

## International Stroke Conference (ISC) 2021 FAQ's as of 10/28/2020

**Q. Why did you make the decision to change the dates from February to March 17-19, 2021?**

A. After discussions about the new processes implemented in the 100% virtual environment, we moved the meeting one month later in order to provide a seamless transition and the best possible virtual experience for our attendees. This will ensure our attendees receive a robust science program including the latest clinical trial results and an engaging exhibit experience comparable to an in-person meeting.

**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 continued examination of all the risks and benefits related to the global COVID-19 pandemic – 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 International Stroke Conference?**

A. We have held four successful scientific conferences virtually since March of 2020:

- Vascular Discovery: From Genes to Medicine, May 5-7, 2020
- Quality of Care and Outcomes Research (QCOR) Scientific Sessions, May 15-16, 2020
- Basic Cardiovascular Science Scientific Sessions, July 27-30, 2020
- Hypertension Scientific Sessions, September 10-13, 2020

We will hold one additional, 100% virtual conference in 2020:

- Scientific Sessions, November 13-17

**Q. What are the plans for the program – will the meeting remain the same format of Wednesday through Friday?**

A. Yes, the virtual International Stroke Conference will be held online from Wednesday, March 17 – Friday, March 19, 2021. This will maintain the shared, collective experience both simultaneously and allowing for live interaction with speakers. Attendees will be able to access hearing the information together with colleagues. The program is being designed to ensure it includes:

- Participation from anywhere in the world
- Connecting and engaging with a wider global audience of your peers
- Late-Breaking Science
- COVID-19 (NEW)
- Brain Health (NEW)
- Neuroendovascular (NEW)
- Advanced Practice Providers (NEW)
- Translational Basic Science (NEW)

**Q. What are the benefits of presenting the International Stroke Conference 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 ISC digitally during these unprecedented times will provide greater opportunity for participation, increasing our reach and impact. Stroke is the number two cause of death in the world, so the value and urgency of the global scientific research presented during our annual International Stroke Conference is critical.

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

There is a new COVID-19 category this year for both the abstract program and the invited symposia program. As the science published to-date has confirmed, COVID-19 has a significant impact on the heart and brain, and people with COVID-19 may have more severe strokes. We look forward to strong presentations during ISC of the latest research on COVID-19 and cardiovascular disease and stroke in addition to how it has impacted patient care and rehabilitation.

**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-December, and the registration fees will be \$49 for AHA Partners and \$99 for non-AHA Partners.

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

A. The abstract submission process closed August 31, 2020 for non-late-breaking clinical trials.

**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 Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020, 11:59 p.m. CT

**Q. Will CME still be available in the virtual format?**

A. Yes, Continuing Medical Education credits will be available.

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

A. ISC 2021 programming will be presented in a combination of formats to include live, simulated-live and on-demand offerings. All sessions will also be available on-demand for 30 days after the meeting for registered attendees, so they won't have to miss a single presentation.

**Q. Will posters also be presented virtually?**

A. Yes, digital poster presentations will be available during ISC 2021. Audio and video files will be included to support the digital poster presentations. Presenters and participants will have the ability to engage in online Q&A with presenters via the ePoster platform.

**Q. How will this change affect confirmed speakers?**

A. Confirmed speakers will receive a communication by late November regarding their role in the virtual event. They can send an email [to stroke.participant@heart.org](mailto:to_stroke.participant@heart.org) for assistance.

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

A. ISC 2021 will provide opportunities for all of our industry supporters to interact with participants.

The virtual Science and Technology/Exhibit 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](mailto:exhibits@heart.org) for more information.

**Q. What does this change mean for additional events that are usually held during International Stroke Conference?**

A. ISC will include satellite events, networking opportunities and other ways 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 a select virtual news program for registered journalists representing accredited news outlets. Media registration will open in conjunction with ISC registration in December. Please send an email to [ahacommunications@heart.org](mailto:ahacommunications@heart.org) if you have any questions.