

NEWS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Summary of Group Project or Activities – Posted June 2025

2024 Committee Benchmarks Status Report

1. *Develop 2025 Annual meeting program content-*
Complete with 2026 planning underway
2. *Identify faculty for 2025 Annual Meeting-*
Complete
3. *Reconcile Annual Meeting planning with recommendations from the BOD, including budgetary directives -*
Complete
4. *Quarterly Meetings with Scientific Program Committee to debrief immediate past meeting, review future program development, and expand input from the committee-*
Ongoing quarterly meetings and discussion with SPC.

2026 Session proposals submitted and scored, with Consent agenda for 2026 in progress.

Session grid is under revision but will include workshops on Thursday, main sessions Friday through Sunday at Noon with increased concurrent sessions, refining of “track system”

Innovation Sessions and International Sessions planned for 2026. Innovation sessions will be developed by the industry council; International Sessions will be developed by the International Council in coordination with the SPC.

Live Case sessions: will debrief after 2025 experience but would like to include in 2026, need a source of financial support.

5. *Develop processes for expanded member engagement in Annual Meeting content selection: Open call to membership for 2026 program (PBLD submissions, general session proposals, networking events) -*

Working group of a subset of SPC members has developed a brief “Members’ needs” survey for the Annual Meeting allowing input on content and other aspects of the meeting. Entire SCA membership will be surveyed in late May/June with responses to be reviewed by the SPC to incorporate into a session in the 2026 Program.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTS

Action / Request for BOD Consideration

1. Finalize Location and dates for 2027 and 2028
2. Review proposals for “strategic” sessions that may impact budget

SUMMARY OF GROUP PROJECT OR ACTIVITIES – POSTED DECEMBER 2024

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status
2024 Annual Meeting	Debrief of 2024 AM including review of feedback and budget goals	Ongoing
2025 Annual Meeting	Planning of 2025 AM program	Ongoing
2026 Annual Meeting	Planning of 2026 AM program	Pending

SUMMARY OF GROUP MEETINGS

Date	Action Items from Meeting
4/26/2024	SPC Q1A MTG- Review session proposals with full committee input (complete) Working groups to reconcile/revise select sessions (complete) Conduct/moderate/attend 2024 Annual meeting (complete)
4/29/2024	SPC Q1B MTG- Debrief joint AATS meeting attendee comments (complete) Review food and beverage comments (complete) Officially debrief of 2024 annual meeting (complete 5/13/2024) Develop waiting lists for workshops (planned for 2025)

	Reserve spots for on-site registration spots for PBLDs (planned for 2025) Incorporate COR-PM content and develop “research track” for 2025 AM (Complete) Finalize consent agenda for 2025 (Complete) Establish working groups for: “Annual Meeting Needs Survey”; and social event/SIG/Committee/fellow mixer/Exhibitor Welcome Reception
05/13/2024	SPC Annual Meeting debrief Place abstracts online (complete) Revise Early career instructions for clarity (complete) Revise Best of Meeting and Early career selection to incorporate Research Committee input (Planned 2025) Revise and streamline CME claiming and exit survey for attendees (ongoing)
8/6/2024	SPC Q2 VIRTUAL MTG- -Volunteers reviewed PBLDs (complete) -Coordinate and develop Live Case sessions with Montreal Heart Institute team for 2024 meeting (session planning complete) -A&A session- Workshop planned (complete) -SIM bootcamp 2025 decision (complete, will defer for 2026 meeting) -Finalize program speakers and send out invites (complete) -Prepare finalized session content, speakers, and schedule ahead of initial “program” production (October) -Social Event/Exhibitor Welcome Reception- working group report at SPC Q3 meeting (October) - “Annual Meeting Needs Survey” development; goal to develop SCA members’ choice of topic session – working group report at SPC Q3 meeting (October) -Review instructions for Scientific Abstracts ahead of Call opening in September (complete) -Finalize workshop and PBLD program (Complete) -Finalize Workshop Speakers and secure equipment (ongoing) -Finalize PBLD faculty (ongoing) -Address speaker disclosure and declines, replace speakers (ongoing) -Finalize budget and planned spending for 2025 (ongoing) -Incorporate History Council Speaker into program (ongoing) -Finalize Fellows Program- schedule and speakers (ongoing) -Develop and coordinate Marketing plans for 2025 Annual meeting (ongoing)

