



M. Sean Grady, M.D.

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Dear Fellow Society Members, Program Directors and Guests:

The University of Pennsylvania's Department of Neurosurgery is thrilled to host the 100th Anniversary meeting of the Society of Neurological Surgeons in Philadelphia this year and looks forward to having you visit our historical city. The meeting venue is the Logan Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton, formerly the Four Seasons, located just off Benjamin Franklin Parkway and squarely in the city's arts and cultural hub. World famous museums such as the Rodin, the Barnes and the Philadelphia Art Museum are all in very close proximity, as is the Franklin Institute. Our nation's origin story is on display in Old City where the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall are located, among many famous places from our history. There are renowned dining institutions in the city, such as Zahav, winner of the 2019 James Beard Award as the best restaurant of the year.

Dr. Deborah Benzil, Chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, has been working diligently to develop a terrific program. This year, we will explore the theme of "Higher Education," selected by SNS President, Dr. Karin Muraszko. There will be significant emphasis on ethics and professionalism, cultural competence and setting cultures of excellence. The Program Coordinators' meeting will occur at the Sonesta Hotel on Friday, May 29th, a five-minute walk from the Logan. The joint Program Directors and Coordinators' meeting will take place at the Logan on Saturday, May 30th. We will follow the tradition of meeting at the host program on the Penn campus on Sunday May 31st. The remainder of the program will take place Logan Monday June 1st through Tuesday, June 2nd.

The social program starts Saturday night at the Logan with a cocktail reception and light hors d'oeuvres with entertainment by the Neurosurgery Jazz band. You should plan to make reservations for dinner that night, and we will make available listings of some of the many well-known restaurants, (as well as my favorite cheese steak place!). On Sunday, dinner is planned at the Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, a half mile walk from the Logan (bus transportation will be available). There is a fascinating collection of skulls, medical artifacts and famous specimens including sections of Einstein's brain. At the conclusion of the Monday meeting, we are tentatively scheduling a walk/run down the Franklin Parkway (1 mile each way) to the "Rocky" steps at the Art Museum, where you can get a picture of yourself with the statue of "Rocky Balboa", now a classic destination in Philadelphia. Monday night's reception and dinner will be at the National Constitution Center, an appropriate location for this election year and in the heart of Old City. The evening events are business casual attire; as we have noted attendees really enjoy getting together and talking informally with their colleagues at these events.

Registered spouses and partners will have opportunities for major art museum tours, seeing Old City with all the historic sites and museums, having lunch at Reading Terminal Market or a scenic walk along Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill. The Logan offers a full range of exercise equipment, and an outstanding spa. The weather is typically very pleasant with the temperatures in the mid 70's in the day.

We are very excited to welcome you to Philadelphia, and expect your visit to be both educational and entertaining.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Grady', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean Grady, MD
Local Host
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