Educational Offerings at ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2021

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The ASA ANESTHESIOLOGY annual meeting is the world’s largest anesthesia-educational event focused on the science and practice of anesthesiology. This year will be no different. It will offer an opportunity for face-to-face conversations and collaborations that have always been critical for the growth of our specialty. This year’s meeting is designed to offer both a live, in-person component and a smaller virtual component to suit participants’ schedules and preferences. The in-person attendee will have access to a wide range of content that you can dive into for deeper and targeted learning in your subspecialty or in areas you wish to learn more.

We have put together one of the most exciting meetings ever! New this year—the Full Annual Meeting Experience includes everything offered live, on site in San Diego plus the virtual track, which is a curated selection of offerings you can watch whenever, wherever. When you meet us in sunny San Diego, you will learn from hundreds of world-renowned experts and have access to over 450 sessions. They will include 60-minute panels, highly educational impromptu courses by some of the very best in our specialty, critical forums, point-counterpoint sessions, our popular snap-talks, subspecialty panels, self-directed modules, and more. In addition, we are very excited to announce 32 hands-on workshops for your active engagement and interaction with some of the best minds in the field.

After a year of virtual learning and online interaction, hands-on workshops devoted to point-of-care ultrasonography (POCUS), ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia (UGRA), and pain and airway management are vital learning opportunities. We have 30 special meetings and events during five days in San Diego. The meeting also offers Problem-Based Learning Discussions (PBLDs), Medically Challenging Cases (MCCs), and scientific abstracts. A meeting attendee can claim over 50 CME credits for both the in-person and the virtual component. If you aren’t able to travel and meet us in San Diego, you can sign up for the stand-alone virtual track, which offers 27.5 CME credits.

“Managing Change, Leading Innovation” – our theme for 2021 is perfect for examining what we have learned over the past year and harnessing new ideas to propel us forward. The meeting will also examine the biggest issues and opportunities facing the specialty right now—innovation, leadership, literature reviews, the opioid crisis, COVID-19, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The meeting will start with presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin, who will provide insights for aspiring and established leaders that are sure to resonate and offer valuable food for thought for everyone who attends. In addition, ASA President-Elect Randall Clark, MD, FASA, will discuss everything you need to know about leadership. Dr. William McCade, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer of the ACOME, will speak on diversity, equity, and inclusion within GME. He makes a strong point that we need to view and understand health care disparities as quality deficiencies before we can eliminate them. He provides evidence for how health care access can be improved through physician workforce solutions that expand diversity and makes the argument that such efforts are in vain without intentionally changing our learning environments to embrace inclusiveness. He describes the process of accreditation and education the ACGME is using to help achieve these aims.

Lee Fleisher, MD, CMO and Director of the CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, has been invited to give a special lecture titled “The Healthcare Ecosystem Post-Pandemic: A CMS Perspective.” This lecture will focus on lessons learned from the recent public health emergency and how the Medicare waivers and care paradigms might change post-pandemic. It will also focus on advanced payment models and how they might change and on how the current Administration’s priorities will influence health care.

The Emery A. Ravenstine Memorial Lecture titled “Ever Eger: My Love Affair with Anesthesia” will be presented by Steven Shafer, MD. Dr. Shafer’s lecture will weave together the art of clinical anesthesia, the science of anesthesiology, and the mystery that has drawn us to the great love of our lives, as told by one of anesthesiology’s most devoted inamoratos (not Dr. Shafer).

The John W. Severinghaus Lecture on Translational Science titled “Gadgeteering for Pain Relief” will be presented by James C. Eisenach, MD. Like Dr. Severinghaus, who considered himself a “gadgeteer” in making devices to solve problems, Dr. Eisenach has tested the validity and practicality of laboratory research in humans with pain. His research, while drawing parallels to challenges and solutions Dr. Severinghaus met, will discuss applying spinal injections to mimic the body’s own analgesic systems for acute pain and intranasal administration to mimic the body’s own system to heal the sensitized nervous system in chronic pain after surgery.

Other featured and plenary lectures by world-renowned experts include the Ellison C. Pierce Lecture “Anesthesia Safety in an Asymmetrical World,” by Angela Enright, MB, FRCP; the History Panel: “Untold Stories of Anesthesia in the Second World War,” by Douglas R. Bacon, MD, MA; the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology (WLM) Patric Sim Forum on the History of Anesthesiology, presented by David B. Waisel, MD; the WLM Lewis H Wright Lecture: “The Remarkable Story of Dr. Freeman Allen: A Pioneering Physician Anesthesiologist,” presented by Mark A. Rockoff, MD; and the SOAP/FAER Gertie Marx Plenary Lecture “One Third of a Century of Learning – The Contributions of Anesthesiologists to Obstetric Care,” presented by Cynthia A. Wong, MD. This lecture will review the multiple new developments in obstetric anesthesia care in the past few decades. It will emphasize how these developments have contributed to improving the care of obstetric patients, thus setting the stage for future work in our field.

Emerging research will continue to receive greater prominence as we drive to always deliver top-tier, relevant education. The many offerings will provide you with information about the latest science and breakthroughs and include leading-edge scientific and oral abstracts. There will be Anesthesiology® journal activities, including the Journal Symposium: “SARS-CoV-2 and COVID19: New Paradigms and Challenges for Anesthesiologists,” and educational opportunities and career development provided by the Foundation for Anesthesiology Education and Research (FAER). News of clinical trials has captured the attention of the general public for months, as COVID-19 treatment and vaccines became a reality. That same thirst for knowledge is expected to captivate seasoned clinicians attending the annual meeting who already have a moderate to advanced understanding of clinical trials in anesthesiology. A session on clinical trials is designed to accelerate learning and expand the network for anesthesiologists performing or seeking guidance in planning and implementing trials appropriately. The FAER-Helrich Research Lecture by Daniel I. Sessler, MD, will address “Crisis and Opportunity in Clinical Trials.”

The unique blend of in-person sessions and a virtual track will allow attendees to have the most robust learning experience ever offered. The ASA Committee on Annual Meeting Oversight and ASA staff are ready to welcome you to ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021. View the full program at asahq.org/ANES21.