Education and life-long learning for our membership remains one of the most important aspects of SCA's mission. SCA’s leadership strives to provide a variety of educational formats and content that reflect both fundamentals and review material along with up-to-date knowledge within our subspecialty. It is critical that we maintain the credibility of the educational material we provide to our members by ensuring that it meets the criteria established by the ACCME and enables our society to remain a notable CME provider.

This month’s editorial is provided by Andy Shaw, MB FCCM FFICM FRCA, who not only is our president-elect but also our CME Committee chair. Dr. Shaw is currently chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at The University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, and the zone clinical department head for anesthesia at the Alberta Health Services Edmonton Zone. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of
Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, a Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK), a Fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine, and a Fellow of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (UK). His clinical practice is focused on cardiothoracic anesthesia, critical care, and perioperative medicine. He also holds a master’s degree in healthcare management from Vanderbilt University. Please welcome Dr. Shaw’s vision of SCA’s educational endeavors.

Every anesthesiologist who delivers cardiac, vascular, and thoracic anesthesia has a need for ongoing education. In this regard, we are no different from our colleagues working in other subspecialty settings or in general anesthesia practice. Whether we are refreshing our knowledge because of a practice change (eg, picking up a new regular list or a new procedure type) or for MOCA purposes, we all need access to high-quality CME content. As a provider of CME material and programming, SCA is required to meet the high standards set in place by the ACCME—standards that establish and guarantee that educational content is delivered by those with its accreditation stamp of satisfactory quality and free from commercial influence. We take this extremely seriously, and this year we are preparing for reaccreditation by the ACCME. As we did last time, we have retained Steve Passin & Associates to help us with this process. They are a consulting firm who are experts in the reaccreditation process for providers of CME content and will help us navigate the application and review process. This winter your CME Committee and SCA Management Team will be hard at work finalizing all the documentation for all SCA education programs and meetings that will be reviewed as part of the reaccreditation process.

We have typically provided almost all of our CME content via in-person meetings, with an opportunity to purchase access to the recorded material afterward. We are interested in hearing from you, our members, about demand for more modern ways of accessing CME material. Programs such as massive open online courses (MOOCs), online interactive and passive content, recorded material, podcasts, traditional lectures, flipped classroom content, online textbooks, YouTube video snippets, and so on have all revolutionized medical education in other disciplines, and we are interested in exploring these ideas for our members. There is always a resource commitment required, so it is important for us to be able to gauge interest for a particular program prior to developing it. However, it is unlikely that demand for online material will decline, so we are committed to improving and extending our current portfolio of CME activities. Please take a moment and complete this survey. Let us know your thoughts on education content, delivery preferences, and how you currently get your CME.
One of the things that we are most proud of is our in-person meetings. Echo Week, PoCUS, TAS, and the Annual Scientific Meeting are all highlights of the cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia education calendar, and we are always looking for opportunities to improve. All of the program directors are happy to hear from any members about ways in which content can be enhanced, so please reach out to them. One of the questions we have for our members is whether there is an appetite for some smaller, perhaps regional (in terms of geography that is), meetings in different places around the country. These would not replace our flagship programs, but instead might focus on specific areas of interest and thus complement the content available at the bigger meetings. Please let us know if this is something you would be interested in seeing SCA develop - please complete survey.

I would like to thank all the volunteers and staff who work so hard to develop and deliver the high-quality educational content that has made SCA the leader in cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia CME. To help them with this work, please let us know how we can continue to innovate and develop the content you want to see and the ways in which you want to receive it. The more details we can collect about our membership’s wishes and needs, the better we can shape our content and programs to meet those needs.

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