



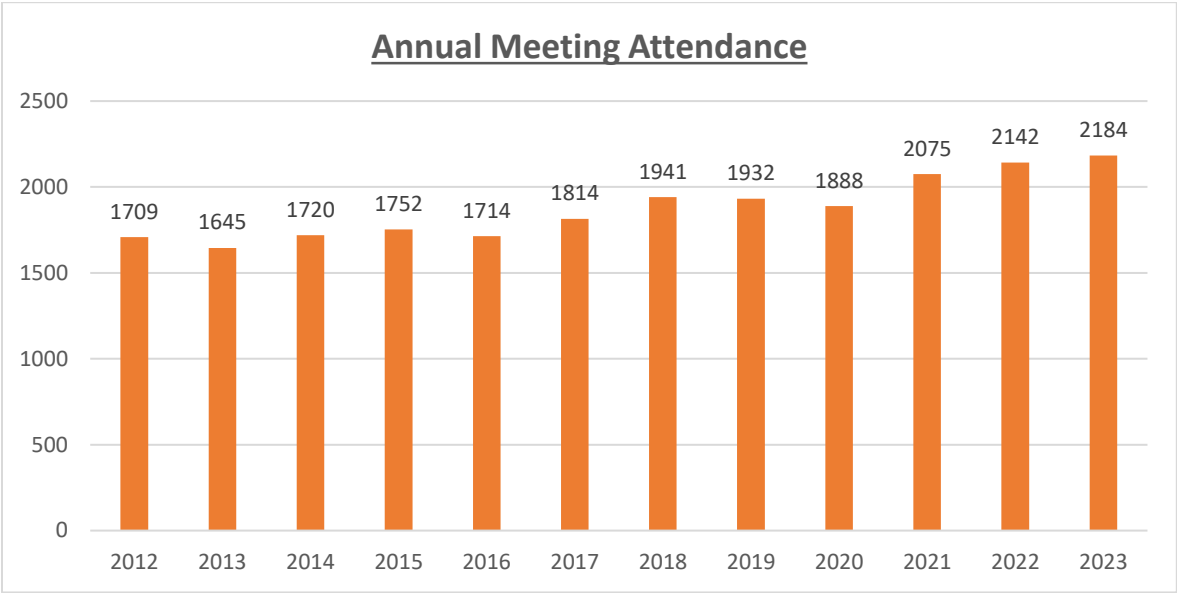
Sarah Timm, CAE, CMP-HC, ACNP Executive Director

