



American Heart Association®

Scientific Sessions

Scientific Sessions 2020

FAQs, as of 07/15/20

Q. Why did you make the decision to go 100% virtual, what considerations went into the decision?

A. This decision was made carefully and after thorough examination of all the risks and benefits – health and safety, travel restrictions, among many. The health and well-being of our members, participants and staff are our utmost priority.

Q. Is this the first time the American Heart Association has had to alter the format of Scientific Sessions?

A. We have held two successful specialty scientific conferences virtually since March:

- Vascular Discovery: From Genes to Medicine, May 5-7, 2020; and
- Quality of Care and Outcomes Research (QCOR) Scientific Sessions, May 15-16, 2020 (100% virtual).

We will hold two additional, 100% virtual meetings before Scientific Sessions:

- the Basic Cardiovascular Science Scientific Sessions, July 27-30, 2020; and
- the Hypertension Scientific Sessions, September 10-13, 2020.

The AHA's Scientific Sessions have not been altered previously, with the exception of a four-year hiatus during World War II, from 1943-1946.

Q. What are the plans for the program – will the meeting remain the same format of Saturday through Monday, up to 12 hours/day?

A. With these considerations in mind, the virtual Scientific Sessions will be held online from Friday, November 13 through Tuesday, November 17, 2020. This will maintain the shared, collective experience both simultaneously and allowing for live interaction with speakers. Attendees will be able to access to hearing the scientific information together with colleagues. The program is being designed to ensure:

- Participation from anywhere in the world
- Connecting and engaging with a wider global audience of your peers
- Basic, Clinical, and Population Science Communities
- Late-Breaking Science
- COVID-19 Hot Topic Sessions
- Cardio-Oncology Sessions
- Early Career and FIT Programming

Q. What are the benefits of presenting Scientific Sessions virtually? Does it have the potential to expand the audience to people who otherwise might not have access to the meeting?

A. We do hope that offering Scientific Sessions digitally during these unprecedented times will provide greater opportunity for participation, increasing our reach and impact. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the U.S. and the world, so the value and urgency of the global scientific research presented during our annual Scientific Sessions conference are critical.

Q. Will there be coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on cardiovascular and stroke care during the virtual program?

A. There are three COVID-19 abstract categories this year for regular abstract submissions: Basic Science and Pathophysiology

- Clinical Perspectives
- Epidemiology

As the science published to-date has confirmed, COVID-19 has a significant impact on the heart, and people with COVID-19 may have more severe strokes. We look forward to strong presentations during Scientific Sessions of the latest research on COVID-19 and cardiovascular disease and stroke.

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 will open in mid-August, and the registration fees will be \$99 for AHA members and \$199 for non-AHA members.

Q. Any changes to the abstracts and submission process this year?

A. Due to COVID-19, we have created a special submission for those who were unable to submit during the traditional abstract submission process. This submission period will be from July 27-August 14.

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 2020 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. At this time, the schedule for submissions for Late-Breaking Science will not change: the abstract submission deadline is August 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT.

Q. Will posters also be presented virtually?

A. Yes, digital poster presentations will be available during Scientific Sessions 2020. 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 this change 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 programparticipant@heart.org for assistance.

Q. What does this change mean for industry supporters - exhibitors and sponsors

A. Scientific Sessions 2020 will provide opportunities for all of our industry supporters to interact with participants. 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 this change mean for additional events that are usually held during Scientific Sessions?

A. Scientific Sessions 2020 will include satellite events, networking lounges and many other opportunities for participants to engage with one another. 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, we will present virtual news conferences featuring select Late Breaking Science studies for registered journalists representing accredited news outlets. Media registration opens in mid-August. Please send an email to ahacommunications@heart.org if you have any questions.