



Dear **VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL** friends,

As the year is coming to an end, we take the opportunity to look back on the past months. For VI, it has been a particularly positive and eventful year. Once again, we were represented at many important international congresses, for example the EVC in Maastricht, the CX Meeting in London, the SVS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, the "Dreiländertagung" in Linz, the "Wiener Gefäßgespräche" and the 3<sup>rd</sup> MAC in Munich.

In April 2013, we took another innovative step and presented the first pulsatile arm model for shunt surgery. This model is absolutely unique worldwide and was immediately met with great interest by North American specialists, among them Ingemar Davidson from Dallas. Matthias Widmer from Bern did an excellent job here and significantly expanded our "portfolio" with the support of **ATRIUM/MAQUET**. Our first VI Vascular Access Course then took place in Sarnen, Switzerland, in November and received highly positive feedback.

Efficient training courses are gaining importance not only in Europe and North America, but obviously also in the Middle East. At the invitation of the Training Department of Postgraduate Medical Education of Prince Sultan Military Medical City, a strong team of VI tutors conducted a four-day open and endovascular training course in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for the first time in February 2013. The entire VI team was positively surprised by the professionalism and seriousness displayed in the advanced training of VAS surgeons in Saudi Arabia.

The German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) are also absolutely convinced of the high quality of VI courses and the increase in competence thus gained. This year, even two special courses on the topic "Competence in emergency vascular surgery for non-vascular surgeons" were held under the supervision of Klaus Klemm and Dr. Michael Engelhardt, Colonel, Medical Corps, of the German Armed Forces Hospital Ulm. These VI special courses, which are tailored to damage-control surgery, have also formed an integral part of the advanced training programme of the German Armed Forces as of this year. These courses, some of which are held in English, were also offered to other NATO states.

Another novelty was the course on focusing vessel sonography for surgeons, which we conducted in cooperation with the ICAN (intensive care, surgery, anaesthesia, emergency medicine) department of the Swiss Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (SGUM) in Lucerne in November 2013. This course, which was held for the first time and on our part organised by Robert Seelos, was fully booked with 40 participants within a very short period of time. Thanks to all those involved and also to Prof. Peter Stierli, who had approached us on behalf of the ICAN department of SGUM.

Our efforts to advance at all levels are also reflected by the new appearance of our website. You will see that not only has the website been adapted to our corporate design, but also improvements have been made in navigation and course registration.

However, none of these milestones would have been possible without the untiring commitment, the know-how and the passion for education of the entire VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL team. Toni Meile deserves special mention: he realised our courses with great organisational skill and, together with our technicians, also ensures outside the courses that the models are ready for use at any time. Many thanks to our model & inlay suppliers for their reliable deliveries and for always providing the highest quality. I would also like to extend my special thanks to Karin Assadian, whose successful public relations work has significantly raised awareness of our activities among many colleagues and partners. The heart of our courses, however, are our tutors, who are often the most important contacts for our course participants. We also thank our industry partners, who have again provided us with essential support in many areas in 2013. The passion for vascular surgery and the responsibility for the wellbeing of our patients is what connects all of us. Let's continue to shape the future together!

I wish you and your relatives a joyous holiday season and all the best for 2014!

Yours, 

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Hans-Henning Eckstein  
President VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL, Munich, Germany

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## NEWS



### Website relaunch for VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL (VI)

After months of intensive work our newly designed website [www.vascular-international.org](http://www.vascular-international.org) finally went online – in new design and adapted to our corporate identity, the navigation is user-friendlier. Course registration and administration have also been simplified. Picture galleries now complete the reports of past courses.

We appreciate your feedback and comments, please send them to [info@vascular-international.org](mailto:info@vascular-international.org)!



