

**EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR MICROCIRCULATION**  
**Integrating**  
**Vascular Biology & Medicine**



## **ESM Newsletter 1/2026**

Dear members of the European Society for Microcirculation, dear Colleagues,

Please find attached the newsletter 1-2026 to highlight ongoing and future activities of the ESM and its national and partner societies.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, do not hesitate to contact us via the email contact available on our website [www.esmicro.eu](http://www.esmicro.eu). We look forward to hear from you.

Best regards from the whole ESM team,



Elena Osto



Anja Meissner



Henning Morawietz

## MEETINGS



The 2025 Biennial Meeting of the European Society for Microcirculation was held from 19 to 22 May 2025 in Szeged, Hungary. The József Attila Study and Information Centre at the University of Szeged served as an ideal venue, offering direct exposure of the meeting to university students. In addition to ESM and the Hungarian host society MMVBT, the regional physiological societies—including the Croatian, Slovenian, and Hungarian Physiological Societies—joined efforts to make the meeting a success. A total of 225 delegates from 28 countries attended the conference, fostering a warm, collegial atmosphere and a highly interactive spirit.

The program began with a technical training session delivered by five presenters, followed by six plenary lectures, 24 symposia held in three parallel sessions, and 55 poster presentations. The symposia were carefully organized to ensure a balance between contributions from early-career and senior researchers.

The plenary lectures highlighted a range of topics, including microvascular pericyte physiology, coronary microcirculation in disease states, the no-reflow phenomenon following acute ischemic stroke, AI-assisted quantification of vessel morphology in retinal fundus images, neovascularization in diabetes, and engineering approaches to modeling microvascular barriers. The symposia covered a broad spectrum of subjects, showcasing recent discoveries ranging from basic science in the field of microvasculature to clinical applications.

The conference concluded with the prestigious Malpighi Award Lecture. This year's recipient was Professor Markus Sperandio, Professor of Physiology at LMU Munich, who presented his journey through the study of neutrophil granulocytes in inflamed microvessels. The JVR/ESM Award Lecture, recognizing the best paper by a young investigator in the *Journal of Vascular Research*, was delivered by Raul Devia-Rodriguez, a PhD candidate at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. His talk focused on "The influence of oversized plain old balloon angioplasty on endothelial injury in swine arteries". ESM also awarded prizes for the best poster presentations by junior researchers and provided travel grants to nine early-career investigators who submitted high-quality abstracts for the meeting.

The cordial atmosphere of the meeting provided ample opportunities for professional interactions, casual discussions, and the initiation of collaborative efforts.

As a final act, the presidency of ESM and the right to organize the next meeting were handed over to Professor Jan Pitha from the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine in Prague, Czech Republic.

Eszter Farkas

President, 2025 Biennial Meeting of the European Society for Microcirculation, Szeged, Hungary, 2025





Participants the 2025 Biennial Meeting of the European Society for Microcirculation, Szeged, Hungary, 2025.

### **Awards**

At its biennial international conference, the European Society for Microcirculation (ESM) sponsored a number of awards to support researchers at all stages of their career. The following awards were given during the Biennial Meeting of the European Society for Microcirculation 2025 (ESM 2025), to be held in Szeged, Hungary between May 19-22, 2025.

### **The Malpighi Award and Lecture**

This is the most prestigious award of the European Society for Microcirculation (ESM). The awardee Markus Sperandio from Munich, Germany, delivered the prestigious Malpighi Lecture entitled “Always along the microvascular path ... and sitting in the neutrophil cockpit“ and received the Gold Malpighi Medal and a life-long Membership of the ESM.



Malpighi Award and Lecture: Markus Sperandio from Munich, Germany (right).

### **Journal of Vascular Research/European Society for Microcirculation Award and Lecture**

The Journal of Vascular Research (JVR/ESM) Award and Lecture entitled “The influence of oversized plain old balloon angioplasty on endothelial injury in swine arteries” was given by Raul Devia Rodriguez from Groningen, The Netherlands.



Journal of Vascular Research/European Society for Microcirculation Award and Lecture: Raul Devia Rodriguez from Groningen, The Netherlands (right).

### **Congress Travel Awards for Early Career Investigators**

The ESM is pleased to support the participation of the following early career scientists with 600 € travel awards:

Michelle Alff (Essen, Germany), Samuel Mark Flaherty (Manchester, UK), Kaoutar Idouz (Namur, Belgium), Greta Juusola (Kuopio, Finland), Justina Mihaljevic (Osijek, Croatia), Ako Miura (Tokyo, Japan), Sharon Negri (Oklahoma City, USA), Shakira A. van der Panne (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), and Philippe Vangrieken (Maastricht, The Netherlands).



