



**Dear VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL friends,**

The Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes/European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) was created in 1958, and since its foundation the main objectives are to promote the highest level of patient care in the European Union (EU), to promote the harmonization of high-quality training programs within the various specialities throughout the EU and to facilitate the free exchange of training and work of trainees and medical specialists between the various country members.

In 2004, in Lisbon, the Section of Vascular Surgery became independent and separate and in accordance to the statutes of the UEMS Section and Board of Vascular Surgery (SBVS): "The main objective is to guarantee the highest standards of care in the field of the Vascular Surgery in the countries of the EU, by ensuring that the training of the specialist doctor is raised to the highest possible level".

There are large differences in requirements and length of training in Vascular Surgery within the EU concerning the minimum training required (range 5-9 years), the program accreditation and trainee certification (national association, speciality society, government, university, speciality board, and the general medical councils etc.) and the national exit examinations required (written, oral, case load), which stresses the importance of harmonization in training and certification in Vascular Surgery within the EU.

The motivations to organize the European Examinations by our Section and Board of Vascular Surgery are: to harmonize knowledge and skills, to indicate that the candidate has passed a structured training program, to guarantee a minimal level of competence and to promote exchange between countries by establishing this standard as a respected qualification and an European quality mark: FEBVS (Fellow of the European Board of Vascular Surgery).

In 2015, the UEMS SBVS decided to start using the VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL models for the open technical skills assessment. The candidates have to perform the following procedures in three different VI models: carotid endarterectomy, aortic anastomosis and distal anastomosis, using specific OSATS and ICEPS assessment tools. The consensus view of examiners and candidates was very positive due to the high quality of these VI simulators.

Yours,



**Prof. Armando Mansilha MD, PhD, FEBVS**  
Secretary General  
UEMS Section and Board of Vascular Surgery

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■ NEWS

An updated VI abdominal model with two pumps will be introduced at the first **advanced course for the German Armed Forces from 16 - 17 October 2015**. Special highlight: a venous return via a new "vena cava" is now possible for the pulsatile arterial flow of blood on the model. Through the enhanced model VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL offers further need-oriented course contents.

A well-rehearsed team of VI tutors of Vascular International School AG and the Clinic for Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at the hospital of the German Armed Forces in Ulm supports the participants throughout the entire hands-on course.

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■ REVIEW

**VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL at the Charing Cross in London**

From 28 April - 1 May, more than 100 participants from all over the world took the opportunity to practise the basics of endovascular surgery as well as the whole spectrum of open surgery. In MAQUET's impressive training pavilion in London, the course participants practised peripheral procedures, shunt surgery and complex procedures on the VI abdominal model.

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■ PREVIEW



**Course programme 2015 - 2016**

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

**September 4-5, 2015**  
**Therapy of aorto-iliac occlusive disease**  
Maquet Academy Rastatt

In times of modern hybrid ORs and mobile angiography, therapies are also getting more and more complex, for instance for the aorto-iliac occlusive disease. Additional to the innovative interventional techniques, surgeons have to master the whole spectrum of all conventional vascular operation techniques.

The two-day course focuses on this clinical picture and provides theoretical as well as practical knowledge on this topic.

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**October 9-10, 2015**  
**Principles of vascular surgery techniques for operative disciplines**  
Universität zu Lübeck

In cooperation with VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL, a basic course on "Principles of vascular surgery techniques for operative disciplines" will be held in Lübeck (Northern Germany) for the first time. The two-day hands-on course offers young surgeons the opportunity to learn the basics of vascular surgery techniques from prestigious vascular surgery experts. In teams of two, suturing techniques and anastomosis will be practised on realistic VI models. Additionally, theoretical basic principles on suture material, instruments and reconstruction will be provided.

[Read more](#)

**November 3, 2015 (1st course)**  
**November 4, 2015 (2nd course)**  
**Practical interventional course for MTRA and OR personnel**  
University Hospital Basel

This one-day course is designed for instrument nurses from the OR section as well as technical radiology experts. In short theory lessons basic information on contrast media, X-ray equipment and code of conduct, catheters, wires, stents etc. will be provided. On VI models the course participants practise puncture techniques (antegrade, retrograde), wire and catheter techniques, crossover manoeuvres, iliaco-femoral angioplasties, application of stents and grafts for arterial occlusion and aneurysmal diseases. The focus will be on the cooperation of interventionalists and assistants.

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**November 5-6, 2015**  
**EVAR Hands-on Course**  
University Hospital Basel

A modern and high-quality management of abdominal aortic aneurysmal disease is substantial. The two-day EVAR hands-on course aims to teach many of the basic and most important steps of endovascular aortic repair on true-to-life models and high-fidelity simulators in order to decrease the need to learn on patients and increase confidence with the procedure. This course was especially designed for radiologists, vascular surgeons, angiologists and teams (endovascular junior trainees).

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**November 24-25, 2015**  
**Focused vascular sonography – in cooperation with section ICAN of SGUM**  
University Hospital Basel

At this two-day course, VASCULAR INTERNATIONAL and the ICAN section of SGUM with the German course instructor Stefan Nöldeke teach the basics of ULTRASOUND examination and in particular of duplex ultrasound. Besides technical foundations, theoretical basics of ultrasound of the veins (thrombosis, endovenous therapy) and arteries (acute occlusions, aneurysms) are combined with practical exercises on the liver, aorta and the vessels of the lower leg.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: If you book and pay by 24 August, a 10 percent discount on the participation fee will be granted.

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**January 24-30, 2016**  
**Pontresina Basic course & Masterclass**  
Convention Centre Rondo, Pontresina

The prestigious "Vascular Surgery School" in Pontresina, Switzerland will again be held in the year 2016. Theoretical and practical vascular techniques can be obtained within the basic course and the masterclass. The three-day basic class covers the basic techniques of vascular surgery. This course is especially designed for trainees of all vascular fields. The three-day masterclass concentrates on intensive training of the complex aortic and carotid surgery on pulsatile models. The techniques used in this course provide an excellent preparation for the Fellowship of European Board of Vascular Surgery (FEBVS) Exam.

[Read more](#)

**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**  
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**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](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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