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Medellín blooms with new ideas in anesthesiology: the XXXVI Colombian Congress of Anesthesiology and Resuscitation

Medellín florece con nuevas ideas en anestesiología. El XXXVI Congreso Colombiano de Anestesiología y Reanimación

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The Colombian Journal of Anesthesiology is honored and privileged to address the entire community of anesthesiologists, medical specialists, healthcare professionals, and medical students in Colombia, Latin America, and around the world. This is more than a date on the academic calendar—it is an invitation to be part of a transformative experience in the heart of a city renowned for its innovation, resilience, and progress. Medellín, the 'City of Eternal Spring,' will serve as the vibrant host of the XXXVI Colombian Congress of Anesthesiology and Resuscitation, to be held from August 28 to 30, 2025.

This will be far more than just another congress—it will be, quite simply, a historic milestone. Not only does it stand as the premier academic event in the specialty across the region, but for the first time ever, our national congress will share the stage with the II World Congress of Obstetric Anesthesia (WCOA2025). This unprecedented event in Latin America positions Colombia as a regional hub of knowledge in anesthesia. It is a remarkable opportunity to showcase to the world the academic, scientific, and organizational strength of our professional society, as well as our commitment to addressing global health challenges with innovative, collaborative solutions.

The congress theme, "Innovation in Anesthesiology: Medellín Blooms with New Ideas," is more than a creative slogan – it is a bold statement of principles. It represents our community's commitment to clinical excellence, continuing medical education, and research. Medellín, a city famous for its urban transformation, investment in knowledge, and cultural heritage, is the ideal setting for this gathering. Medellín's Flower Festival (Feria de las Flores),

held every August, symbolically intertwines with the blossoming of knowledge and the meeting of brilliant minds from around the world.

The academic structure of the congress has been designed with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach, addressing the current and future needs of anesthesiology. Over 150 distinguished speakers from the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa will share their expertise, research, and the latest advancements in the field. The program will cover key topics in contemporary anesthetic practice, including innovations in regional anesthesia, advanced pain management, new pharmacological therapies, and the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in the surgical setting. All of this is driven by a shared goal: to elevate the standards of quality and safety in anesthetic care.

The presence of the II World Congress of Obstetric Anesthesia in this context adds a crucial dimension. Maternal health is a cornerstone of global medical care, and obstetric anesthesia plays a critical role in reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. Yet, in many regions around the world, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, access to safe anesthesia during childbirth remains limited. This congress seeks precisely to open spaces for discussion, allowing attendees to learn from the successful experiences of both national and international speakers.

In addition to lectures and workshops, the congress will promote research competitions, free paper sessions, dedicated spaces for students and residents, and networking opportunities with industry representatives. The commercial exhibition will bring together

leading companies in medical technology, anesthesia devices, pharmaceuticals, clinical simulation, and virtual education. This component of the congress reflects the essential synergy among science, clinical practice, and technological innovation.

The simulation workshops, both high- and low-fidelity, will offer attendees a valuable opportunity to strengthen their competencies in the practical and safe management of critical scenarios in anesthesiology. Topics to be covered include difficult airway management, care of the multiple trauma patient, safe sedation, depth of anesthesia (DoA) monitoring, malignant hyperthermia, and ultrasound-guided nerve blocks. These activities are designed with a practical focus and are applicable to the care of diverse populations: pediatric, adult, geriatric, and obstetric patients, thereby reinforcing clinical decision-making in high-demand contexts. The Sociedad Antioqueña de Anestesiología y Reanimación (SADEA) contributes to this collective effort by offering a series of pre-congress workshops designed to enrich and complement the main program. These workshops will be held at various simulation centers throughout the city, equipped with cutting-edge technology and led by local and

national instructors who are academic leaders in their respective areas of expertise.

The Plaza Mayor Convention Center, with its modern facilities and strategic location in the heart of Medellín, will be the official venue for both events. It is worth noting that a single registration grants access to the academic activities of both congresses, maximizing the educational value and networking opportunities for all attendees.

Beyond its substantive agenda, this Congress holds profound symbolic and emotional significance. Following the challenging years of the pandemic, it stands as a vibrant celebration of life, collective learning, and the enduring strength of the medical community. As the Organizing Committee aptly puts it, "this is a congress where you can already smell the flowers, the science, the innovation and the knowledge."

Dr. Olga Lucía Herrera Losada, president of the S.C.A.R.E., also emphasizes that "Once we meet in Medellín, we will return home inspired, challenged, and deeply proud of our wonderful profession." It is precisely that spirit of renewal and commitment that we are eager to nurture. Every lecture, every conversation, every networking opportunity will be a seed of

transformation that will blossom in the clinical practice of each and every one of the participants.

Don't miss this invaluable experience! We particularly encourage young anesthesiologists, residents, educators, and all those who are shaping the future of our specialty. Your active participation will be essential to project new ideas, fostering a vibrant scientific community, and upholding a longstanding academic tradition that has now achieved a truly global scale.

Registration is now open, and we urge you to secure your participation as soon as possible to access preferential rates and reserve spots in high-demand workshops. All updated information, the preliminary program, participation guidelines for competitions, and instructions for abstract submission are available on the official congress website (<https://congresoscare.com.co/>).

Medellín awaits us with its mountains, its warm people, its modern infrastructure, and its commitment to knowledge. We are anxious to meet you and excited to share, learn and continue building a more humane, safer, and more innovative anesthesiology.

Mark your calendars, get ready, and bloom with us!