferences to occur in coming years in different international locations. Additional information will be available at the WoCoVA section of the AVA booth at the upcoming conference in Las Vegas. *—Josie Stone, Global Strategy Council*