The Value of Attending the ANESTHESIOLOGY Annual Meeting

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Attending ANESTHESIOLOGY 2024 means robust education, lively networking, and lasting inspiration. Expectations are sky-high. One way the Committee on Annual Meeting Oversight (AMOC) meets this high bar is by using what we learn from attendees to fine-tune our plans and deliver even more value, prioritizing their needs and preferences to deliver cutting-edge innovations, top-notch educational opportunities, and networking events that propel connections. During last year’s meeting, we asked attendees about their experiences. Here are a few things they told us...

Attendees can look forward to educational offerings that are, in the words of Demicha Rankin, MD, “simply awe-inspiring.” Jennifer Tripi, MD, agrees. She values “the chance to go to different workshops … listen to presentations, hear about cases … and just bounce ideas off each other to see how one person treated something differently than you did.” The constant evolution of the field, and the importance of keeping up, is vital. Brigid Flynn, MD, points out that, as technology advances, “we have to stay on the forefront. And the only way you can do that is by talking to other anesthesiologists and learning from other anesthesiologists at big meetings such as ASA.” And of course, the hands-on learning offered at ANESTHESIOLOGY earns praise from many, including resident Brittany Bryant, MD, who told us that “hands-on learning is really important to further what we’re already doing in training.”

Networking at ANESTHESIOLOGY creates meaningful connections that drive career advancement, research opportunities, unexpected moments, and even new friendships. From residents looking to launch their career to late-career anesthesiologists looking to re-engage, the networking opportunities at the meeting earn praise from attendees across the career spectrum. Queenie Wilkins, MD, said the meeting was “like a reunion all weekend.” Georges Roustom, MD, told us he loved attending because it gave him a chance “to meet colleagues here from all over the country, from all over the world, which is something that doesn’t really happen often.” Michael Ongole, MD, pointed out that ANESTHESIOLOGY presents a “great networking opportunity for people who are finishing training. You can find jobs here. If they’re applying to fellowships, you meet fellowship directors.” And Heidrun Lewald, MD, praised the “professional interaction with other people. You listen to the facts then you discuss what you heard … You just broaden your knowledge.”

Attendees rave about the Exhibit Hall, radiating with enthusiasm over the wide range of innovations, education, and hands-on learning opportunities found there. John Paton, MD, said, “When it comes to really understanding what’s on the cutting edge of anesthesia, some of the new innovations that are coming into our space, the Exhibit Hall really allows for you to have a good understanding of what’s new and some of the fun things that we now have in our field to work with.” Other attendees celebrate the value of bringing technology and innovation together, including Jerome Crowley, MD, who pointed out that there aren’t many opportunities “to see new equipment or technologies. So, to be aware of what’s around, this is probably the one time a year you’re able to get hands-on and see, you know, the way to expose yourself to new devices, new technology, new ways of doing things.” And of course, hands-on experiences are an attendee favorite. In the words of Dean Charles Kurth, MD, “When you go to a lecture, you see a picture and it’s abstract. When you’re in the Exhibit Hall and you touch the instruments, manipulate them, it brings them to life and it clicks in your brain.”

Every year, AMOC and the ASA staff work to ensure the meeting features key thought leaders and experts, includes a variety of robust learning offerings, and puts forth a range of diverse networking opportunities. We want attendees to leave amazed and inspired. The words of last year’s attendees suggest we’re on track. So, if you’re ready to dive into rich educational offerings, consequential networking opportunities, and the trends and innovations shaping the future of the specialty, make plans today to join us in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 18-22. Visit asahq.org/annualmeeting to check out the hot topics we’ll explore and the exciting lineup of speakers from whom we will learn.