

A Peek Behind the Scenes at ACFAS 2019



Al Ng, DPM, FACFAS
Annual Scientific Conference Committee Chair

Topping a show-stopping conference like ACFAS 2018 in Nashville is no easy feat, but the College's Annual Scientific Conference Committee is working hard to do just that. Alan Ng, DPM, FACFAS, Annual Scientific Conference Committee chair, and the committee members have met twice so far to begin building the framework for next year's conference in New Orleans, all while taking into account attendees' feedback and suggestions from ACFAS 2018.

"Our educational program in Nashville was second to none, but we plan to try some new approaches to enhance attendees' educational experience and meet their needs," explains Dr. Ng.

Based on the input from ACFAS 2018, Dr. Ng and the committee determined

attendees really enjoy panel discussions and the real-world answers and solutions they provide. "Our membership seems to get the most out of down-to-earth commentary from our speakers," he notes. "Questions focused on everyday scenarios can bring out thought processes that the audience can then incorporate into their practice."

Sessions at ACFAS 2019 will continue to include audience participation, but attendees will have even more opportunity to interact with speakers and moderators. They will be able to text comments and questions to the panel—eliminating the need to stand in line at a microphone—and engage with doctors from other medical specialties. "We want to give our attendees the big picture," says Dr. Ng.

Attendees can also expect a healthy mix of both panel-type and didactic sessions on the conference schedule, but the committee is taking special care to ensure that session topics include something for everyone, with minimal overlap. "While instances will always occur where an attendee will want to go to two sessions that

are scheduled at the same time, we're diversifying the track topics to reduce overlap," he says.

"We want the program content to appeal to all attendees, so tracks will range from total ankle replacement to hammertoes," adds Dr. Ng. "Managing hammertoes postoperatively can often be as challenging as managing a complex reconstruction. By covering all aspects of foot and ankle surgery, we hope to deliver a great educational experience for everyone."

The Annual Scientific Conference committee will also encourage moderators to contact their panel prior to the conference to review the content to make sure it reflects attendees' input from ACFAS 2018 and includes new ideas and techniques from subject matter experts.

Dr. Ng recommends attendees plan ahead to make the most of their ACFAS 2019 experience and all it will offer. "Review the schedule well in advance and map out everything you want to see. Take time to explore the beautiful city of New Orleans and to catch up with your colleagues too!"

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