Summary of Group Project or Activities – Posted June 2024

Description	Project Status
Plan and execute the SCA Annual Meeting and Workshops April 2024 – Toronto, Canada (in collaboration with AATS)	Ongoing but very near completion (April 27 – 30, 2024)

Summary of Group Meetings – Posted June 2024

Date	Action Items from Meeting
Weekly meetings with Veritas team and with Jonathan Ho, Stephanie Ibekwe Monthly meetings with AATS administrative teams	Ongoing regarding the annual meeting and workshops (examples include but are not limited to 1) speaker/topic selection 2) speaker replacements 3) registration review 4) website needs for annual meeting and workshops 5) collaborate with AATS
April 26, 2024 – in Toronto, Canada	Tackle and concerns for upcoming meeting which is April 27-30 2024. Initiate plans/suggestions for annual meeting and workshop for 2025 – per Jonathan Ho

POSTED NOVEMBER 2023

Summary of Group Meeting 1:

- Date: 2 meetings took place during the SCA annual meeting 2023 in Portland, OR (May 5 and May 9, 2023)
- Summary of Discussion: SPC members who were rotating off were thanked: those joining were welcomed. Mid-term members were also present and thanked. Draft proposals for 2024 were reviewed, moderator assignments discussed and distributed. Program skeleton generated by the end of the second meeting.
- Ongoing correspondence with the SPC took place via email, Microsoft Teams and Google Docs. This generated the draft of the 2024 annual meeting program. As of Sept 15, 2023 (date this report is due), the schedule at a glance is complete. The final draft of meeting with speakers, workshop faculty and PBLD faculty are 95% complete.
- Karol Flowers, from Veritas, to generate an excel spreadsheet of the entire meeting: to be used in Cadmium platform which is a speaker management system first utilized by SCA in 2023.
- Invitations to all annual meeting speakers to be sent no later than Oct 14, 2023
- Diversity considerations regarding speakers included gender, geographic location, generation (career experience – to incorporate early career, mid-career and established career)
- Including BOD as speakers and committee chairs as speakers
- MB Brady working with AATS team to facilitate AATS faculty as part of many SCA sessions – creating more multidisciplinary sessions than we have ever had at the annual meeting.
- Members **in Attendance**: Chair Mary Beth Brady, Vice-Chair Jonathan Ho, Workshop & PBLD Coordinator Stephanie Ibekwe, For SPC members in attendance – see minutes/notes (May 5, 2023) - For Veritas staff in attendance – see minutes/notes (May 9, 2023)

Summary of Group Meetings throughout the year:

- Monthly meeting with Executive Committee
 - Review of Toronto Site visit – need for space
 - Review of annual meeting draft –
 - grid has a new footprint for 2023
 - revisit maintaining grid for 2025 or reverting to 2023 grid for 2025
 - AATS periop track discussions
 - Leadership panel
 - CorPM timeline
 - PBLD decision – 12 PBLDs for 2024 – expand back to baseline in 2025
- Monthly meetings (1st Weds of every month) – SPC leadership and Veritas leadership
 - Brady, Ho, Ibekwe, Pavletich, Cranston, Flowers, Lunn, Herdrich, Manthei
 - Others from SCA or Veritas join intermittently and as needed
 - Matt van Wie resigned – Tara Luczak to take over exhibits/workshop equipment
 - In February, will move to bi-monthly meetings
- Summary of Discussion/Efforts: Planning of the entire SCA annual meeting for 2024
- Brady/Ho/Ibekwe to suggest 3 names for SCA SPC new workshop/PBLD coordinator
 - Toronto Site Visit – Brady, Cranston, DeMars
 - Space effort – by Jen Menthai for space in Toronto site
 - Program - detailed review to update as needed
 - Marketing timeline review
 - Registration timeline
 - Submissions
 - PBLD submission – no member submission this year b/c of limited space – will resume submissions 2025
 - Scientific, SuperEcho, Fellow/Resident abstract open – deadline Nov 6, 2023. Site to close in time for participants to take advantage of early bird registration
 - Abstract reviewers
 - 2024 meeting utilizing Abstract Review committee for first time
 - Meeting highlights
 - In collaboration with AATS – for first time
 - Leadership panel – SCA/AATS/ASE presidential panel
 - Multiple sessions with surgical input (from AATS recommendation)
 - Boot Camp for trainees
 - Sumler/Shaw/Brady/Veritas team visited STS Boot Camp
 - Session on Legal issues – including presentation from lawyers
 - Late Breaking Updates in Cardiac Anesthesiology
 - Certification Exam – lessons learned from inaugural exam
 - ECMO workshop (Saturday morning to incorporate TAS members as well as SCA members)
 - POCUS workshop
 - AATS collaboration
 - Regular meeting with AATS admin and program chairs (Gillinov/Woo)
 - Regular meeting with AATS Periop Track
 - Working together with AATS to plan all Periop Track sessions
 - Shaw and Arora co-chairs of AATS Periop Track
- Ibekwe, Ho, Brakke, Hargrave have met intermittently with Veritas team workshop/abstract needs

