



# Letter from the President

J. Hudson Garrett Jr.



In this era of healthcare reform, certified healthcare professionals play a unique role in delivering high quality patient care, improving outcomes, and reducing costs of healthcare delivery. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement has developed the Triple Aim concept, which is the basis for today's healthcare reform practices. The three principles are to improve patient satisfaction, improve

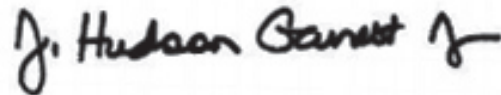
the health of a population, and reduce the per capita cost of healthcare delivery. This model has been instituted in a variety of healthcare systems nationwide with tremendous success. Certified healthcare professionals continue to be recognized as the preferred healthcare providers due to their expertise in their specialty, demonstrated through the professional certification process.

The Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) is very excited about the upcoming AVA Scientific Meeting taking place September 7-10 in National Harbor, MD. VACC will be offering the opportunity for international colleagues to take

the certification examination at local testing centers. Please make sure that you stop by our booth to learn about the latest happenings and to purchase the newly updated certification pins which allow you to proudly display your credentials.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued commitment to professional certification in Vascular Access and your dedication to advancing this specialty. We encourage you to regularly visit our website, [www.vacert.org](http://www.vacert.org), to receive the latest updates on the Vascular Access Certification Corporation. In addition, if you are interested in participating as a volunteer on our testing committees, please complete an application on our [website](http://www.vacert.org).

Warmest regards,



J. Hudson Garrett Jr., PhD, MSN, MPH, FNP-BC,  
CSRN, VA-BC™  
President, Board of Directors  
Vascular Access Certification Corporation

## Stay in Touch: Keep Contact Information Current

Want to stay current on VACC news, testing information, conferences and new programs?

Take a moment now to ensure your [profile information](#) is up to date or visit our home page and use the "Update Profile" button in the upper left corner.

[update profile](#)

### Don't worry: we hate spam too!

We will protect your information just like our own, and never sell your contact information to outside groups. Update your profile now to ensure you receive timely information.

Be sure to add our email address [info@vacert.org](mailto:info@vacert.org) to your contacts list so you never miss an update.

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# VACC Partner Certificate Breeds Confidence

Whether you're a new employee or a seasoned veteran like Joleen Weihs, Regional Sales Director for PDI, there's good information for all in the [Vascular Access Industry Partner™ certificate program](#).

"It's a great refresher for people who have been in the industry for a long time. Continuing education is critical to ensure we understand our clinicians' procedures and protocols," Weihs said. "Vascular Access encompasses a wide range of needs. Because of that, there are a lot of protocols and procedures we need to understand in order to work more effectively with our customers. The training breaks the information into modules that build on each other so you see how all the parts relate. It's an excellent way to provide information for people new to the industry as well as more experienced associates." PDI provides innovative products, educational resources, training and support to prevent infection transmission and promote health and wellness.

Designed to educate industry professionals about vascular access, VACC's program emphasizes terminology, types of devices, uses, complications with vascular access and the unique issues facing special populations.

"When you can understand the 'why' behind what your clients' needs are, you can be a better consultant to them . . . That's what makes VACC's program so beneficial."

- Joleen Weihs, Regional Sales Director, PDI

Weihs noted the program is easy to use, easy to navigate, and is not your stereotypical "slide show" presentation. "The narration didn't read the slides to you – but rather provided good information above and beyond what was on the slide, which kept it engaging."

As a leader, Weihs has seen benefits for her associates in a number of areas in that they have been able to understand what the client organization was trying to accomplish and help them achieve their goals. "They're asking better questions, really understanding the client's goals and challenges," through knowledge, education and providing the best solutions will help organizations make the changes needed.

