



SAEM23 Will Be Held in Austin

We greatly value our members and their diverse backgrounds, values, and opinions - all of which make us a stronger organization. We are aware that a portion of our membership has suggested that we not hold our 2023 annual meeting in Austin, Texas due to the political environment and the recent legal changes related to reproductive healthcare in Texas and across the United States. The SAEM Board of Directors considered all points raised by membership, on both sides, and we thank you for your communications with us. After lengthy deliberations and weighing all options, the Board of Directors has decided that the proper course for SAEM is to continue forward with our meeting, which is scheduled to be in Austin, from May 16-19, 2023.

The rationale for this decision centered around the following:

- We are committed to rotating the geographic location of our annual meeting throughout the United States, giving all of our members and their institutions the best opportunity to attend. SAEM supports its entire membership, including the hundreds of members in Texas and surrounding states who have been looking forward to a geographically proximate meeting. For our members who may find this location in conflict with their personal viewpoints, we share with you a comment that was delivered to the Board from a Texas SAEM member: *“For those of us who stay in a state that has political leadership that may have significant political differences/beliefs than ours, we stay in the state for our patients. Those patients in Texas need physicians who will make the hard choices to stay in Texas to fight for them more than ever now.”*
- Annual meeting contracts, and therefore the location selection for large meetings, are negotiated and signed more than 5 years in advance. This advance planning is required to secure a hotel that can accommodate a meeting of over 3,500 members with the most economically favorable terms. With this much lead time, SAEM cannot predict future political or legal changes in the locations that have already been contracted. Upcoming locations include:
 - SAEM23 – Austin, TX
 - SAEM24 – Phoenix, AZ
 - SAEM25 – Philadelphia, PA

- SAEM26 – Atlanta, GA
- SAEM27 – San Francisco, CA
- The SAEM Board of Directors takes our fiduciary responsibility on behalf of our organization and members very seriously. Member dues are diligently used to support the operations of SAEM and the products and services delivered to our members. Reneging on the hotel contract in Austin in order to change the venue of our meeting would cost SAEM over \$1.4 million, which does not include the added expense of holding the meeting elsewhere. This money comes from our members, and such a loss would make it impossible for SAEM to fully actualize our mission of advancing academic emergency medicine through education, research, and professional development.

For these reasons, the Board unanimously agreed to continue forward with the meeting location as planned in Austin. As planning for SAEM23 continues, I hope to keep the dialog open. The Board is meeting with the local visitor's bureau and our member institutions in Texas with plans to announce service opportunities in the coming months for those who would like to volunteer and serve a variety of community segments in need.

I know the past several years have not been easy. Your dedication, service, and partnership during these times of uncertainty are what have kept me going. It is with tremendous respect that I thank you for everything you do to advance our specialty, patient care, education of our learners, and discovery in our field.

Angela Mills, MD, SAEM President and the SAEM Board of Directors