Winners of Congress Travel Awards for Early Career Investigators.

### **Poster Awards for Early Career Investigators**

During the ESM 2025 congress Poster Awards awards (100 Euro each), were be given for the best posters to: Nils Ankenbrand (Dresden, Germany), Eszter Császár (Budapest, Hungary), Merse Kis (Szeged, Hungary), Thin Hinan Nabet (Fontenay-aux-Roses, France) and Krisztina Spisák (Szeged, Hungary).



Winners of Poster Awards for Early Career Investigators.

## **Next Generation Voices: Survey Highlights from ESM Young Scientists**

A recent ESM survey of early-career researchers revealed strong enthusiasm for greater engagement and targeted support. More than half of the respondents said they would actively participate in a Young Scientist Subcommittee, indicating clear momentum for launching such an initiative.

Participants expressed a preference for interactive, career-focused activities, particularly “How I got here” talks and “Meet the Editor/PI” sessions. Podcasts, blogs, and online symposia were also of interest, suggesting a mix of live and on-demand formats would work well. In terms of networking, in-person or hybrid “Science & Coffee” meetups were the most popular option, followed by career panels.

At the same time, career visibility emerged as a key priority: an overwhelming 83.3% of respondents rated speaker opportunities at ESM conferences as very important.

Interest in social media roles was more cautious, with only a small number ready to commit but many open to the idea. This indicates potential for growth with clearer structure.

Overall, the message is clear: young scientists are eager to engage, connect, and contribute. Building a Young Scientist Subcommittee and expanding networking and career development opportunities will be important next steps for ESM.

*We thank all participants and look forward to building this initiative together.*



## Vascular: Vessels and their environment, Summer School in Angers, France, June 16- June 20, 2025

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide. This justifies the adage that one has the age of one's arteries and explains that researchers work tirelessly to understand how the cardiovascular system develops and functions. Therefore, we organized a short summer programme of learning, teaching and training which aims at raising students' awareness of the new pathogenic mechanisms involved in vascular disease, new investigational tools and potential targeted treatments, with the final purpose to promote excellence in the field of Vascular Medicine. The Teaching programme included the topics: accuracy in identifying and describing vascular diseases (e.g., atherosclerosis, venous thrombosis), knowledge of diagnostic tools like Doppler ultrasound or angiography, understanding of treatment options (e.g., pharmacological, surgical, lifestyle modifications), ability to interpret diagnostic tests (e.g., ankle-brachial index, vascular imaging), accuracy in identifying symptoms and forming differential diagnoses, clinical decision-making, formulating effective management plans tailored to individual patients, development of communication skills.

The Vascular Summer School in Angers was attended by 17 international students and early-career clinicians and scientists from universities in Debrecen, Dhaka, Dresden, Prague, Sheffield and Zagreb. The excellent teaching programme was organized by the course coordinators Pierre Abraham, Cristina Belizna and Jeanne Hersant. The lectures and courses were given by colleagues from Angers, Dresden, Lyon, Malta, Milan, Paris, Prague and Zagreb. The Summer School was very well-organized and we really enjoyed the kind hospitality of our colleagues from Angers.



Participants of the Vascular European Summer School in Angers, France, 2025.

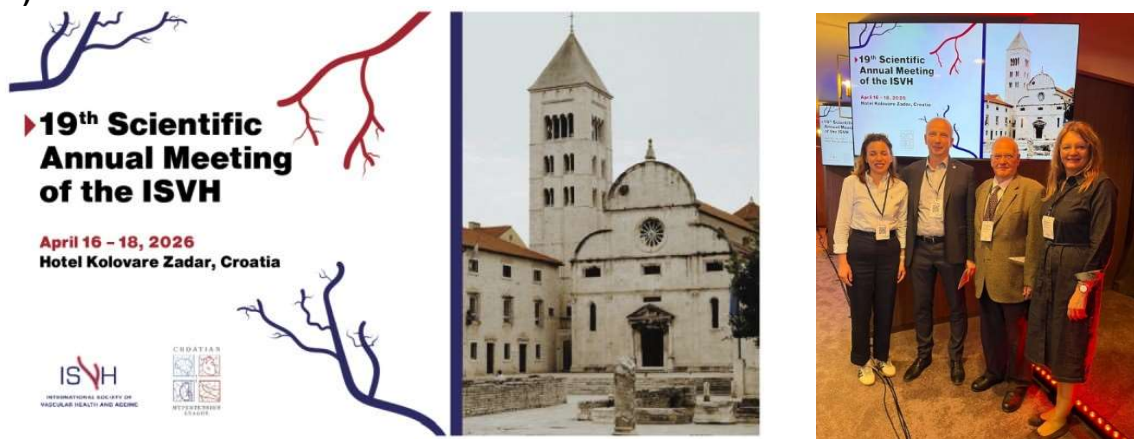
Credits



Funded by  
the European Union



## 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific Annual Meeting of the International Society of Vascular Health and Ageing (ISVH)



