

**Hello ARAS Members,**

We hope you are as excited as we are planning for the ARAS Spring meeting! As you may have seen, the APDS Spring Meeting is offering Program Directors and Physicians a “Have It Your Way—Take Your Pick Meeting”, offering the in-person event in Boston AND simultaneous live streaming.

The ARAS EC recognizes that many of our members still have institutional or budgetary limitations that may impact their freedom to travel in April, so we have opted to make **the ARAS Spring 2021 meeting completely virtual**. We will, as usual, be offering both the APDS Presidential and Keynote Addresses as part of ARAS.

### **Registration Fees**

ARAS appreciates the understanding of our members with respect to the demands of the COVID-19 crisis, and we are very excited to gather as a community for our first ARAS Virtual Meeting! Both APDS and ARAS Officers and Board Members are committed to assuring fairness to the members—we believe in maintaining our community and educational mission even during these difficult times.

Because of this, we have set the registration fees for the Virtual Meeting at the same fee structure we had for Chicago (2019) and for the APDS 2020 Virtual meeting. Costs to virtual attendees will be reduced without airfare, hotel and other travel expenses. We also anticipate, despite higher audio-visual costs, that the total costs of the virtual meeting will be less than if the meeting was held entirely in-person. Upon completion of the 2021 APDS and ARAS meetings, leadership will review the costs, and a uniform amount will be established as a credit for attendees which can be applied toward registration fees for next year’s 2022 Surgical Education Week, May 1- May 7, 2022 at the Grand Hyatt Copley in San Antonio. (At the 2021 ARAS Virtual Meeting-- a similar arrangement had been used for attendees at the APDS 2020 Virtual Meeting.)

The ARAS EC has worked hard to prepare a very full and exciting agenda for our ARAS Spring meeting, and we hope you will be able to join us! Please follow the link below to register, and do let us know if you have questions. We are looking forward to seeing you (virtually) this Spring!

Take care and be well,

Your ARAS Executive Committee