



## News Release

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September 15, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **VA North Texas HCS researchers present study on use of medicated stents to treat blockages in saphenous vein bypass grafts**

DALLAS – Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System researchers [Dr. Emmanouil Brilakis](#) and [Dr. Subhash Banerjee](#) will be presenting their study, SOS - Stenting Of Saphenous Vein Grafts at the annual Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics symposium in Washington DC, on October 14, 2008.

Coronary artery bypass graft surgery is frequently performed to treat coronary artery disease, especially in the veteran population. Vein grafts are used in almost all coronary artery bypass graft surgeries but often develop difficult to treat blockages. SOS is the first prospective randomized-controlled clinical trial that examines the role of paclitaxel-eluting stents (a type of medicated stents) to treat blockages in saphenous vein grafts.

The first multi-center trial of its kind, SOS represents a coordinated effort among 5 medical centers to address this challenging clinical problem - Dallas VA Medical Center (coordinating center); John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital, Little Rock; Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston; Iowa City VAMC; and the Onassis Cardiac Surgery Center in Greece. The study was supported by the Clark R. Gregg Fund of the Harris Methodist Health Foundation and by a Department of Veteran Affairs VISN 17 startup award to Dr. Brilakis.

The Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics symposium hosts global experts in the area of cardiac intervention and is the primary means by which state-of-the-art techniques and training are disseminated around the world. Drs. Brilakis and Banerjee's study represents VANTHCS's dedication to improving care for our veterans.

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