

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
about the Vascular Forum at the
2024 Strandness Symposium**

What is the Vascular Forum?

The Vascular Forum is a satellite program of the biennial [Strandness Symposium](#).

It is open to fellows, residents, and other trainees in fields related to vascular care – including vascular surgery, vascular medicine, vascular sonography, and vascular nursing. The program is being expanded in 2024 to engage more early-career learners and to provide specific educational content needed by vascular specialists.

How many physicians-in-training will participate in the Vascular Forum?

Up to 50 participants are planned for the 2024 Vascular Forum.

How is the 2024 Vascular Forum different from years past?

In prior years, students, residents, and fellows participated in a Sunday afternoon Scientific Session where twenty individuals presented abstracts that were selected from abstracts submitted for consideration. The term “Vascular Forum” is now used to broadly describe content and program activities primarily for residents and fellows, which have been significantly expanded.

The 2024 Vascular Forum program will start on Sunday morning and run through Monday evening. It will include didactic presentations, a new Vascular Laboratory Interpretation course, the Scientific Session (oral abstract presentations), a Poster Session, and the Vascular Forum dinner program.

What distinguishes the Vascular Forum from other educational programs at regional and national meetings?

The 2024 Vascular Forum program will provide additional content and greater focus on basic topics related to interpretation of vascular laboratory studies. The Vascular Laboratory Interpretation course is taught by leading experts in sonography principles, instrumentation, vascular diagnosis, and it provides practical guidance to early-career learners on the use of the vascular laboratory to support medical, surgical, and interventional practices.

The program is designed to offer particular value to individuals preparing for a registry examination.

What is the RPVI® credential and why is it needed?

The [Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation® \(RPVI®\)](#) certification is awarded by the [Alliance for Physician Certification & Advancement™ \(APCA™\)](#).

The RPVI® certification is a prerequisite for certification by the [American Board of Surgery – Vascular Surgery Board \(ABS-VSB\)](#). Thus, all vascular surgery residents and fellows must pass the Physicians' Vascular Interpretation (PVI) examination as part of the process for board certification. Of note, recent pass rates on PVI examination (2017 to 2021) range from 75% to 89%. Knowledge and preparation are necessary for success on this challenging examination.

The Vascular Forum Vascular Laboratory Interpretation course fills a needed [gap in education](#), as there is not a standardized vascular laboratory curriculum in graduate medical education (GME), and many residency and fellowship programs lack the needed didactic content.

What is the Strandness Symposium and why is it in Hawaii?

In 1987, Dr. Gene Strandness (the “father of the vascular laboratory”) first came to Hawaii to offer an educational program on non-invasive vascular testing and related topics. It was successful and it was continued, though the content of the program evolved over time.

Hawaii venues became part of the Strandness Symposium “brand,” in a way similar to other meetings that followed (e.g., VIVA in Las Vegas, VEITH in New York).

Participants who come from the western US consider the Strandness Symposium a regional meeting, but the meeting historically draws attendees from across the US and from Australia, Asia, Canada, Central and South America, and occasionally from Europe or the Middle East.

For West coast attendees, flights to Hawaii can be quicker and less expensive than trips to New York or Boston.

Because the Strandness Symposium returns to Oahu for the 2024 meeting, there will be collaboration with the Hawaii Vascular Society and participation of vascular specialists practicing in that state will be facilitated.

What support is provided to residents and fellows coming to the Vascular Forum?

Pending confirmation of funding, Vascular Forum participants will be offered free registration, travel grants, lodging, and educational materials. Different tiers of direct

financial support and indirect support may be offered for oral presenters, poster presenters, and others.

How are the Strandness Symposium and the Vascular Forum funded?

The Strandness Symposium is funded by registration fees paid by attendees. Because financial support from exhibitors helps to cover many program expenses, registration fees are kept affordable, making the meeting accessible to early career professionals and non-physicians.

Educational grants support the Vascular Forum. This support is critical, as many GME programs lack the resources to fund travel by residents and fellows to educational programs.