The 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific Annual Meeting of the International Society for Vascular Health and Ageing, held in Zadar, Croatia (April 16–18, 2026), brought together leading experts in vascular biology, ageing, and cardiometabolic medicine. The congress, officially endorsed by the European Society for Microcirculation (ESM), emphasized the integration of microvascular and macrovascular perspectives, with a strong focus on translating mechanistic insights into clinical practice.

A central highlight was the joint session “Micro- and macrocirculation,” organized in collaboration with ESM, which exemplified the growing convergence of these traditionally distinct fields. Chaired by Ines Drenjančević and Jan Pitha, current ESM President, the session provided a comprehensive overview of vascular dysfunction across different pathophysiological contexts. Prof. Eszter Farkas (ESM Past President) discussed the potential of senolytic therapies in experimental acute ischemic stroke, linking vascular ageing with neurovascular outcomes. Prof. Pitha addressed alterations in vascular properties in type 1 diabetes and pre-HFpEF in women, highlighting early and sex-specific vascular changes.

Further contributions included Prof. Drenjančević’s presentation on micro- and macrovascular function in chronic kidney disease, emphasizing endothelial dysfunction as a key mediator of cardiorenal interactions. Prof. Akos Koller explored the central role of the microvascular endothelium in mRNA vaccine-related vascular responses, while Prof. Ana Stupin presented on early microvascular perturbations in pre-hypertension.

Overall, the meeting successfully strengthened collaboration between microvascular and macrovascular research communities. The strong presence of ESM leadership and members reinforced the strategic importance of microcirculation in advancing vascular science and improving clinical approaches to complex cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.



## Prague preceptorship in vascular diseases: clinical overview and practical guide

Dear colleagues,

We would like to invite you to the Vascular Summer School from June 22<sup>nd</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 in Prague! The ESM will be glad to support the participation of their members by **three travel grants at 500€/award** (<http://www.esmicro.eu/>).

**When:** June 22<sup>nd</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 for the physical mobility. A virtual activity will be organized after the physical mobility, on June 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2026.

**Where:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Internal Cardiovascular Medicine, General University Hospital in Prague, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University

**For whom:** This Summer school is open to undergraduate students from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year, postgraduates, clinicians and PhD students with a strong interest in Vascular medicine. Citizens of all countries in the world are eligible to apply (not younger than 18 years old).

**Language:** English

**Participation:** Will be confirmed by an email of acceptance. Nominated participants through Erasmus plus are covered by a specific grant. This is valid for attendants from the Universities of Angers, Dresden, Zagreb or Charles University in Prague. Other participants should directly contact [petra.smejkalova@lf1.cuni.cz](mailto:petra.smejkalova@lf1.cuni.cz) for further information.

### Learning Outcomes:

#### Knowledge and Understanding

Accuracy in identifying and describing vascular diseases (e.g., atherosclerosis, venous thrombosis).

Knowledge of diagnostic tools like Doppler ultrasound or angiography.

Understanding of treatment options (e.g., pharmacological, surgical, lifestyle modifications)

#### Diagnostic Skills

Ability to interpret diagnostic tests (e.g., ankle-brachial index, vascular imaging).

Accuracy in identifying symptoms and forming differential diagnoses.

#### Clinical Decision-Making

Formulating effective management plans tailored to individual patients.

Balancing risks and benefits of treatment options, including minimally invasive procedures.

#### Communication Skills

Explaining diagnoses, risks, and treatment plans to patients and families effectively.

Collaborating with multidisciplinary teams, including surgeons, radiologists, and nurses.

**Credits:** 3 ECTS

**Enrol now:** There are 20 places available for this course, assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Course Directors:



**Assoc. Prof. Jean-Claude Lubanda, Ph.D., MHA**

He is permanently affiliated with the 2nd Department of Internal Medicine – Cardiology and Angiology at the General University Hospital and the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University. From 2013 to 2020, he served as deputy head of the Department. He is a board member of the Czech society of angiology in charge of international collaboration and exchange programs among other tasks.

