

Dear OTA Members and Orthopaedic Colleagues,

We are very excited to host all of you for the 25th Annual OTA Meeting in San Diego, California. The meeting will be at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel at the south end of the Gaslamp district, which is very conveniently located for many local restaurants, activities, and the beautiful view of San Diego bay. The attached marina is home to the famous America's Cup Stars and Stripes. While we look forward to an especially good meeting for sharing research, education and our most recent clinical stories with our colleagues, we hope you will find the time to take advantage of beautiful San Diego before, during, or after the annual meeting. The last regular season baseball series with the San Diego Padres versus the San Francisco Giants is October 3-5, 2009 at Petco Park within walking distance of the hotel. The Catalina Island JazzTrax Festival is the first three weekends of October, and the 1.5 hour ferry across at Dana Point is just 65 miles north of San Diego. The family will of course enjoy the world famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World, and the Children's Museum (very close to Hyatt), not to mention the many beaches and parks.

October is the last of the dry months for San Diego and is usually a transition period with variable weather. Normal daily temperature is 67 degrees, and ranging from 61 to 74 degrees at Lindbergh Field. If a warm dry Santa Ana wind comes in, temperatures can approach the 90's. Plan to have a sweatshirt or jacket for the evenings.

With many of the origins of trauma care linked to lessons learned on the battlefield, it is fitting that this meeting be held in a location with such a large military presence. The three county area including San Diego, Imperial and Riverside Counties are home to the largest concentration of military personnel in the country, encompassing nearly one fifth of the US Military assets stationed in the US. San Diego County itself is homeport to over 50 ships including two aircraft carriers and, the First Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, arguably the greatest fighting force ever known. The Naval Medical Center San Diego is the largest military treatment facility in the world and is the Combat Casualty Care Center for the west coast. The USS Midway, as well as, the Air and Space Museum in Balboa Park offer excellent opportunities for attendees and their families to learn about the role the Armed Services have played in forming our country and its place in the world today.

With so much to do and a high quality program, we look forward to a great meeting and welcome all to San Diego, California, "America's Finest City."

Michael T. Mazurek, M.D.

Jeffrey M. Smith, M.D.