## REVIEW & CONVENTION PREVIEW

### First Vascular Access-Workshop for shunt surgery Sarnen, Switzerland

The new VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL (VI) arm model, developed in cooperation with **ATRIUM/MAQUET** this year, was used for the first time: From 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November the first workshop took place. Various access paths for patients in need of hemodialysis were trained. Besides arterio-venous fistulae, transpositions of veins on the forearm as well as on the upper arm, the implantation of plastic prostheses were demonstrated. The course participants' feedback was exceptionally valuable.

[Learn more](#)

### EVC Maastricht 2014

VI workshops are again one of the highlights of the EVC Maastricht. From 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May this vascular convention takes place for the 18th time in the Netherlands and offers a platform for intensive scientific dialogue in addition to the opportunity of intensive training on VI simulation models under the guidance of VI tutors.

[Learn more](#)



## PREVIEW



### Course programme spring 2014

Find [here](#) an overview of all courses or 

13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014

### Practical anatomy on cadavers Zurich

The one-day course focuses on the exposition of the popliteal artery, the tibio-fibular trunk and the three arteries of the lower leg. Cutting down to all lower limb arteries on formalin-free specially prepared human cadaver legs (stained blood vessels) can be performed in a realistic way. The course is highly recommended for trainees having some experience in lower limb revascularisation. Head Tutors are Bettina Marty, Fribourg, Jürg Schmidli, Berne, and Oliver Ullrich, Zurich. Attendance limited to 14 participants!

[Learn more](#)



19-25 January, 2014

### Pontresina Basic course & Masterclass

Pontresina *Few course places left!*

The "vascular surgical school – Pontresina" offers the possibility to learn and train all vascular basic techniques at its three-day basic course 19-21 January. The course also includes theory sessions and is especially designed for surgeons in training of all surgical fields.

The Masterclass workshops on 22-25 January provide excellent hands-on experience on pulsatile realistic models (to perform open straightforward and complex aortic repair, endovascular aortic reconstruction, carotid endarterectomy and distal bypass surgery) and virtual simulators (for carotid, iliac and renal interventions). One tutor instructs a maximum of three to four course participants.

[Learn more](#)



23-24 May, 2014

### Vascular surgical basic techniques & 2nd practical course for shunt surgery in cooperation with VAS

Stuttgart

On 23-24 May VI tutors will train at the Marienhospital in Stuttgart. During the two-day basic course and under the guidance of Klaus Klemm and Johannes Gahlen, surgeons in training of all disciplines can practise anastomosis and suture techniques on lifelike models. To offer highest quality, trainings on simulators are reduced to a maximum of two participants.

At the same time, the first VI course for shunt surgery is offered in cooperation with Vascular Access at the Marienhospital from 23-24 May. Under the new VI arm model is used to perform various access paths for patients in need of hemodialysis. Besides arterio-venous fistulae, transposition of veins on the forearm as well as on the upper arm, the implantation of plastic prostheses will be performed. The workshop is especially designed for young as well as experienced vascular and general surgeons.

[Learn more](#)



VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL thanks all its industry partners for their commitment and support which enable VI to fulfill its mission to offer high quality training for vascular surgeons serving the patient's needs!

## INFORMATION & CONTACT

VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD  
A. Assadian, H.-H. Eckstein, L. Gürke, H. Kiser, K. Klemm, T. Meile, J. Schmidli, H. Schumacher

SUPPORTING SOCIETIES  
Swiss Society for Vascular Surgery (SSG)  
European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS)  
Division of Vascular Surgery of UEMS

CME-CREDITS  
CME, EVCME points /credits will be provided

### REGISTRATION COURSES

Online registration: [www.vascular-international.org](http://www.vascular-international.org)  
You can easily pay per PayPal, Mastercard, Visa, American Express. In case of technical problems while registering please contact [admin@vascular-international.org](mailto:admin@vascular-international.org)

For course-descriptions, more details go to [www.vascular-international.org](http://www.vascular-international.org) or simply contact [info@vascular-international.org](mailto:info@vascular-international.org)

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