In clinical practice, he focuses on non-invasive and invasive diagnostic and therapeutic methods in cardiology and angiology. He is also involved in clinical and experimental research in the fields of arterial hypertension, inherited metabolic diseases of the myocardium, and risk factors for atherosclerosis.

He is the author of numerous scientific publications and co-author of several monographs.



**Professor Jan Pitha, MD, PhD.**

He is affiliated with the Institute of clinical and experimental medicine in Prague (IKEM). He is regularly teaching medical students and physicians at The Second medical faculty of the Charles University in Prague and in the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education, Prague.

He currently works at the Department of Cardiology at IKEM as Deputy Head of the Cardiocenter IKEM for the angiological program and is the head of the Atherosclerosis Research Laboratory at IKEM. He is current President of European Society of Microcirculation, Secretary General of the International Union of Angiology, Chairman of the Healthy Nutrition Forum, Scientific Secretary of the Czech Society for Atherosclerosis, and a member of the Czech Society of Cardiology, the Czech Society of Hypertension, and the Czech Society of Internal Medicine.

He is the author or co-author of dozens of scientific publications in both domestic and international journals and author and co-author of several monographs including international ones.

### Course Coordinators:

Petra Šmejkalová: [petra.smejkalova@lf1.cuni.cz](mailto:petra.smejkalova@lf1.cuni.cz)

Anna Jezberová : [97759314@o365.cuni.cz](mailto:97759314@o365.cuni.cz)

BIP Prague 2026

**Prague preceptorship in vascular diseases:  
clinical overview and practical guide**



Cardiovascular diseases, including myocardial infarction and stroke, are the leading cause of death worldwide, with about 18 million deaths per year. Researchers over the years work tirelessly to understand how the cardiovascular system develops and functions. This generate tremendous amount of knowledge that is worthwhile spreading across the vascular specialization community and their associated specialities. Summer school aims to raise students' awareness on new pathophysiologic mechanisms involved in vascular disease, but also on new investigational tools and UpToDate targeted treatments.



2nd Department of Internal  
Cardiovascular Medicine, General  
University Hospital in Prague, First Faculty  
of Medicine, Charles University



Physical mobility: June 22–26, 2026  
Virtual: June 29–30, 2026



Language: English  
Credits: 3 ECTS



Learning outcomes: Knowledge &  
Understanding, Diagnostic Skills,  
Clinical Decision-Making,  
Communication Skills

Contact person:

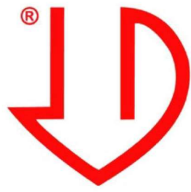
Bc. Petra Šmejkalová

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Phone: +420 224 96 2607



Hochdruckliga



## Summer School Hypertension & Organ Crosstalk: From Environment to End-Organ Damage

*jointly organized by the DHL, DGfN and DGK*

15.6. and 16.6.2026

German Aerospace Center (DLR) Cologne

The summer school is open to **graduate students (MD/PhD), clinicians, clinician-scientists, and post-docs** with an interest in hypertension and interorgan crosstalk in cardiorenal–vascular health (40–50 participants). **The program is deliberately interactive, not a lecture series: participants are encouraged to present and discuss ongoing or planned projects**, with ample time for feedback and networking. A small number of invited experts will provide keynotes to frame each session and stimulate discussion.

**Registration and abstract submission**

<https://forms.gle/WtXmhWa4Joa4c9986>

### Preliminary program:

#### **Session I: Environmental Influences and Extreme Environments – Heart, Kidney, and Vessels Under Stress.**

How does cardiorenal–vascular physiology respond to environmental stimuli, from everyday exposures to extreme environments?

#### **Session II: Clinical Perspectives – Risk Stratification, Organ Damage, and Resistant Hypertension.**

How do we recognize clinically meaningful hypertension subtypes and prevent target-organ damage, especially when blood pressure is difficult to treat?

#### **Session III: Systems Modifiers of End-Organ Injury – Microbiome, Immunity, and Metabolism.**

What determines susceptibility of end organ injury across heart kidney and vasculature?

#### **Session IV: Revisiting the Classics – Salt, Potassium, RAAS, and Sympathetic Tone.**

How do the “classical” blood pressure regulators drive organ damage beyond their hemodynamic effects?

