Welcome to Montreal and the AUA 66th Annual Meeting!

The *Université de Montréal* and *McGill University* are extremely pleased to co-host the AUA 2019 Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Host Committee and AUA leadership have put together a stimulating program for you. We hope that you will enjoy Montreal and explore this bilingual city which had hosted the World Congress of Anesthesiologists in 2000 and the IARS Annual Meeting and International Science Symposium in 2014.

Montréal, with its metropolitan area, has a population of over 4 million. It is named after Mount Royal, the triple-peaked hill in the heart of the city. Montreal is one of the most bilingual cities in Canada, with nearly 60% of the population able to speak both English and French. Furthermore, it is the second-largest primarily French-speaking city in the world, after Paris and an important centre of commerce, art and culture. Montreal serves as the location of the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization. In 2017, Montreal was ranked the 12th most liveable city in the world, and the best city in the world to be a university student in the QS World University Rankings. Montreal has hosted multiple international conferences and events, including the 1967 International and Universal Exposition and the 1976 Summer Olympics. As of 2016 the city hosts the Canadian Grand Prix of Formula One and the Montreal International Jazz Festival.

The **Université de Montréal** was created in 1878 with three faculties: theology, law and medicine. It is a cosmopolitan, cultured, scientific and creative university. Its outstanding teaching, rigorous research and talented students keep it among the world's top universities year after year. Socially engaged, environmentally conscious and committed to the community, the Université de Montréal takes sustainable actions that benefit the city and the entire planet. Our *Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine* has

outstanding records and expertise in various domains such as pain medicine, education through simulation, focus echography, and cardiac anesthesia.

McGill University is one of Canada's best-known institutions of higher learning and one of the leading universities in the world. With students coming to McGill from some 150 countries, our student body is the most internationally diverse of any research-intensive university in the country. in 1945 Wesley Bourne established the first Canadian department of Anesthesia as well as the first diploma of Anesthesia at McGill University. Harold Griffith, second Chairman, gained worldwide reputation for introducing curare in 1942, which changed the practice of anesthesia. It was at McGill that Dr Bromage elaborated all the seminal work on epidural anesthesia.

We look forward to welcoming you to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, for an exciting meeting and great social events.

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