immediately following a very successful virtual ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2020, the Committee on Annual Meeting Oversight (AMOC) met with one goal in mind: How do we bring the anesthesiology community together for a safe, live, in-person annual meeting in 2021? Drawing from lessons learned from the virtual meeting and focusing on features only an in-person meeting can deliver, we are deep into the planning process to bring ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 to San Diego from October 8-12, along with a smaller virtual component. We want you to consider ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 in San Diego a can’t-miss meeting following the vaccination of the majority of the U.S. population, which is anticipated to be completed by the summer months. This will be a terrific opportunity to attend your first major meeting in over a year, to reconnect personally and professionally, and to reignite our learning and advancement as a specialty.

There are very good reasons why sunny San Diego is known as “America’s Finest City.” It is beautiful in October, and the hotels and convention center have social distancing rules in place and lesser maximum capacities in each room. The San Diego Convention Center is planning to use all their outdoor terraces overlooking the bay for food and beverage and additional seating, so a lot of open air is planned. ASA staff is also putting in place many precautions to ensure a safe meeting for everyone. The San Diego Convention Center was one of the first to receive the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) Star Accreditation. This is the industry’s gold standard and is a performance-based accreditation program that helps facilities demonstrate they have the work practices, procedures, and protocols to prepare, respond to, and recover from outbreaks and pandemics. The GBAC helps centers with policies and systems to control risks associated with infectious agents such as SARS-CoV-2. It also supports the San Diego Convention Center with cleaning policies and other important communication.

Ours is the largest annual anesthesiology meeting in the world. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 will have an amazing and large LIVE component that will have the quality and variety of educational sessions and scientific work you would expect from ASA. You will have the opportunity to once again engage with thousands of your peers from a variety of countries, including educators and representatives from the industry. As the world’s foremost annual gathering in anesthesiology, ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 will offer a variety of scientific and educational sessions that will renew, update, and expand your knowledge of new procedures and techniques in all subspecialty areas. In addition, you will have unique networking opportunities with fellow ASA members from around the world.

AMOC chose “Managing Change, Leading Innovation” as the meeting theme to focus on anesthesiologists’ unique position as natural leaders during the perioperative period, as well as in research, health care administration, industry, and public policy as we move beyond COVID. In support of this theme, many sessions will emphasize aspects of moving forward, our collective strength, leadership, and cutting-edge research and approaches. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 will be forward-thinking and positive, while focusing on leadership, innovation, and transformation and optimization in the field.

San Diego is famous for its huge U.S. Navy port located right on the Pacific coast, its growing biomedical industry, and its great Mexican food. There are just as many reasons why the ANESTHESIOLOGY annual meeting this October is going to be the most exciting, intelligently designed annual meeting yet. ASA’s foremost priority is meeting its members’ needs – and the programming you will experience in San Diego is based on extensive member feedback. Thousands of medical professionals from around the world are expected to attend and take part in five days of networking and learning. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 will feature a diverse educational and scientific program of 600 educational sessions, several featured lectures, and numerous networking events to connect with old friends and build new relationships. There will be a packed schedule of education, networking, and social events for residents, fellows, and medical students.

This is the one time per year that anesthesiology professionals can gather and discuss important issues in medicine according to various clinical tracks, including ambulatory anesthesia, cardiac anesthesia, fundamentals of anesthesia, geriatric anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, professional issues, critical care medicine, pediatric anesthesia, perioperative medicine, regional anesthesia, pain management, and obstetric anesthesia, as well as special sessions and late-breaking topics. Our general sessions will include Refresher Course Lectures, Panels, Clinical Forums, Point-Counterpoint, Hands-on-Workshops, and Problem-Based Learning Discussions. Many of these sessions will offer patient safety credits. There will be various sessions on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are planning state-of-the-art, hands-on workshops, including many on point-of-care ultrasound, transesophageal echocardiography, thoracic anesthesia, electrophysiology, and a cadaveric workshop on advanced skills that every physician anesthesiologist should know.

Supporting ASA’s strategic pillar of “Research and Scientific Discovery,” there will be many offerings to provide you with information about the latest science, including top-tier oral scientific abstracts and a research lounge. In addition, there will be anesthesiology® journal-based activities and educational opportunities and career development provided by the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 will feature subspecialty panels from SAMBA, ASRA, SCA, SEA, SNACC, SOAP, STA, SOCCA, and SPA. Top medical equipment vendors will also be on hand to showcase their products and connect with today’s anesthesiology professionals.

We are thrilled to welcome you back to ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021, a live meeting with exciting events and new offerings. AMOC and ASA staff have made significant enhancements to this fall’s meeting in San Diego and continue with ongoing strategic planning to improve and add value to 2021 and beyond. For more information about this year’s meeting, visit asahq.org/annualmeeting. We look forward to connecting with you in San Diego and seeing you in person!