In spite of COVID-19, lockdowns, and challenges from supply chain shortages to staffing issues, the demand for ambulatory surgeries and procedures is higher than ever. Likewise, the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA) has been busy this year (sambahq.org).

Our annual meeting will take place May 11-14, 2022, at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix. The Meetings Committee, led by Steven Butz, MD, has put together an exciting program with old favorites like “Cases from the Real World,” controversial pro/con debates, a regional anesthesia workshop, interactive panels, problem-based learning discussions, and more traditional didactic sessions. Topics relevant to pain, pediatric practices, non-operating room anesthesia, ophthalmologic procedures, office-based anesthesia, and management of ambulatory surgeons are included. The educational sessions will kick off with our opening cocktail reception and close out with a fabulous social event. SAMBA social events are legendary and much anticipated. Attendees not only rave about our lectures, workshops, and networking opportunities, but always note the fun times.

In the past, we have visited dude ranches, had roof-top pool parties, and toured museums. This will be our first in-person meeting since 2019, and we look forward to reconnecting with our colleagues in ambulatory anesthesia. Registration will open in 2022 with more information at sambahq.org/samba-2022. Abstracts can be submitted at sambahq.org/samba-2022/abstract-submission/ until February 15, 2022. Dr. Paul White, former SAMBA president, sponsors the annual White Mountain Institute remunerative research awards for trainees. SAMBA also provides a generous travel award for abstracts submitted by trainees. Our Scientific Papers Committee, chaired by David Beebe, MD, and Kara Barnett, MD, FASA, will soon be busy reviewing abstracts for excellence and innovation awards and the best trainee abstracts. This year, in collaboration with the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation, SAMBA will give the first-ever award for the best patient safety or quality improvement abstract.

We are hosting two virtual one-day meetings – the ASC Medical Directors & Leaders Summit was held on January 22, 2022, and the Office-Based Anesthesia Symposium is coming up on March 19, 2022. These have been incredibly well received in past years. Registration for the Office-Based Anesthesia Symposium will open in early 2022.

The Education Committee, led by cochairs Catherine Tobin, MD, and Jaime Hyman, MD, has collated and summarized seminal articles with relevance to ambulatory and office-based practices. Updated content is frequently posted at sambahq.org. SAMBA offers monthly complimentary educational webinars (asamonitor.pub/3y1zVWQ). Recent offerings include “Task Load Differences and Interprofessional Simulation in Non-OR Settings,” “Multimodal Analgesia for Ambulatory Total Joint Arthroplasty: Total Knee Arthroplasty and Total Hip Arthroplasty,” and “Crowdsourcing Best Practices in Ambulatory Anesthesia.” Membership affords continuous access to recordings of these webinars (asamonitor.pub/3ECoSGm). Non-members can view a portion of the webinar recordings.

SAMBA was well represented at the 2021 in-person (yes!) ASA annual meeting in October in San Diego. Many SAMBA members provided lectures and moderated sessions. It was so nice to learn, engage with colleagues and new contacts, visit exhibits, collaborate, and network again. Presenters included Drs. Basem B. Abdelmalak, Kumar Belani, Steven Butz, Victor Davila, Tong J. Gan, Michael Guertin, Jaime Hyman, Girish P. Joshi, Alvaro A. Macias, Sher-Lu Pai, Mark C. Phillips, Niraja Rajan, Leopoldo V. Rodriguez, Fred Shapiro, BobbieJean Sweitzer, Catherine Tobin, Richard D. Urman, Armando Valadon, Mary Ann Vann, and Michael Walsh.

Education has always been one of SAMBA’s key objectives, and our members have been busy contributing guidelines and statements on many topics. Dr. Abdelmalak represented SAMBA’s contributions and co-sponsorship (along with nine national/ international societies) of the 2022 ASA Practice Guidelines for the Management of the Difficult Airway (Anesthesiology 2022;136:3181). The December 2021 issue of Anesthesia & Analgesia (A&A) is dedicated to ambulatory topics and was curated by A&A ambulatory section editor Girish Joshi (asamonitor.pub/3tcCfde). The latest SAMBA guideline, Preoperative Care (asamonitor.pub/3ECoSGm), was well represented at the ICA annual meeting since 2019, and we look forward to participate in the ICA-sponsored World Anesthesia Day Conference on July 14, 2021. Several presidents of world anesthesiology societies participated and discussed ways to improve anesthesia safety and care. Drs. Leopoldo Rodriguez and Victor Davila presented at the ICA annual meeting December 17-19, 2021.

SAMBA recognizes qualified members for their service and contributions to patient care, leadership, and status within the field of ambulatory anesthesiology with the designation of Fellow of the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA-F). Basem Abdelmalak was instrumental in developing this prestigious recognition.

The volunteer efforts and contributions of our members truly make SAMBA an extraordinary organization with an exciting future! ■

Disclosure: Dr. Sweitzer is employed by the International Anesthesia Research Society.