**Poster session and networking.**

**Invited speakers:** **Ebba Brakenhielm** (Rouen, France), **Lucas Lauder** (Basel, Switzerland), **Jens Jordan** (DLR, Germany) **Ariel Gomez** and **Maria Lopez** (Charlottesville, VA, USA)

**Guided tour through the DLR.** Visit the ESA’s European Astronaut Centre (EAC), featuring full-scale ISS training mock-ups and a 10m Neutral Buoyancy Facility for spacewalk training, the LUNA Analog Facility, an internationally unique lunar analogue facility enabling simulations of Moon surface operations in preparation for future lunar missions, and the :envihab, an internationally unique facility for human studies with ongoing bed rest study and isolation study with NASA and ESA.

**Joint dinner and World Cup viewing.** Attendance is free of charge. Meals and refreshments will be provided throughout the summer school. Travel and accommodation expenses must be covered by participants.

Organizing committee: Hendrik Bartolomaeus (Würzburg), Leonie Dreher (Hamburg), Marcel Halbach (Cologne), Johannes Holle (Tübingen), Jens Jordan (Cologne), Dominik N. Müller (Berlin), Johannes Stegbauer (Düsseldorf), Lukas Streese (Düsseldorf).

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Save the Date  
21 May 2026

## Cell Biology in the Low Lands

### Confirmed speakers:

- Buzz Baum
- Lucas Pelkman
- Geert van den Bogaart
  - Leila Akkari
  - Michiel Pegtel
  - Joachim Goedhart
- Seema Grewal, J Cell Sci Executive Editor
  - Martijn Nolte, ZonMW

**Abstract submission now open!!**

Deadline April 28th

Program includes: Blitz talks, selected orals and round table discussions

For more info:

[www.cell-biology.nl](http://www.cell-biology.nl)



**MOVD**

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
MECHANISMS OF VASODILATATION**

Please consider attending the International Symposium on Mechanisms of Vasodilation (MOVD) 2026, taking place October 15–17, 2026, at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre in Montreal. MOVD is a long-standing international forum that brings together leading vascular scientists, clinicians, trainees, and early-career investigators to discuss cutting-edge discoveries in endothelial function, vascular smooth muscle signaling, microvascular biology, inflammation, metabolism, vascular remodeling, hypertension, small-vessel disease, aging, and cardiometabolic disease. The meeting is designed to be highly interactive, with opportunities for scientific exchange, collaboration, poster presentations, and networking in one of Canada's most dynamic research hubs. Abstract submission is open until July 1, 2026, and registration is open until October 1, 2026, with early-bird rates available before July 31.

Website: <https://event.fourwaves.com/movd/pages>



## 12<sup>th</sup> Congress for Chinese Society of Microcirculation Beijing, 16-18 October, 2026

The 12th Congress for Chinese Society of Microcirculation (12thCCSM) will exchange in the following formats: **Keynote Lectures, Invited Lectures, International Symposiums, Asian Symposiums, Symposiums, Young Symposiums, Free Oral Communications, Special Symposia, and Posters.**

### • **Keynote Lectures, Invited Lectures, International Symposiums, Asian Symposiums**

Speakers and chairs will be selected by the Congress Academic Committee. Selected speakers are required to submit a photo, a 300-word English biography, and a 400-word English abstract (including title, authors, and a single affiliation) to the Academic Committee (kais211@163.com) before May 30. All speakers and chairs are requested to register via the Congress website: <https://12thccsm.com> (<https://12thccsm.com/>).

### • **Symposiums**

Speakers and chairs will be selected by the Congress Organizing Committee. The specialized committees organizing these symposiums are required to submit photos, 300-word English biographies, and 400-word English abstracts (including title, authors, and a single affiliation) to the Organizing Committee (1135710664@qq.com) before May 30. All speakers and chairs are requested to register via the Congress website: <https://12thccsm.com> (<https://12thccsm.com/>).

### • **Young Symposiums and Free Oral Communications (Chinese/English)**

Presenters will be selected from registered and fee-paid attendees. Applicants should register, pay the conference fee, select either Young Symposiums or Free Oral Communications (and choose Chinese or English as the presentation language), and submit speaker information and a 400-word English abstract via the Congress website [https://\(https://12thccsm.com/\)12thccsm.com](https://(https://12thccsm.com/)12thccsm.com) (<https://12thccsm.com/>) between May 10 and June 30.

### • **Posters**

Presenters will be selected from registered and fee-paid attendees. Applicants should register, pay the conference fee, select the corresponding section, and submit speaker information and a 400-word English abstract via the Congress website <https://12thccsm.com> (<https://12thccsm.com/>) between May 10 and June 30.