- Brady and Glas spoke to discuss makeup of SPC
 - Call for volunteers is active in fall 2023 – for spring 2024 start
 - SPC has limited openings – to keep SPC committee member number stable
 - Liaisons on SPC include the following 10 liaisons
 - STS, QSV, CPI, Research, EchoWeek, SOCCA, TAS, EACTAIC, Fellowship Director (2)
 - POCUS Liaison title removed – Mackenzie Hollon to remain on SPC
 - SPC has historically had EchoWeek liaison on SPC. Per Brady/Glas/Niocora/Nyman communication, as of 2023 EchoWeek has SPC liaison on the EchoWeek planning committee
 - SPC treats all liaison as active members of committee
- Budget
 - Awaiting budget meeting until 10/10/23 Executive Committee completed
 - Need to review budget from last year to plan for 2023
 - Registration fees
 - Food/Beverage
 - Photographer
 - Water Bottles
 - Meeting App
 - Other

POSTED JUNE 2023

DESCRIPTION & GOALS

We have designed and planned the SCA 2023 Annual Meeting for live and virtual registrants. Innovative and/or unique sessions include:

- History session – celebrating 45 years of the SCA. This session includes 5 past presidents of the SCA, the current SCA president and the president elect
- Multiple Multidisciplinary sessions
 - Contemporary Approaches to Heart Failure
 - Coronary Artery Disease
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Medical Error
 - Legal Considerations
 - Structural Heart procedures
 - Mitral Valve symposium
 - Transplantation
 - Right sided valves
 - Neurologic Perioperative Outcomes
- Workshops
 - Added a second POCUS workshop – due to popular demand
 - Dr Ibekwe has been working throughout the year with speakers/moderators/industry team to create innovative, productive workshops
 - Matt Van Wie joined us late in the year of 2022– to assist with exhibitors, equipment, support in general – to date, the support for the annual meeting has exceeded that of last 2022
 - Registration for workshops has exceeded our expectations. All but 2 are sold out as of March 15, 2023. As a result, we increased the caps on many of the workshops
- Abstracts
 - Dr Ho has worked closely with Kerim Oz to facilitate scientific abstract submissions, review of abstract and abstract presentation/moderating sessions at the annual meeting. There are 168 Scientific Abstracts to be presented at the annual meeting in Portland, OR.
 - Dr Ho is working with the newly established SCA abstract committee to utilize their expertise in the future.
 - Dr Ho has worked closely with Dr Jochen Muehlschlegel to select the winners of the Early Career awards as well as the Best of Meeting Abstract Awards
 - Dr Brakke and Dr Hargrave have worked closely with Kerim Oz to facilitate fellow/resident abstract submissions, review of abstract and abstract presentation/moderating sessions at the annual meeting. There are 408 resident/fellow abstracts to be presented at the annual meeting in Portland, OR.
 - Dr Ibekwe and Dr Ural have worked closely with Kerim Oz to facilitate Super Echo abstract submissions, review of these submissions and presentation of the Super Echo

session at the annual meeting. There were 28 submitted SuperEcho abstracts submitted to the 2022 meeting. This is the highest amount in the history of SuperEcho. As always, 6 submissions were chosen for presentation at the meeting. 11 abstracts were moved to Scientific Abstract sessions.

New this year, we have utilized Cadmium as the speaker management system. Kerim Oz has led the SCA transition to this system.

Since Jan 2023, we have worked closely with Nicole Cranston, the SCA Director of Education who has already done tremendous work for the annual meeting and has vast experience with medical societal meetings.

We have streamlined the member experience on the SCA website for the annual meeting. On one page, we have included information on registration, schedule at a glance, workshops, PBLDs and entire program in detail.

We have worked closely with the History Task Force to present the first “walk through SCA history” exhibit at the annual meeting.

