Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

The Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society was born from a simple idea. In the mid-1970s, Dr. John Bergan of Northwestern envisioned a society that would bring the vascular surgeons of our region together, and in 1977 our founding president, Dr. Emerick Szilagyi, opened our first annual meeting at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. The surgeons in that room helped build the foundations of modern vascular surgery.

This past September, we celebrated our 50th Annual Meeting back where it all began, at the Drake. To everyone who joined us, thank you for helping make the milestone so memorable. Those of you who were there felt what makes MVSS special. It is big enough to showcase outstanding scholarly work and connect us with the wider vascular community, yet small enough that a first-time resident presenter can find themselves talking with the leaders of our field. For fifty years, it has been where each generation of Midwestern vascular surgeons hands the work on to the next.

There has never been a more exciting time to practice vascular surgery. Our field is evolving quickly, and our success depends on people as much as technology. MVSS is a place to connect with colleagues, collaborate, and learn from others who understand the challenges we face, with opportunities for students, residents, fellows, advanced practice providers, and practicing vascular surgeons alike.

Thank you to Dr. Ross Milner for his leadership as our 48th President, and to our Executive Council, Committees, and amazing administrative staff for their tireless work. It is a privilege to serve as the 49th President of the Society our founders created, and I hope you'll join us for our 51st Annual Meeting, September 9 – 11, 2027, in Detroit, to share new ideas, celebrate our members and reconnect with friends.

Warm regards,

Rachael Nicholson, MD
49th President, Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society