In the medical field, there is nothing like solid training and information to help industry professionals work more productively with their clinician counterparts. Associate understanding and confidence can never be under estimated. "The old saying "knowledge is power" is really true – especially for people in sales or on the front line – those dealing directly with the customer. Associates have more confidence because of their training. They're able to engage in good conversations with clinicians who have decades of experience and tremendous knowledge. Overall, it's been a very empowering experience for them," she said.

To learn more about the [Vascular Access Industry Partner™ certificate program](#) and how it might help your organization, contact us at: Lois Davis at [info@vacert.org](mailto:info@vacert.org).



## VACC Certification Brochures Available for Organizational Use

Planning for an AVA network meeting, certification fair or professional advancement awareness program in conjunction with your Human Resources counterparts? Or maybe you're a manager looking for ways to encourage growth among your facility's colleagues? The Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) has brochures just for your use in these situations. The brochures explain what the certification is and

why it is a career enhancement/investment for your employees or staff.

Simply email [info@vacert.org](mailto:info@vacert.org) with your requests and the number of brochures you'd like and we'll mail these to you. For easy access, professionals can also download a pdf version to be printed by [clicking here](#).

# Changes to VA-BC™ Certification

New changes to the VA-BC™ renewal will impact how you might be planning your continuing education credits for the upcoming years.

Today's requirements allow certified individuals to earn their 30 recertification hours during the three year recertification time period. This eliminates the need to earn five continuing education credits each year for three years.

**As a reminder, all continuing education hours must:**

1) Be directly related to Vascular Access (save the program handbook or guide for your records)

2) Come from a nationally-approved or recognized continuing education provider (you must save your CE certificates for your records)

3) Come from more than one source (for example, all 30 hours cannot be received from attending one conference or completing continuing education courses online)

The [VACC Recertification handbook](#) provides additional detailed information about the recertification process; there is also a free tracking tool to help you keep track of the various CE credits you earn. These resources can be found at [www.vacert.org](http://www.vacert.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact us at [info@vacert.org](mailto:info@vacert.org).

## Get Pinned!

Now that you've made the commitment to enhancing your vascular access knowledge – show your commitment and pride with a new VA-BC™ Pin!



The newly redesigned gold pin is 1" diameter, displaying your professional expertise in the field of Vascular Access.

With a choice of a butterfly pin fastener or a magnetic backing, clients, colleagues, patients, and other clinicians will be assured of your professionalism and commitment to safe patient care.

[Click here](#) for more product and ordering information.

## 2014 Vascular Access Certification Corporation Board of Directors

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# Certification: December Test Registration Deadline Approaches

Hit 2015 running by investing in yourself and your career. You can become one of the more than 2,000 professionals who have already become board certified in Vascular Access.

In the back to school spirit? Why not take advantage of that mode by registering for the Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) Exam?

Administered by VACC, certification exams are offered only twice a year. The December testing registration deadlines are just around the corner!

## December Certification Testing Dates

### EARLY REGISTRATION

(AVA member price: \$300. Non-member price: \$400)\*

**September 1st -  
September 20th**

### FINAL REGISTRATION

(AVA member price: \$375. Non-member price: \$475)\*

**September 21st -  
October 15th**

### TESTING TIME FRAME

**December 1st -  
December 31st**

\*Consider joining AVA by reviewing its membership [benefits](#) and [applying](#).

Be sure to check our [Important Dates and Deadlines Page](#) that is found under our “Take the Exam” tab. Once you’ve registered there are additional details you’ll need to address in order take your exam.

For complete information on eligibility requirements and to review the detailed exam content outline, please refer to our [Important Dates and Deadlines Page](#) for full details or to our extensive [FAQs page](#).

If taking a registering for the December test is just too soon, don’t worry. Registration for the June exam starts March 1, 2015. For more questions, please feel free to contact us at [info@vacert.org](mailto:info@vacert.org).