We have worked closely with the Gala Task Force to reinstitute the Gala. We have also instituted a Living Legends Cocktail party which will be presented in conjunction with the Exhibitors Welcome Reception.

We have welcomed and incorporated new SPC members who were the first ever to enter the SPC via the SCA call for volunteers. In May 2023, we will welcome the second group of SPC members who were chosen in this fashion.

Via Cadmium site, we solicited and reviewed submissions for 2024 annual meeting. At the time of submission of this report, SPC members are actively reviewing/scoring the submissions.

We have worked closely with the AATS to plan the first ever SCA meeting which will take place at the same site and date as the AATS. The site is Toronto, Canada. Our goal and expectations are that the ability to have multidisciplinary panels will increase dramatically. Our hope is to have an exchange of speakers between the SCA and the AATS. Additionally, we have worked closely with the Jonathan Nesbit, MD who is a leader in Simulation Education. He co-directs an annual boot camp for cardiac surgical trainees. Michele Sumler, MD will be co-directing a state of the art simulation course for trainees at the SCA and AATS. Trainees will include cardiac surgical residents and cardiac anesthesia fellows.

We have 2 on-site SPC meetings planned for Portland, Oregon in May 2023.

For registration/in-kind support from exhibitors/budget details – see Jim Pavletich report

Dr Ho, Dr Ibekwe and I have worked hard to create a team approach to this entire year. We are very optimistic that this team effort will be reflected in a successful meeting in Portland, Oregon.

COLLABORATION

- History Task Force
- Gala Task Force
- Education Task Force
- CME Committee
- Online Education subgroup
- Social Media Committee
- Membership committee
- SCA Program Directors Council
- American Association of Thoracic Surgeons

POSTED NOVEMBER 2022

Requests for Board of Directors Approval

- Action / Request 1: Discuss annual meeting Budget
- Action / Request 2: Briefly discuss overall view/mission of program for 2024 - inaugural collaboration with AATS

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2 meetings took place during the SCA annual meeting 2022 in Palm Springs, CA (May 13 and May 16, 2022)

- Summary of Discussion: SPC members who were rotating off were thanked: those joining were welcomed. Mid-term members were also present and thanked. Draft proposals for 2023 were reviewed, moderator assignments discussed and distributed. Program skeleton generated by the end of the second meeting.
- Ongoing correspondence with the SPC took place via email, Microsoft Teams and Google Docs. This generated the draft of the annual meeting program
- Kerim Oz, from Veritas, generated an excel spreadsheet of the entire meeting: to be used in Cadmium platform which is a speaker management system new to SCA annual meeting planning team
- Invitations to all annual meeting speakers to be sent no later than Oct 14, 2022

Summary of Group Meeting 2:

- Date: Monthly meetings (1st Weds of every month) – SPC leadership and Veritas leadership
 - o Brady, Ho, Ibekwe, Pavletich, Oz, Lunn, Herdrich, Manthei
 - o Others from SCA or Veritas join intermittently and as needed
 - o Matt van Wie attended Sept and Oct meetings and will consistently join us moving forward – van Wie is at ASA to strengthen relationships with vendors
 - o In February, will move to bi-monthly meetings
- Summary of Discussion: Planning of the entire SCA annual meeting
 - o Program - detailed review to update as needed
 - o Marketing timeline review
 - o Registration timeline
 - o Submissions
 - PBLD submission completed/reviewed/incorporated into program > 50 submissions
 - Scientific, SuperEcho, Fellow/Resident abstract open – deadline Nov 10, 2022
 - Abstract reviewers – invited • 2024 meeting will plan to utilize Abstract Review committee
 - Meeting highlights
 - History session – in conjunction with history Taskforce
 - SCA Gala – per Joyce Wahr and team
 - Ibekwe and Ho have met intermittently with Veritas team and Van Wie team for workshop needs
 - Brady and Glas met to discuss makeup of SPC
 - o Call for volunteers is active
 - o SPC has openings
 - o Last year call for volunteer was new. Some applicants were appropriate and these members were added to committee. Some applicants were marginal. SPC leadership decided to keep openings available for fall 2022 call for volunteers with the hope that better candidates would surface this year
 - o Liaisons on SPC include the following 9 liaisons ☐ STS, QSL, Research, EchoWeek, SOCCA, PoCUS, TAS, EACTAIC, Fellowship Director
 - o QSL is now QSV and CPI. SPC committee will have a liaison from each.
 - o SPC has historically had EchoWeek liaison on SPC. Per Brady/Glas/Niocora/Nyman communication, now EchoWeek will have a SPC liaison on the EchoWeek planning committee
 - Budget
 - o Awaiting budget meeting until 10/10/22 Executive Committee completed
 - o Need to review budget from last year to plan for 2023
 - Registration fees
 - Food/Beverage
 - Photographer
 - Water Bottles
 - Meeting App
 - Other

