

INTRODUCTION

Over the past decade, I have been amazed at the growth in the field of vascular anomalies. The recognition of vascular birthmarks as a defined area of medicine is a relatively recent event. The International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies (ISSVA) was founded by Drs John Mulliken and Anthony Young in the late 1970s. Mulliken and Glowacki's sentinel 1982 paper on the biologic classification of vascular anomalies further established the field, by providing clarity of nomenclature and unifying concepts that had previously been lacking.¹

Since then, the field has grown exponentially through genetic discoveries, updated and expanded classification, and novel therapies. Dermatologists, in particular pediatric dermatologists, have played an integral role in advancing our understanding and management approaches to these challenging entities. However, vascular anomalies demand multispecialty expertise; a wide range of medical and surgical disciplines have made major contributions to the field.

With this in mind, many academic and pediatric centers have now assembled teams of multiple subspecialists to manage patients with complicated vascular anomalies. It is exciting to see this model of interdisciplinary collaboration emerging as the standard of practice for these patients, as it provides them with a medical home, strengthens our collective knowledge base, and inspires new research.

In this issue of *Seminars in Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery*, we have compiled up-to-date reviews by many well-known experts in the field. This includes a thorough discussion of infantile hemangiomas, potential complications, and associated structural anomalies. Other manuscripts are dedicated to the genetic basis of vascular anomalies and overgrowth syndromes. Rare vascular tumors, malformations, and an in-depth examination of histopathology are also included. Finally, manuscripts outlining the clinical conundrum of multifocal vascular anomalies and potential mimickers are discussed.

I thank all contributing authors, as well as my many mentors in the field for their hard work and inspiration. We hope this comprehensive series of manuscripts will be helpful to dermatologists as well as other subspecialists who care for patients with vascular birthmarks.

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1. Mulliken JB, Glowacki J. Hemangiomas and vascular malformations in infants and children: a classification based on endothelial characteristics. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 1982;69(3):412-422.