



Dear VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL friends,

traditionally, the year of VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL (VI) starts for us with the annual Pontresina courses that always take place in January. Pontresina, a well-known Swiss village close to St. Moritz, not only offers a perfect infrastructure with its congress centre Rondo, but also has symbolic power – after all, VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL has always been headquartered in Switzerland. It is the spiritual source of the triumph of the simulation training in vascular surgery. From Pontresina, London, Maastricht and many other European cities to New York and Riyadh – the VI courses are now held internationally in many important places.

In Pontresina we felt again very clearly that there is more behind VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL than just a theoretical concept of future- and patient-safety-oriented training and further education. The reason is that our simulation training lives on the interaction of all people present. The course participants meet VI tutors – some of them have been part of the programme for 24 years – who are vascular surgeons with heart and soul. They give the course participants a little more than just knowledge and techniques: they show what it means to dedicate one's life to surgery.

Then, of course, there are the cooperation partners: as soon as they have witnessed the training concept of Pontresina, they become enthusiastic about VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL. And let's not forget all the helping hands in the organisation behind and in front of the scenes, who make the high quality of the courses, for which VI is appreciated, possible in the first place. What connects them all is the conviction that simulation training is an excellent teaching concept that involves passion and absolute commitment for vascular medicine – just like our slogan *Passion for Education* says!

However, it is not only concepts and passion that make VI successful. Quality all along the line – equally in the development of the simulation models and the didactic contents of the training modules – is a matter of course. As scientifically thinking and working vascular surgeons, it is a must for us to critically scrutinise and evaluate things. This is the only way to make constant further development possible. Part of this is also a change in the organisational structure – like the four-year rotation of the position of VI president.

In this sense, Pontresina is a place for us which not only introduces a new year in our VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL calendar, but where the course for the future is set, too. After successful years at the top of VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL, Hans-Henning Eckstein has handed over the function of the president to me. The trust of the VI board is a great honour for me. I would like to thank Hans-Henning Eckstein for his untiring commitment during the past years as president. Many things that almost seem to be natural at VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL today have been organised and established over the years.

I look forward to new joint objectives and most of all to the coming year when we prepare the celebration of the 25th anniversary of VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL in 2016. I may already assure you: dare to be excited! There will be a number of interesting surprises.

Kindly,



Jürg Schmidli
VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL President
Chief of Vascular Surgery
Department of Cardiovascular Surgery Inselspital Bern
ESVS President Elect

■ REVIEW

PONTRESINA 2015

The traditional Pontresina courses, the basic course and master class, took place again at the Rondo from 18 to 24 January 2015. Open vascular surgical basic techniques and complex open and endovascular aorta and carotid interventions were part of the programme. On the basis of pulsatile simulation models, a total of 70 participants from around the world experienced realistic surroundings of an intervention. However, they were trained in a stress-free environment and under the guidance of experienced VI tutors with original material. Many international guests, among them the UEMS general secretary Dr. Armando Mansilha, joined them. Cooperation and industrial partners as well as all course participants were very equally enthusiastic about the high quality of the VI training concept.

[Read more](#)

■ PREVIEW



**8-10 March 2015
EVC Maastricht**

In cooperation with [Maquet](#), VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL will be represented again with hands-on courses for open and endovascular surgery at this year's EVC Maastricht Meeting. The number of participants for the European Master Class Module is limited to 24. In addition to endovascular basic techniques, pelvic and aortoiliac stenting and more will be trained.

[More on programme and registration](#)

**28 April - 1 May 2015
Charing Cross London**

The VI hands-on courses in the specially equipped Maquet training pavilion at the CX Meeting in London will also focus on open and endovascular surgery. After a short theory introduction the course participants are trained in basic and complex vascular surgical interventions. Stent grafting will also be part of the programme. The participants will receive a course certificate.

[More information](#)

**8-9 May 2015
Basic techniques of vascular surgery
Marienhospital Stuttgart**

For the sixth time, the two-day basic course offers the opportunity to young surgeons of all subjects to learn vascular surgical basic techniques consisting of theory and practical training side by side with renowned vascular surgical specialists at the Marienhospital Stuttgart. Through intensive training on the proven and realistic VI models, the participants are trained in anastomosis and suture techniques. One model will be available for two participants per workstation. In addition, theoretical basic knowledge (reconstruction principles, suture material, instruments etc.) will be taught.

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■ NEWS

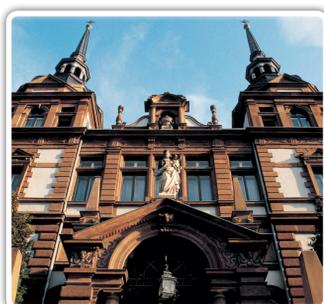
VI tutor Matthias Widmer is going to present his textbook "Patient Safety in Dialysis Access" on 26 February 2015 within the scope of a book launch in Bern. Matthias Widmer is senior physician at the vascular surgery department at the Inselspital/ University Hospital Bern. As a shunt specialist he was involved to a significant extent in the development of the VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL arm model. The textbook was sponsored by VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL and co-authored by further VI tutors.

Due to the high quality of the VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL simulation models, they will also be used in the practical exam for the European medical specialist at the UEMS. The premiere will be at this year's EVC Maastricht Meeting in March: Up to 30 candidates will face the commission consisting of 50 assessors and show their skills in aneurysm interventions, an anastomosis on the lower leg and a carotid intervention at VI models.



**Course programme
2015 - 2016**

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



VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL thanks all its industry partners for their commitment und 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 (SGG)
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
You can easily pay per PayPal, Mastercard, Visa, American Express. In case of technical problems while registering please contact admin@vascular-international.org

For course-descriptions, more details go to www.vascular-international.org or [f](#) or simply contact info@vascular-international.org

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