COLLABORATION

CME Committee – Dr Kathy Glas

Online Education subgroup – Jennifer Hargrave

American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) annual meeting

- 2024 in Toronto
- SPC/Veritas leadership to work together on this exciting inaugural collaboration
- First planning meeting with SPC/Veritas/AATS leadership to take place Oct 19, 2022

POSTED JUNE 2022

From May 2021 – March 2022 we have monthly meetings with the program chairs and the Veritas staff. From April 2022 – until May Annual meeting, we have bimonthly meetings.

- Every 2-3 weeks since May 2021, we have scheduled, ongoing meetings with SPC Chairs and Veritas staff
- The SPC is then updated after our meetings in teams with pertinent/important information.
- We have designed and planned the first ever SCA AM hybrid meeting format. This has taken a year of dedicated work and communication and we are optimistic we will have success in Palm Springs.
- Dr. Ho has had multiple meetings with the workshop faculty since July 2022, and for the most part, we are set with workshop industry in-kind support. This has been ongoing work as Industry support partners have not been doing in person meetings for the last 2 year and Veritas is new to this process with the AM22 being our first in person event under their guidance.
- We onboarded reviewed/selected our new speaker management system. We have tested this, are currently utilizing, and have two pre-AM22 practice session for our virtual moderators.
- We continue to work weekly if not daily with management team re: the first hybrid AM approach
- We have essentially doubled the moderating responsibilities of the
- We have outlined a new SPC for 22-23 year with new members selected and call for submissions for AM23 session planning underway under Dr. Brady's leadership.
- We will have two on-site SPC meetings in person in Palm Springs.

DESCRIPTION & GOALS

- SPC chairs have worked with Veritas team to create timeline and tasks lists for AM 22; we have been in communication weekly re: all templates, database, invitations and processes for AM planning
- All speaker communication, selection and correspondence
- Vendor/exhibitor support coordination, workshop needs identified, coordinated and verified
- Marketing material reviewed, we created and reviewed an ongoing email and marketing plan
- Super Echo work group
- PBLDs admission and selection complete
- Abstracts submissions, reviewed and complete
- All virtual platform, hybrid plan, budget, target goals, reviewed every 3 weeks with Veritas staff and Program chairs
- Moderators have been in communication frequently with their speakers and with the program chairs.

COLLABORATION

- CME Committee
- Online Education subgroup
- Social Media Committee
- Membership committee

POSTED OCTOBER 2021

Requests for Board of Directors Approval: A request was made by Dr. Shillcutt at the August BOD mtg in Chicago to consider moving the AM23 budget up for BOD approval no later than July 1, 2022. The planning of the meeting is really done by this date, and the budget needs early approval to operationalize the annual meeting.

Summary of Group Meeting

- Every 2-3 weeks since May 2020, we have scheduled, ongoing meetings with SPC Chairs and Veritas staff
- The SPC is then updated after our meetings in teams with pertinent/important information.
- Dr. Ho has had multiple meetings with the workshop faculty since July 2021.
- We have met with Jen Hargrave re: coordination of Online Education materials for 21-22
- We have had several meetings and reviewed/selected new speaker management system
- We continue to work weekly if not daily with management team re: transition and hybrid possible mtg approach
- Hybrid decision: To be decided by Sept 1, per EC
- 2022 AM Budget: to be decided October board mtg

DESCRIPTION & GOALS

- SPC chairs have worked with Veritas team to create timeline and tasks lists for AM 21; we have been in communication weekly re: all templates, database, invitations and processes for AM planning
- All speaker communication, selection and correspondence
- Vendor/exhibitor support coordination, workshop needs identified
- Marketing material reviewed, plan in place
- Super Echo work group
- PBLDs in review
- Abstract calls
- All virtual platform, virtual plan, budget; reviewed every 3 weeks with Veritas staff and PC.
- Moderators have been in communication frequently with their speakers.

COLLABORATION

- CME Committee
- Online Education subgroup

FUTURE PROJECTS

Session planning, submission ranking for AM2022, First meeting April 29th.