



American Heart Association®

Scientific Sessions

Scientific Sessions 2021 **FAQs, as of 09/16/21**

Q. Why did you make the decision to go fully virtual, what considerations went into the decision?

A. The Association is committed to creating a meaningful virtual event, based on the success of last year's Scientific Sessions, as well as its other digital-first meetings. Scientific Sessions 2021 will once again provide a robust and meaningful scientific exchange in an all-virtual format while ensuring this important content remains easily accessible to health care professionals and researchers worldwide.

The decision to shift to an all-digital experience - from the previously planned blend of in-person and virtual experiences - is a consequence of the continuing surge of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. This approach helps ensure the health and safety of Scientific Sessions attendees by reducing travel and multi-day, large public gatherings. Many health care professionals have been forced to suspend travel in order to attend to urgent patient and clinical needs in their home communities.

Q. Is this the first time Scientific Sessions has changed formats? this the first time the American Heart Association has held a fully virtual meeting?

A. The meeting typically draws thousands of scientists and medical professionals from around the world, and this year will mark the second time in nearly 100 years that Scientific Sessions will be fully virtual. Prior to last year's shift, we had a four-year hiatus during World War II, from 1943-1946.

We have held several successful scientific conferences virtually since May of 2020:

- Vascular Discovery: From Genes to Medicine 2020
- Quality of Care and Outcomes Research (QCOR) Scientific Sessions 2020
- Basic Cardiovascular Science Scientific Sessions 2020 and 2021
- Hypertension Scientific Sessions 2020
- Scientific Sessions 2020
- International Stroke Conference 2021
- EPI/Lifestyle 2021

Q. Will the meeting schedule remain the same - Saturday through Monday, Nov. 13-15?

A. The previously planned blend of in-person and virtual experiences are shifting to be fully virtual. The dates of the meeting remain the same: Saturday, November 13 through Monday, November 15, 2021, and all sessions planned will proceed unchanged.

The fully virtual format will provide the shared, collective experience both simultaneously and allowing for live interaction with speakers. Attendees will be able to access and hear the scientific information live as presented to all attendees. The program is being designed to ensure:

- Participation from anywhere in the world
- Connecting and engaging a wider global audience of health care professionals and researchers
- Basic, Clinical and Population Science Communities
- Late-Breaking Science
- COVID-19 Sessions
- Cardio-Oncology Sessions
- Health Equity and Disparities Sessions
- Early Career and FIT Programming

Q. What are the benefits of presenting Scientific Sessions virtually? What did you learn from last year's virtual meeting?

A. We had strong levels of engagement and participation in last year's virtual Scientific Sessions. We also heard from attendees that the virtual format allowed them much greater flexibility to participate in more Scientific Sessions events than ever before. The virtual format also opens the door for more speakers and presenters from around the world.

Q. Will everyone have to register for the meeting and what will the registration costs be for the virtual meeting?

A. Yes, everyone needs to register. Registration is open, and the registration fees will be \$199 for AHA members and \$349 for non-AHA members through Nov. 12. Registration on November 13 or later will be \$299 for AHA members and \$449 for non-members.

The registration fee for Early Career, Fellows in Training and Student attendees is \$99 regardless of registration date.

Q. How will my in-person + virtual registration be handled?

A. Registrants currently scheduled to attend the in-person event will be reimbursed the difference between the in-person fee and the virtual-only fee. Registrants are not required to call or email in this request; reimbursements will occur automatically. Please allow 6-8 weeks for all reimbursements to be processed; an email will be sent to each registrant confirming reimbursement.

Q. Will CME and MOC credits still be available in the virtual format?

A. Yes, both Continuing Medical Education and Maintenance of Certification credits will be available.

Q. Will the sessions be recorded and available on demand daily, after Scientific Sessions or will they be provided only in a live format?

A. Scientific Sessions 2021 programming will be presented in a combination of formats to include live, simulated-live and on-demand offerings.

Q. How will this change affect Late-Breaking Science abstracts?

A. All Late-Breaking Science has been submitted, and those abstracts are under review and in the selection process at this time.

Q. I reserved a hotel room in Boston, how will that be managed?

A. All hotel accommodations booked and secured in conjunction with Scientific Sessions will be cancelled. No action is required to cancel your hotel reservation; cancellations will occur automatically. Please allow 2-4 weeks for all cancellations to be processed; an email will be sent confirming the hotel cancellation.

If you made your hotel reservation outside of the AHA's official Scientific Sessions hotel reservation system, then you must cancel your reservation directly with the hotel.

Q. Will posters also be presented virtually?

A. Yes, digital poster presentations will be available during Scientific Sessions2021. Audio and video files will be included to support the digital poster presentations. Presenters and participants will have the ability to engage in live Q&A sessions via the ePoster platform.

Q. How will the change to a virtual meeting affect confirmed speakers?

A. Confirmed speakers will receive a communication by the end of next week regarding their role in the virtual event. They can send an email to: programparticipant@heart.org for assistance.

Q. What does the change to a virtual meeting mean for industry supporters, exhibitors and sponsors?

A. Scientific Sessions 2021 will provide opportunities for all of our industry supporters to interact with participants, similar to our offerings in 2020. The virtual Science and Technology Hall will provide opportunities for exhibitors to communicate about their products and services in innovative ways to:

- Unite your organization with top physicians, scientists and researchers in cardiology, stroke and related specialties;
- Position your organization as a pioneer in medicine that is targeting important therapies for cardiovascular disease and stroke; and
- Communicate your passion for science, innovation and lifelong learning.

Please contact exhibits@heart.org for more information.

Q. What does the change to a virtual meeting mean for additional events that are usually held during Scientific Sessions?

A. Scientific Sessions 2021 will include satellite events, networking experiences and many other opportunities for participants to engage with one another in the digital format. Stay tuned for more details as the virtual experience evolves.

Q. Will you have virtual news conferences for the media? When will media registration open?

A. Yes, news conferences featuring select Late Breaking Science studies will be available virtually for registered journalists representing accredited news outlets, as we have offered for several years. Media registration is open [here](#). Please send an email to AHACommunications@heart.org if you have any questions about the Scientific Sessions news program or media registration.