

# Special Operations Medical Association

---

2024 UPDATE

DR. CHRISTI VERCHININ

SOMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THOR LIAISON, FELLOWSHIP CHAIR





# Mission

---

To advance the science, technology, knowledge and skills of unconventional medicine providers, in order to increase survival, reduce suffering, and speed recovery of those who are injured or become ill during Special Operations or Tactical missions.



# Education

---

- Premier event: SOMA Scientific Assembly
- Networking & connections within membership
- Learning Management System (LMS): SOMed - asynchronous learning platform
- Journal of Special Operations Medicine – JSOM
- Launching Fellowship of the Academy of Special Operations Medicine (FASOM)



# Fellowship General Guidelines

---

Goal is to assist in the development of medics desiring a deeper foundation towards operational medicine.

- Maintenance of SOMA membership required to maintain fellowship credentials
- Paramedic, ATP, or equivalent is the minimum certification upon entry
  - Prior training and education will be evaluated based on scope of applicant
- Application Fee: TBD
- Goal of 2 years to completion
- 5-year maximum time in fellowship



# FASOM General Guidelines

---

Fellowship has:

- **Required:** topics, all must be satisfied
- **Elective:** Total points required, with certain points in each subject area.
  - Prospective fellows can choose courses to satisfy required number of points.
  - Every 2-hours in a subject will earn 1 point. Only 1 point within each subject will be counted towards the total required

Fellowship will require **SOMSA Lab/Lecture attendance and participation.**

- Specifically tactical/pt movement lab & austere survival with pt lab
  - developed by committee SME
  - Pass/Fail for individuals in fellowship. Graded on rubric. Exemptions for SOF trained

SOMSA courses to offer CME as additional incentive

# Required Topics

## CORE MEDICINE

- A & P
- Patient Eval & History
- Pharmacology Basic
- Medical Topics
  - DM, HTN, cardiac, thyroid, etc
- Clinic Medicine
  - HA, rashes, infections, abd pain, etc.
- Medical Emergencies (CVA, Sz, AMI, arrest, anaphylaxis, appy, etc)
- Obstetrics (ectopic, imminent delivery, bleeding)
- Pediatrics
- Sports Medicine
  - Sprains, strains, etc
- Prolonged Field Care
- ACLS or equivalent (Must Keep Current)
- PALS (1-time)

## TRAUMA

- TCCC/TECC for MP
- Ortho injury care basics
- Pediatric trauma
- Cadaveric or LTT Procedure Lab
- Point-Of-Injury Care
- Mass Casualty
- Prehospital Blood Use
- Airway

## MENTAL & BRAIN HEALTH

- Psych emergencies
  - Recognition, De-Escalation
- Life Stressors (Patient or Teammate)
- Traumatic brain injuries

## TACTICS

- TEMS
- Weapons Safety (concealed carry class complete, certification not required)
- Kit Basics
- Physical Fitness
- Care Under Fire, Patient Movement, Packaging & Evacuation
  - Must Design 8hr SOMSA Lab
- Survival with patient (water, fire, shelter, food)
  - Must Design 4hr SOMSA Lab

## RESEARCH/TEACHING

- Present or Teach x 2 (SOMSA)



# Electives: 20 Points Required

## AUSTERE MEDICINE (3 Points Required)

- Managing Levels of Care (1hr)
- Resource Limitations (1hr)
- Infectious Disease (1hr)
- Unconventional Warfare & Medical Improvisation

## HUMAN PERFORMANCE (3 Points Required)

- Optimizing Performance
- Nutrition & Supplements
- Sleep
- Pain and Recovery

## DISASTER RESPONSE ( 1 Points Required)

- Natural Disaster Response
- CBRNE Response

## ADVANCED (6 Points Required)

- Medicine
- Trauma (Burn, etc)
- CONTOMS
- TEMS
- Dive
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Toxicology
- Operational Planning
- Behavioral
  - Hostage negotiation, psychiatry, etc
- Pharmacology

## SITUATIONAL (6 Points Required)

- Wilderness
- Cold & Heat
- Tropical
- Altitude
- Toxicology
- Envenomation
- Animal
- K9
- Dental
- Survival with patient until recovery (SERE-like, land nav, non-permissible env.)

## TECHNOLOGY (2 Points Required)

- Ultrasound
- Advanced Technology Based Procedure Courses
- Ventilators





# Medical Support to Irregular Warfare

---

- Stood up MSIW Committee as requested from ASD-SOLIC's (Assistant Secretary of Defense – Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict) office
- Committee Charge and tasks
- Added Sub-Track at the 2024 Scientific Assembly and will continue in 2025





# SOMA Membership

---

- 1,207 Members *(as of August 27, 2024)*
  - Military enlisted medics 152
  - Civilian/Non-Military medics 247
  - Law enforcement officers 25
  - Students in a healthcare program 32
  - Residents/Fellows/Professionals 133
  - Physicians 222
  - Lifetime Membership/Emeritus 396



# Scientific Assembly Final Attendance

---

## 2024 SOMSA May 13-17, 2024: Raleigh, North Carolina USA

- 1,647 attendees (2023: 1325)
- 806 *additional* exhibitor representatives
- 264 speakers
- 10 tracks
- 54 hands-on training labs & workshops
- 30 countries represented; 217 international attendees
- 13 federal/interagency workgroup meetings

# 2024 30 Different Countries Represented and 217 individuals registered



United Arab Emeritas	3	Republic of Ireland	8
Austria	4	Italy	2
Australia	7	Japan	2
Belgium	9	Latvia	1
Brazil	2	Malta	1
Canada	39	Netherlands	25
Switzerland	3	Norway	1
Germany	29	New Zealand	1
Denmark	3	Papua New Guinea	1
Estonia	1	Poland	15
Spain	1	Sweden	18
Finland	2	Singapore	3
France	2	Slovakia	2
United Kingdom	23	Ukraine	2
Hungary	3	United States Minor Outlying Islands	1
		South Africa	3



# Exhibitors

Exhibitors	
2024	167
2023	152
2022	139



# Continuing Medical Education & CAPCE Offered at 2024 SA

---

- Total available CME credits is 33.75 – about 10 more credits than 2023
- 29 courses and presentations approved for CAPCE credits
- CME language and information is available on the website and in the Whova app



# Medical Hall of Honor Ceremony

---

- First ever induction of Medic Hall of Honor
- Future ceremonies to also be held in conjunction with SOMA Scientific Assembly
- Takes place at the end of Tuesday's General Session
- Inductees
  - Rocky Farr
  - William Donovan
  - James Fisher
  - Frank Butler
  - Bob Mabry
  - Harold "Monty" Montgomery
  - Russ Kotwal
  - F. Bowling
  - Stephen Delellis

# Strategic Partners



# USU

Uniformed Services University



# AMSUS

The Society of Federal Health Professionals



# Questions/Discussion

---