

SNM 2008 Annual Meeting in New Orleans

Greetings from New Orleans, LA! In August, members of SNM's Scientific Program Committee—along with staff from the society's education and meetings departments—visited the historically rich and welcoming Big Easy, the site of our upcoming 55th Annual Meeting, June 14–18, 2008. A number of representatives of companies who are planning to exhibit at the meeting also visited the city. We are happy to say that New Orleans is ready, able, and eager to host our meeting.

The Scientific Program Committee held an all-day session to plan and organize the scientific and educational aspects of the meeting. We, along with the exhibitors, visited the newly renovated Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. We stayed at the Hilton Riverside Hotel, where some of the meeting festivities will take place. Although we had a hectic schedule for the few days we were there, we still found some time to take a bus tour of the city, including the Warehouse and Arts District and the Garden District as well as some of the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. We had a chance to stroll through the French Quarter and sample some extraordinary cuisine.

We are pleased to say that the parts of the Crescent City where SNM attendees will be spending time is very much as it was when the society held its successful 50th Annual Meeting there in 2003. These areas remain safe—and even boast some improvements. First-time attendees will enjoy the rich cultural experience of this unique city. The Garden District still exudes its own style, with wonderful shops along Magazine Street. The Warehouse and Arts District is bustling with new exhibits at large and small museums. Even the French Quarter appeared cleaner, but not enough to detract from its funky appeal. In fact, these are the parts of the city least affected by hurricane Katrina, and their vitality is leading the way for the rebirth of the other parts of the city.



New Orleans's famous French Quarter is a short walk from the Morial Convention Center.

In the aftermath of Katrina, many hotels took the opportunity to renovate their facilities, and several new hotels have been constructed near the convention center. All of the hotels currently being considered by SNM for attendee housing are less than a 10-minute walk from the portion of the convention center that we will be using. We can also attest to the fact that a number of outstanding restaurants are within walking distance of the hotels. The French Quarter and the Warehouse/Arts District are just a short walk away.

The Morial Convention Center has undergone a total renovation since Katrina. Perhaps the most exciting addition is the availability of free wireless hotspots throughout the building. Attendees with wireless devices will be able to avoid the long lines at the kiosks when checking messages, reviewing continuing education credits, and reading e-mail from back home. The convention center, situated along the Mississippi River, is almost 1 mile long. The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in the portion of the center closest to the Hilton Riverside (Exhibit Halls A and B), which we feel will be the most convenient.

We left this celebrated city absolutely certain that it will host the 55th Annual Meeting superbly, providing one of the best SNM Annual Meetings ever. The American College of Cardiology hosted 26,000 attendees there this past spring, and, by all accounts, that meeting was a great success. This culturally rich city is ready to host our meeting—and looking forward to it. We were welcomed everywhere we went. Convention center staff, shop owners, and waiters in coffee shops thanked us for visiting and contributing to the rebirth of this wonderful city. We plan to provide opportunities to volunteer in some of the affected areas for those who may want to spend a little extra time in New Orleans.

Everything is in place for a truly outstanding meeting: a great meeting place, wonderful and convenient hotels, an incredible collection of outstanding restaurants for all budgets, and a city that is waiting with open arms to welcome us with the best that southern hospitality has to offer. The only essential ingredient to be added is you! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at nswanston@di.mdacc.tmc.edu, frederic.fahey@childrens.harvard.edu, or meetinginfo@snm.org (SNM's meetings department). We are happy to provide you with all the information you might need. See you in NOLA next June!

*Nancy Swanston, CNMT, RT(N)
Chair, SNM Technologist Section Program Committee*

*Frederic Fahey, DSc
Chair, SNM Scientific Program Committee*