

## ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2021

# San Diego Can't Wait to Welcome You for ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2021

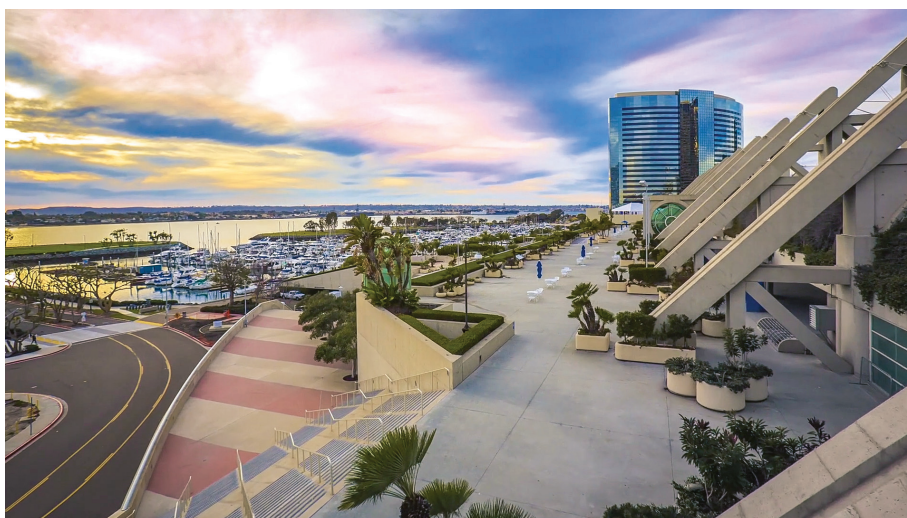
Maren Dougherty

**W**hile many things have changed during the pandemic, your destination for ANESTHESIOLOGY® 2021 remains as beautiful and welcoming as ever.

Offering an ideal backdrop for the return of in-person discussions and networking, San Diego has it all: Postcard-perfect sunsets, hip eateries, upscale hotels, sandy beaches, the world-famous San Diego Zoo, and countless outdoor activities.

The city is also home to the San Diego Convention Center (SDCC), an iconic waterfront venue that has hosted numerous essential activities and meetings during this past year. Drawing on those experiences and ongoing training, hundreds of convention and hospitality workers are preparing to safely welcome ASA back to San Diego this fall. ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 will take place at SDCC from October 8-12, 2021.

"From our world-class facility to family-friendly spots like Balboa Park and Mission Bay, event and hospitality professionals across our region are committed to providing a vibrant and safe destination. We want to ensure San Diego continues to be a place where you can participate in meaningful learning opportunities and – perhaps as important – rest and recharge



Maren Dougherty is Director, Marketing & Communications, at San Diego Convention Center Corporation.

under our sunny skies," said Rip Rippetoe, SDCC's President and CEO. "We are grateful for all the hard work of health care professionals throughout the pandemic, and we can't wait to thank you, in-person, here in San Diego."

With its diligent infection prevention program, temperate year-round weather, and collaboration with centers worldwide, SDCC is positioned to be among the nation's safest and cleanest venues for large-scale events. In July 2020, SDCC became one of the first convention centers in the United States to achieve the GBAC STAR™ facility accreditation, the cleaning industry's gold standard for facilities. This accreditation requires stringent protocols for cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention.

"To effectively recover from this crisis and prepare for the next, it's essential

for public facilities like the San Diego Convention Center to take these necessary steps. The GBAC STAR accreditation program is exactly what facilities need to confidently reopen and keep staff, customers, and communities safe," said John Barrett, executive director of the International Sanitary Supply Association, the worldwide cleaning industry association.

SDCC must demonstrate compliance with the program's 20 core elements, which range from standard operating procedures and risk assessment strategies to PPE and emergency preparedness measures. Created by leaders from distinguished health organizations, the program is designed to allow organizations the flexibility to update and enhance plans in response to any new scientific data associated with COVID-19 or other public health concerns.



Since April 2020, SDCC and its food and beverage partner, Centerplate, have worked with the city and county of San Diego on community-focused efforts to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the region. SDCC served as an emergency shelter for San Diegans in need and as a physically distanced voting center for the 2020 presidential election. Through these activities, employees have gained more than a year of continuous experience with industry-leading practices, training, and cleaning protocols related to COVID-19.

In addition to the GBAC accreditation, Centerplate San Diego was the first catering team in North America to receive the RiseSAFE hygiene verification label for food and beverage services. The Centerplate team coordinated with local government agencies to serve more than 1 million meals to vulnerable San Diegans during the pandemic.

That effort took place during 2020 and early 2021, when most events happened online. In-person activities have started to resume across the U.S., with venues preparing to host larger meetings and events in the second half of 2021.

"We are glad to see evidence of safe meetings now taking place in venues around the world. With our team's expertise and our excellent partners at ASA, you can trust the experience we'll provide for you," Rippetoe said. In addition to his San Diego role, Rippetoe serves as Chair of the International Association of Venue Managers Board of Directors, where he advances best practices among venue professionals.

SDCC takes advantage of Southern California's warm climate through its ample

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and inviting outdoor spaces, where groups can enjoy a physically distanced setting and sweeping views of the San Diego Bay. Whether participating in receptions on the center’s waterfront terraces or enjoying post-event fare at spacious outdoor patios in the Gaslamp District, attendees will have options for comfortable networking and socializing.

“From our vibrant innovation economy to our rich and diverse cultural offerings to our endless opportunities for

outdoor recreation and relaxation, our destination is designed to inspire productivity and creativity that delivers a real return on investment for everyone,” said Julie Coker, President and CEO of the San Diego Tourism Authority. “We look forward to welcoming ASA back to San Diego so attendees and exhibitors can connect and collaborate with colleagues – safely.”

In addition to the safety measures San Diego has in place, ASA will introduce new scan-and-go badge pickup procedures, touchless ticketing for sessions, and socially distanced sessions and exhibits.

ASA will follow local and federal safety and contact tracing protocols. Sign up for updates about ANESTHESIOLOGY 2021 at [asahq.org/ANES21](https://asahq.org/ANES21). ■

**Plan Your Trip**

The San Diego Convention Center is located in downtown San Diego, a 10-minute drive from the San Diego International Airport. For additional information about the destination and up-to-date details about COVID-19 protocols, visit:

- San Diego Convention Center: **Visitsandiego.com**
- San Diego Tourism Authority: **Sandiego.org**
- San Diego International Airport: **SAN.org**