



On behalf of the Special Operations Medical Association, we'd like to invite you to the **2018 Special Operations Medical Association's Scientific Assembly (SOMSA)**. This is the **30th anniversary** of SOMA and the organization continues to serve its mission: *to advance the science, technology, knowledge and skills of unconventional medicine to improve the survival, reduce suffering and speed recovery of those who become injured and ill in SOF operations or other Tactical settings.*

We have a **great schedule of speakers** in what we think will spark the interest of all levels of SOF, military, and civilian prehospital providers. Since its formation three decades ago, SOMA has endeavored to advance the art and science of Special Operations Medicine. During that time, we have grown from a small but dedicated group of like-minded SOF medical providers meeting in one hotel conference room in Fayetteville NC, to Tampa FL and now Charlotte NC. Although the meeting places have changed we are the premiere and most relevant international medical society in the world hosting a meeting of more than 1000 attendees from more than two dozen countries.

Our program is focused on the continued operation of the special operations medic. As large combat operations wind down in Afghanistan, the resurgence of conflict in Iraq and Syria, and ongoing full spectrum operations in both Africa and the Pacific, SOF forces are facing some new and some old threats evolving around the world, both in and outside declared areas of armed conflict.

Regardless of the threat, we will certainly face the **tyranny of distance, difficult evacuations, immature theaters, and prolonged field care scenarios as challenges**. We have built this year's program around those themes and have invited nationally and internationally recognized experts to help us solve these challenges. This year we have continued representation of SOF medics to give presentations as well as participating in a SOF medic roundtable discussion during the main session. These medic vignettes are invaluable for our academic and industry colleagues as they look to help us solve real-world tactical medical problems.

Finally, if you like what we are doing, get involved. SOMA is only as great as the membership. Participate in a committee. Join a working group. Run for an office. Your voice matters. If not a member, join SOMA. This is the only professional medical association in the world for SOF Medical Operators with the only journal in the world, The *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*, which focuses solely on the profession of SOF medicine. We can only grow and improve if you get involved.

We look forward to your attendance this year in Charlotte.

Lt. Colonel Will Smith, MD, Paramedic, and Col Chetan U. Kharod, MD
SOMSA 2018 Co-chairs