



On behalf of the Special Operations Medical Association, we would like to invite you to the **2021 Special Operations Medical Association's Training, Education, Scientific Assembly and Exhibition**. This is the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual assembly, and SOMA continues to serve its mission: *to advance the science, technology, knowledge, and skills of unconventional medicine providers in order 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, hosting a meeting of over 1,000 attendees 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. New this year, hands-on training labs are offered throughout the week to allow more opportunities to attend these in-demand sessions and popular breakouts are de-conflicted.

2021's innovative program provides a dynamic schedule targeting the most relevant challenges faced by the SOF population combined with the highest caliber hands-on training in both core skill sets and advanced practice. 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. This year's program is uniquely designed to ensure attendees are equipped to not only face the challenges unique to SOF medicine, but also to leverage collaborative relationships formed at the Assembly.

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 in Charlotte!

Kyle N. Remick, MD, FACS and Elliot Ross, MD, MPH  
SOMSA 2021 Co-Chairs