## **Annual Meeting Attendance – Changes Ahead for 2024**

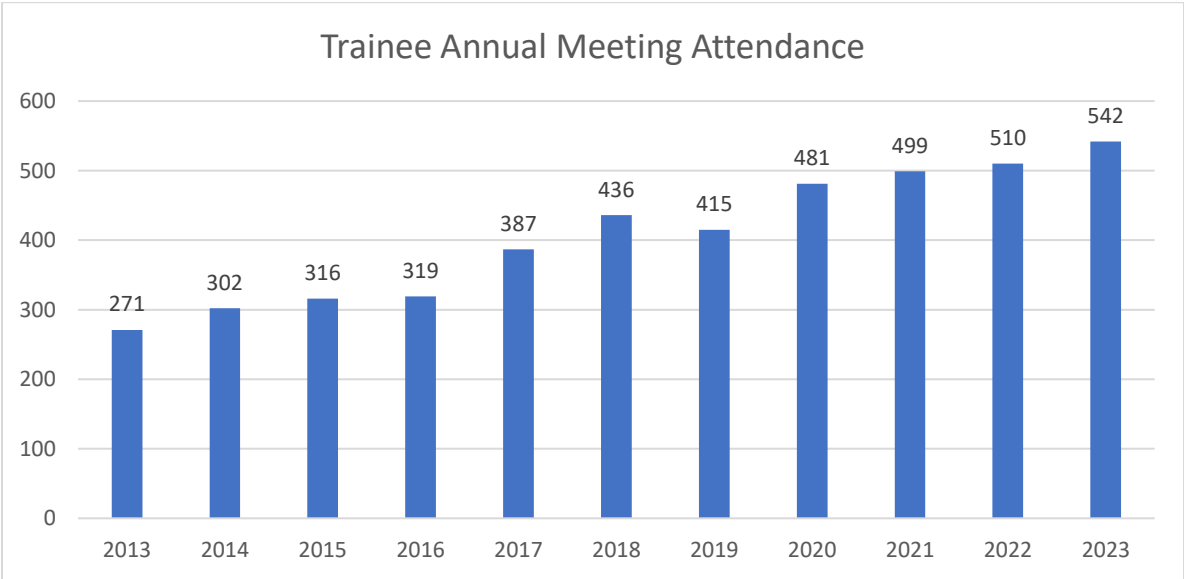
My favorite part of the College is the Annual Meeting. Although it is a lot of work for the staff, it is something we look forward to every year. We love getting to connect with members face-to-face and seeing the engagement of members and scientific progress. Each year, I always have two or three members comment on the growth of the meeting. The comment usually goes like this... “This meeting has gotten so large, there must be 1,000 people here this year.” I always giggle a bit to myself and say, “Try almost 2,000!” Many members remember the days when our meeting fit in the Caribe Hilton in San Juan and the Hilton Waikoloa Village in Hawaii. When I began working with the College in 2005, the meeting was about 1,400 in attendance, so growth has been significant and so has our field. The fact that more early career trainees and those from diverse backgrounds are coming to the meeting and interested in the field is exciting and the College should embrace this growth.

In fact, this growth was planned by the founding members of the College. The equation for adding new members each year is to replace members who move to emeritus status, those who pass away or resign membership, plus a set number of new members each year. While the intention was to have moderated growth, when you add more members than those who leave, the membership and the meeting grows – it’s arithmetic! Additionally, our longer-term members (emeritus) are staying engaged and still attending the meeting. Council has discussed this growth over the years and in the last strategic plan agreed that once the meeting hit 2,000 attendees Council should develop ways to cap the attendance. This is to keep the ability to meet

in one hotel and not have to move to convention centers with multiple hotels and shuttle service. While the pandemic did slow the growth of many organizations, it was a small blip in our increasing numbers. The College was able to offer virtual attendance which did keep our in-person attendance lower over the past few years. In 2023, we had 1,910 in person and 274 virtual attendees. Virtual attendance is dropping each year as most see the value of in-person attendance. While the College will still offer virtual attendance in 2024, the sessions will not be live streamed as they have in past years. Sessions will be recorded, and content posted within 48 hours after the session. The chart below illustrates our growth.



Contributing significantly to our Annual Meeting growth over the last few years has been the increased number of invitations for trainees. Council understands the value trainees can take from our meeting and the need to foster the next generation of members.



In December, Council agreed to cap attendance to the 2024 Annual Meeting to 2,000 attendees. This decision was discussed at length as Council did not want to take away any membership

privileges nor take away slots for trainees or individuals from diverse backgrounds. This year we will only limit the number of invited guests to the Annual Meeting. We will still have our Diversity Invitation Bank which has unlimited invitations and our General Invitation Bank which is capped at 100 additional invitations for trainees. Member invitations for guest will be first come, first served. Members inviting a guest MUST attend the annual meeting. In 2023, we issued 413 member invitations and 385 of those invitees registered for the meeting. This year we will issue no more than 400 invitations to members' invited guests. Please ensure that you get your invitee submitted early if you are planning to attend the meeting. Also consider if your invitee would instead qualify for the Diversity Invitation Bank or General Invitation Bank. The General Invitation Bank has been depleted prior to the poster deadline in early August in past years. Registration will open in mid-June. We will learn this year from this experiment in capping the meeting. Council will review the data and continue to monitor attendance to the meeting from all types of attendee categories. As always, if you have ideas or feedback, I am open to hear and learn from you.