

SOCCA Update 2020

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The Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists (SOCCA), as defined by our mission statement during a leadership retreat in 2018, is dedicated to the support and development of anesthesiologists who care for critically ill patients of all types. SOCCA fosters the knowledge and practice of critical care medicine by anesthesiologists through education, research, advocacy and community. SOCCA has also set forth the following goals: 1) Sustain and grow membership, 2) Foster and promote member engagement and contributions and 3) Develop an active research section. The following provides an update on the progress achieved toward these goals and how this is advancing the organization while benefiting our profession as a whole.

Any professional organization depends on new membership to sustain activities and grow into new areas that provide value to its members. Through the efforts of Dr. Carlee Clark and the membership committee, SOCCA has seen a 15% increase in members over the past year. Many of these members are fellows and those new to the field, the exact demographic we have targeted to bring new ideas and energy to the society as a whole. We have actively engaged with critical care fellowship program directors to improve communication and access to and for fellows and newly trained intensivists. We have waived registration fees for these groups as a means to recruit the future of our specialty and make SOCCA their home. The Membership Committee is actively engaged with members to identify what members value and making these resources available in a variety of communication



formats. Communication efforts are led by Dr. Craig Jabaley and the Communications Committee. Working together, the membership and communications groups are developing a resources area on our website that contains timely and pertinent educational materials such as validated clinical content; at the time of this writing, it is focused on novel coronavirus. This content area is an ongoing effort that will house professional development resources such as content on leadership, administration and other resources that are paramount to developing anesthesiologist intensivists as they grow in their career and responsibilities. This will also be the repository of our growing library of critical care-related clinical content delivered at our annual meeting and board review course. As new modes of communications become more relevant, SOCCA is increasingly expanding its presence in social media, and our Twitter handle, @SOCCA_CritCare, is becoming increasingly popular with newly added content, meeting information and compelling discussions of critical care topics.

Education is a core value and output of SOCCA. Our Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Sheela Pai Cole, coordinates efforts with the IARS, ASA, SCA and many



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other professional groups like the Indian College of Anesthesiologists. Our annual meeting will be held Friday, May 15, at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square. This year, our annual meeting, coordinated by Dr. Peter Van Homeyer, will be composed of shorter presentations, consistent with prior attendee feedback that favors more topics in rapid-presentation style. General session themes include New Perspectives on Traditional ICU Education Topics – A Series of Snap Talks, Providing the Best Value Care to our Patients, End-of-life Care in the Device Era – Practical, Ethical and Legal Considerations, and The Anesthesiology Intensivist Outside of the ICU – Evolving Roles in the Hospital. Two poster viewing sessions will present cutting-edge research (more below). The society is also proud to announce our inaugural Board Review course on Thursday, May 14, where more than 30 focused presentations on topics identified as areas of opportunity by review of the in-service critical care examination has been developed by our Education Committee and the Program Director Committee.

The value of the Annual Meeting is enhanced by the addition of the IARS/SOCCA aligned meeting day on Saturday, May 16, which is available to SOCCA registrants at no extra charge. Attendees can earn up to 7.5 hours of CME for Friday and up to nine hours on Saturday, bringing the available CME associated with our annual meeting to 16.5 hours. This is an exceptional, three-day offering of high-quality education focused on care of the critically ill patient.

Research has been prominent in SOCCA's past with a robust poster session at the annual meeting presenting the latest in research focused on the critically ill. This year, more

than 300 abstracts were submitted for consideration, an all-time record. The Research Committee, chaired by Dr. Robert Stevens, will judge the poster submissions and appropriately recognize the best work. The Research Committee is also working to create a collaborative network through which SOCCA members may identify like-minded colleagues to discuss and potentially collaborate in scientific discovery. Another important task for this group is to help define and describe the current world in which anesthesiologist intensivists practice.

While intensivists make up the majority of SOCCA members, the focus of the society is appropriate for any anesthesiologist who cares for critically ill patients, and we welcome our colleagues not trained in critical care to mutually expand our focus and identify areas of need. As the population of patients that we care for increases in terms of co-existing disease and complexity, critically ill patients are frequently cared for in procedural areas. As a result, anesthesiologists with little exposure to conventional critical care practice are increasingly caring for the sickest of the sick. SOCCA strives to be the professional home of anesthesiologists who care for these patients in the ICU as well as procedural areas. We partner with ASA and other professional societies to further our mutual interests through education and outreach. Our focus and efforts are well encapsulated in our mission statement: SOCCA is dedicated to the support and development of anesthesiologists who care for critically ill patients of all types. Our recent activities suggest we are on track and we welcome your involvement.

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