



The Association for Hospital Medical Education conducted the AHME Institute in Savannah, Georgia in 2019. We planned to hold the event in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2020 but were forced to cancel it shortly after declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic. We decided early in the planning process that the Institute would be conducted virtually in 2021 and it was a great success, attracting the largest audience ever and unfolding so smoothly that even we were surprised. When the Association's program committee first gathered in June 2021 to plan the event slated for Portland, Oregon in May 2022, there was no doubt in our minds that we would finally be able to be together again to visit with our friends and colleagues and to share the many lessons we learned during these last several years. The meeting was planned as an in-person event, speakers were confirmed, and the brochure was in development.

The Delta variant then began to have a significant impact in our institutions. Increasing numbers of patients were admitted, critical care units were packed, and we were again faced with many tragic mortalities. Members in some states were more severely affected than those in other states but the hot spots seemed to be moving to areas that hadn't been severely affected as time passed. This prompted our program committee and our Board of Directors to revisit the initial plans for an in-person event. AHME members and others who had attended the Institute in recent years were surveyed. We heard clearly that the group wanted to be back in-person but that many institutions had already restricted funding for travel or restricted travel entirely, or were considering a move in this direction. A larger percentage of the respondents expressed confidence that they could participate in virtual meeting than in an in-person event.

Armed with this input from AHME members and concern for the safety of participants, our Board reluctantly decided that we would conduct the AHME Institute virtually in 2022. This prompted a flurry of activity with the aim of reformatting the program in a way that would capitalize on our success in 2021 but introduce some adjustments in the way sessions are conducted to incorporate the lessons we learned from last year. The program will still include all the sessions originally planned for Portland but will stretch them out over a three and one-half day period (May 10-13, 2022) to shorten the days, introduce longer breaks, and allow for more interaction with colleagues and speakers. Finally, registration will remain at the same low rates offered in 2021. We are now in the final stages preparing to open registration as usual on November 1 and hope you will be one of the first to confirm your plans to participate in the 2022 AHME Institute.

Sincerely,

Wilhelmine Wiese-Rometsch, MD, FACP, President  
Venice VanHuse, MPA, President-Elect  
Susan Greenwood-Clark, MBA, RN, FACHE, Immediate Past President

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