

# World Congress of Anaesthesiologists 2016: The Olympics of Anaesthesiology

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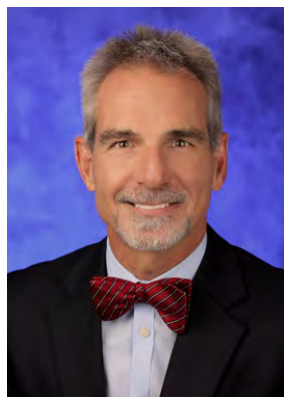


# WFSA

WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

**Sixty-one years ago, representatives from 42 anesthesiology societies gathered in Scheveningen, in the Netherlands, for the first World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA).** Twenty-six societies joined initially, with many others – including ASA – joining at the second World Congress in Toronto in 1960. Today, the WFSA is proud to count more than 120 societies as members, covering some 140 countries across the globe.

The 16th WCA will be held in Hong Kong this year from August 28 to September 2. The WCA has been called the “Olympics of Anaesthesiology Congresses.” One reason for this is that national anesthesia societies compete for the privilege of hosting this premier world-class anesthesiology congress.



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## VENUES FOR WCA

- Scheveningen, Netherlands .....1955
- Toronto, Canada ..... 1960
- Sao Paulo, Brazil..... 1964
- London, England..... 1968
- Kyoto, Japan ..... 1972
- Mexico City, Mexico .....1976
- Hamburg, Germany .....1980
- Manila, Philippines.....1984
- Washington, D.C., U.S.A.....1988
- Den Haag, Netherlands .....1992
- Sydney, Australia ..... 1996
- Montreal, Canada ..... 2000
- Paris, France ..... 2004
- Cape Town, South Africa ..... 2008
- Buenos Aires, Argentina .....2012
- Hong Kong, China .....2016
- Prague, Czech Republic ..... 2020

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To do so, they submit their proposals to the WFSA Venue Selection Committee for adjudication eight years prior to the hosting of the event. Thus the Hong Kong Society of Anaesthetists submitted and presented its successful bid at the WCA held in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2008. This year again, national anesthesia societies have been invited to submit proposals for hosting the WCA in 2024. In 2020, the WCA will be held in Prague, Czech Republic.

Another reason for calling the WCA the “Olympics of Anaesthesiology Congresses” is the outstanding quality of the congress that, by design, invites world experts to speak on their subject in specific tracks with wide geographic representation. Panels are often designed to invite experts from three different continents to ensure a true international perspective on the subject of interest.

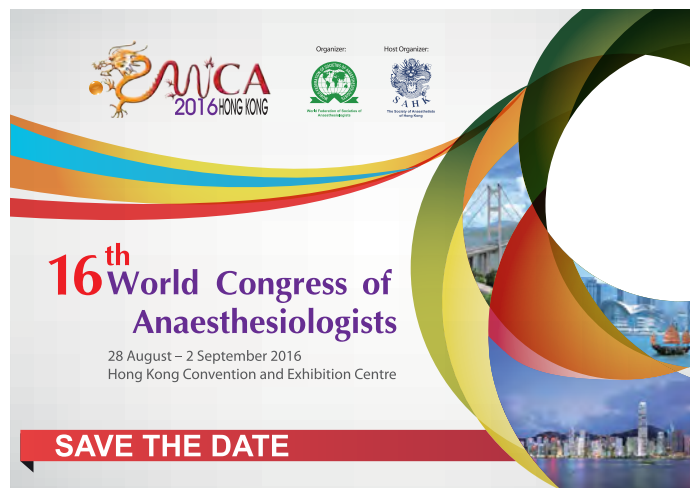
A further reason is that during the WCA, the WFSA holds two general assemblies. In these general assemblies, national delegates are seated proportionate to the number of subscribed national members of the respective country’s societies. ASA, by virtue of being the largest society in the world, has at least 35 delegates in attendance at the general assembly. The assembly governs the WFSA and votes on proposals brought forward by the president and officers of the WFSA. In addition, these delegates vote on nominees put forward by national societies for the new officer positions that will govern the WFSA for the next four years.

### World Congress of Anaesthesiologists 2016

The 16th WCA hosted by the Society of Anaesthetists of Hong Kong and co-organized with the WFSA will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, a state-of-the-art facility on a vibrant island; some say the crossroads of Asia ([www.hkcec.com](http://www.hkcec.com)).

Initial planning for the 16th WCA started nearly a decade ago with presentations at WCA 2008 in a bid to host the conference. More detailed organization of the scientific program started four years ago with the aim to provide a truly unique opportunity for delegates to participate in a program that offered both academic excellence and the opportunity to learn, contribute and share experiences with each other.

The scientific program ([wca2016.com/preliminary-programme.htm](http://wca2016.com/preliminary-programme.htm)) is divided into 20 themes or tracks, and an international subcommittee of experts is appointed for each track. Their brief was to prepare a topical, clinically relevant program choosing faculty who are current experts in their field, using a variety of formats (lectures, panels, debates, workshops and small-group, problem-based learning discussions (PBLDs) to provide the best possible learning and sharing experience for all delegates. There are more than 600 scientific sessions (at least 10 concurrent at any time) and 100 workshops and PBLDs, so there will always be something of interest and value for every delegate.



Many tracks last two to three days, with special day symposia on “Anaesthesia and Cancer” and “Obesity and Sleep Medicine.” Several tracks are week-long to address some important global issues that affect all of us and the future of anesthesiology. The Perioperative Surgical Home model is discussed in the Perioperative Medicine track and other subspecialty tracks. The Education and Development track reflects a major mission of the WFSA, and the week-long program showcases what dedicated colleagues have been doing for anesthesiology around the world, and what more we can still do.

The keynote plenary speakers (the Harold Griffith Lecturers) are Atul Gawande and Tore Laerdal, and their

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pioneering work in patient safety is continued through multiple sessions in the Safety and Quality track as well as Lifebox events. Another highlight of the WCA is the Arts and Humanities track that explores the place of anesthesiology and medicine in history, ethics, literature, music, theater and the fine arts. The track will feature concerts and healthplays, with performers brought to the WCA supported by grants from the Australian Ministry of Arts.

The presentation and discussion of scientific abstracts is valuable for sharing knowledge and experience, and it is expected that more than 1,000 abstracts will be submitted in two categories: research abstracts, and clinical/professional case reports/studies. The WCA has also been well supported by industry and will feature an extensive international exhibition and 12 breakfast and lunchtime symposia.

Overall, the WCA provides a unique, international, clinically focused scientific program of the highest quality in anesthesiology, critical care and pain medicine, as well as the opportunity to meet, share and learn with our colleagues from around the world.

American anesthesiologists are invited to attend the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in Hong Kong, to join with our international colleagues in celebrating the Olympics of our Specialty of Anesthesiology.

