



On behalf of the Special Operations Medical Association, we would like to invite you to the **Virtual SOMA 2020 Training, Education, Scientific Assembly and Exhibition**. As you all know, due to safety concerns from the current pandemic, this year's conference in Raleigh was canceled, but in the true spirit of the members of this organization, we have adapted and overcome to put together the same high-quality content you know and expect but in a virtual format. This is the 32nd annual assembly, and SOMA continues to serve its mission: *to advance the science, technology, knowledge, and skills of unconventional medicine to increase survival, reduce suffering, and speed recovery of those who are injured or become ill during Special Operations or Tactical missions.*

We have a great schedule of speakers who will spark the interest of all levels of SOF, military, and civilian prehospital providers. SOMA endeavors to advance the art and science of Special Operations Medicine and strives to be the most relevant international SOF medical society in the world, with members from more than two dozen countries.

The program this year has evolved to meet the call to provide the most cutting-edge content relevant to Special Operations Forces medicine. SOMA has radically changed the event format to better serve our members. The new virtual format will allow each member to watch any speaker they choose when they choose. There are no limitations on time for our speakers, so you will have the opportunity to hear everything they really wanted to say at the Scientific Assembly without having to cut out material for time. While our traditional hands-on labs will not be available, our lab faculty will be providing some of the same content but adapted for this new format. This will include a Question & Answer forum where you can textually interact with the speakers and lab faculty if you have specific questions. If you are not already a member, join today to attend this event at a discounted rate!

2020's innovative program provides a dynamic schedule targeting the most relevant challenges faced by the SOF population. We have recruited national and international faculty to tackle the most daunting topics faced by the community such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. The program continues to highlight the experience and wisdom of SOF medics to stimulate discussion of the most challenging SOF medical scenarios and to engage academia and industry for collaborative problem-solving. SOMSA continues the commitment to share lessons learned and forge new solutions in the unique world of unconventional medicine, such as **tyranny of distance, difficult evacuations, immature theaters, and prolonged field care scenarios.**

**Finally, if you like what we are doing, get involved.** SOMA is only as great as the membership. Participate in a committee. Join a working group. Run for an office. Your voice matters. If not a member, join SOMA. This is the only professional medical association in the world for SOF Medical Operators with the only journal in the world, The Journal of Special Operations Medicine, which focuses solely on the profession of SOF medicine. We can only grow and improve if you get involved.

**We look forward to your attendance this year Online!**

Kyle N. Remick, MD, FACS and Elliot Ross, MD, MPH  
Virtual SOMSA 2020 Co-Chairs