## Socialize with Us!

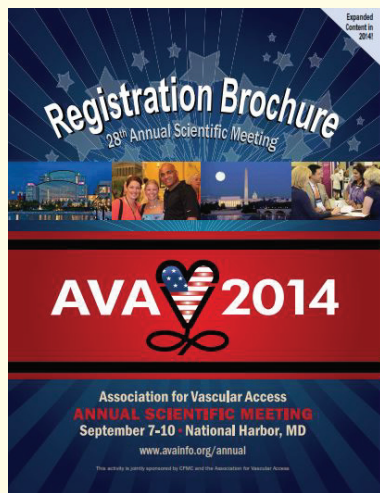
Don’t wait for the next quarterly newsletter to get your dose of timely news from VACC! Join your colleagues in learning about the latest developments and ongoing updates.

You can catch up with all things VACC by following our Company Page on [Linked In](#) or [Facebook](#) Groups. Our Facebook Community is a closed group: just click on “Join Group: and you’ll be granted access as quickly as possible.





Association for Vascular Access  
**ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**  
September 7-10 • National Harbor, MD



## *Reserve Your Room*



**Gaylord National Resort  
& Convention Center**



## *Take home the knowledge you gain!*

As part of your meeting registration, you'll receive complimentary access to the official AVA 2014 Mobile App. Not only can you access the meeting schedule and updates, but you can download all of the presentation slides and poster abstracts and take notes on the slides. Share the clinical knowledge you gain with fellow employees by sharing the proceeding slides with your notes. The AVA 2014 Mobile App will be available for download late August.

## **AVA 2014 Educational Sessions Now Online!**

Explore the outstanding educational sessions featuring the latest vascular access research and case studies presented by leading experts in the field at AVA 2014. Review these great educational opportunities through the Online Program Planner and the Registration Brochure.

## **World Class Speakers**

When they speak, the vascular access decision makers listen. Now you can too. Learn from world renowned experts at AVA 2014 as they share their experiences, knowledge and insight. AVA 2014 is proud to highlight some of these speakers:

### **KEYNOTE:**

#### **Footprints: Follow Them, Create Them, Leave Them**

Matthew D. Ostroff, RN, BSN, VA-BC™, CRNI, CPUI, CEN  
Vascular Access Coordinator, St. Joseph's Hospital

### **GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS:**

#### **The Changing Landscape of Patient Safety**

Tejal K. Gandhi, MD, MPH, CPPS  
President, National Patient Safety Foundation

#### **Venous Thrombosis: The Elephant in the Room for Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters**

Vineet Chopra, MD, MSc, Scott Trerotola, MD, R. Scott Evans, MS, PhD, FACMI

#### **The Downside of Vascular Access: Difficult Insertions and Complications**

Jack LeDonne, MD

## **AVA 2014 also offers:**

**Pre-meeting workshops** that provide in-depth knowledge by focusing on skill-building topics.

- Ultrasound Guided Central and Arterial Access: Advancing Vascular Access
- Ultrasound Guided Peripheral IV Program
- Promoting Quality Through Prevention and Management of Pediatric VAD Related Risks
- As the World Turns: Impact on Vascular Access
- Vascular Access Certification Review
- Vascular Access 101 for Industry Professionals

## **Dedicated pediatric track**

We have 15 sessions dedicated to pediatric vascular access, including: how to develop a pediatric VAT, insertion and management of VADs in complex patients, the challenges and benefits of implementing US for PICC insertions in neonatal patients, novel strategies to care for the unique needs of pediatric patient populations, and the current research on VAD related thrombosis.

*Register Today!*

## **SUBMISSION DATES FOR UPCOMING VACC NEWSLETTERS:**

November 1 deadline for submissions for December issue

## **Vascular Access Certification Corporation (VACC) Quarterly Newsletter**

Published by: The Board of Directors for VACC

This newsletter is designed to be your source for the most up-to-date information about the certification process and other education programs offered by VACC.

We welcome comments and feedback regarding our content. Submissions for announcements, articles, or potential training opportunities may be directed to Lois Davis at [lois.davis@vacert.org](mailto:lois.davis@vacert.org). All letters and articles submitted will become the property of VACC and may be published on a space available basis.

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