



Photo courtesy of Michael Morykwas

Louis Argenta

Vacuum Assisted Closure® (V.A.C.®)

U.S. PATENT NO. 5,645,081: Method of treating tissue damage and apparatus for same

Inducted in 2026 Born: Dec. 28, 1942

Primary Connections:

- Renovo Concepts Inc.: Co-Founder, Medical Director, 2017-present
- Wake Forest University School of Medicine: Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Chair, 1988-2008; Professor of Surgery, 1988-2022; Professor of Surgery, Emeritus, 2022-present
- University of Michigan Medical Center, Section of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery: Associate Professor of Surgery; Interim Head, 1973-88

Education:

- University of Michigan: B.S., Zoology, 1965
- University of Michigan School of Medicine: M.D., 1969

Military Service:

- U.S. Navy Medical Corps, 1970-73

Key Memberships/Awards:

- American College of Surgeons: Jacobson Innovation Award, 2016
- Wake Forest University: Medallion of Merit, 2015
- American Association of Plastic Surgeons: Achievement Award for Clinical Research, 2013
- The Plastic Surgery Foundation: Outstanding Achievement in Basic and Translational Research Award, 2012
- Wake Forest University School of Medicine: Distinguished Faculty Award, 2010

Louis Argenta and Michael Morykwas co-invented the medical device known as Vacuum Assisted Closure (V.A.C.). Using controlled suction to draw excess fluid from a wound, it promotes the wound's closure and encourages the growth of new tissue. V.A.C. therapy has been used to help millions of patients worldwide by treating a wide range of difficult-to-heal wounds, from surgical wounds to diabetic ulcers and burns.



Full Bio: <https://www.invent.org/inductees/louis-argenta>

Things You Should Know:

- Argenta was born in Detroit in 1942 to parents who had immigrated to the U.S. from Italy.
- Growing up, he found it inspiring to watch people repair household items in Detroit's "fix-it" shops.
- Encouraged by his family's emphasis on education, he graduated from high school in 1961 as both valedictorian and class president.
- Beginning in 1970, he served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps for three years, including two years at sea.
- He was awarded a craniofacial fellowship in Paris, France, with Paul Tessier, who was the world's foremost craniofacial surgeon.
- In 1988, he established a department of plastic surgery at Wake Forest University, where he specialized in treating the most challenging cases.
- Argenta got the idea for the V.A.C. when he needed a solution for a patient who was expected to die, and he worked with his co-inventor Morykwas to develop a prototype.
- In a study involving 300 human patients, 296 experienced favorable wound healing following V.A.C. treatment.
- Patented in 1997, the V.A.C. since has been used to treat more than 20 million patients, and the V.A.C. is commonly used on U.S. military personnel with traumatic wounds.
- For more than 30 years, Argenta and his family have made medical missions around the world.