### • **Attendees**

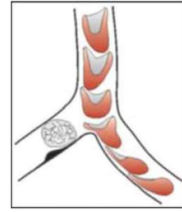
Attendees are requested to log in to the Congress website at [https://\(https://12thccsm.com/\)12thccsm.com](https://(https://12thccsm.com/)12thccsm.com) (<https://12thccsm.com/>), complete registration, and pay the conference fee between May 10 and June 30.

### **Discounted Hotel Booking at the Congress Venue**

Due to concurrent events at the Congress venue, hotel rooms are in high demand. Attendees are advised to book their rooms at the discounted rate via the congress website, between May 10 and June 30.

**Further information: <https://www.12thccsm.com>**

**Save the date  
12.-14.11.2026**

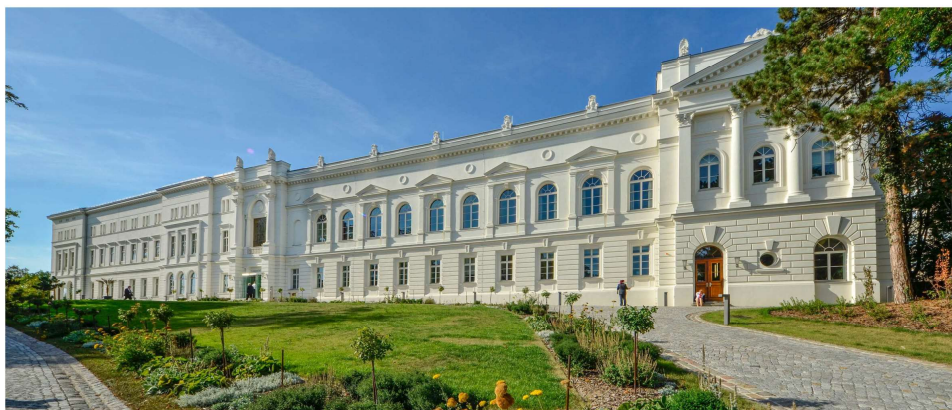


**Annual Meeting of the  
German Society for Microcirculation and Vascular Biology**

**City: Halle (Saale), Germany**



**Location: German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina**



WORLD CONGRESS FOR  
MICROCIRCULATION



WCM  
PRAGUE 2027

**13<sup>th</sup> World Congress  
for Microcirculation and  
34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Society  
for Microcirculation**

**Clarion Congress Hotel Prague,  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> May 2027**

**EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR  
Integrating  
Vascular Biology & Medicine**



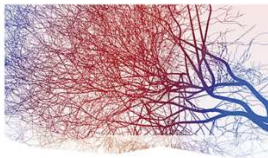
**„Microvascular Perspectives  
for Scientists and Clinicians  
of All Disciplines“**



[www.wcm-esm2027.org](http://www.wcm-esm2027.org)

**The official journal of the European Society for Microcirculation:**

**Journal of Vascular Research**



RESEARCH

Karger



**Editors:** Brant E. Isakson (Charlottesville, VA), Pooneh Bagher (Omaha, NE)

The *Journal of Vascular Research (JVR)* is transitioning leadership from a position of real strength. As the official journal of the European Society for Microcirculation, JVR continues to provide a rigorous home for vascular and microvascular biology, physiology, pathophysiology, translational research, and methodological advances across the vascular and lymphatic sciences. The journal's recent performance reflects that momentum: its current listed Impact Factor is 2.3, with a Q2 ranking in Physiology, a CiteScore of 3.6, an acceptance rate of 22.5%, and impressively efficient editorial timelines, including an average 2 weeks to first decision and 5 weeks to final decision. Over the last five reporting years, JVR's Impact Factor has increased from 1.934 in 2020 to 2.3 in 2024, an approximately 19% increase, with a notable rise from 1.8 in 2023 to 2.3 in 2024. Building on this upward trajectory, Pooneh Bagher will succeed Brant Isakson as Editor-in-Chief, bringing deep expertise in vascular function, endothelial–smooth muscle–perivascular nerve communication, and a longstanding commitment to the journal, where she currently serves as an Associate Editor. Brant leaves JVR well positioned for continued growth and influence as he takes on his new role as Editor-in-Chief of *AJP-Heart and Circulatory Physiology*. This leadership transition highlights both the strength of *JVR* and the vitality of the broader cardiovascular and vascular research community.

Please visit for more information: <https://karger.com/jvr>.