



2023 Academy of Prosthodontics Meeting Guests

RE: Hotel Situation For Academy of Prosthodontics Annual Session in Naples, FL

Dear Academy Fellows, Guests, and Exhibitors.

Hurricane Ian caused devastating damage to our May 3-6, 2023, annual session La Playa Beach & Golf Resort, Naples, FL. The hotel suffered extensive damage to several buildings, the beachfront and poolside grounds, and pools were wiped out, and main restaurant badly damaged.

We were given assurances that by late December much of the hotel would be repaired and partially running and it was optimistically predicted to be operational by our May 2023 meeting. Turned out the damage was considerably greater than originally thought. Then January and February had gone by without hearing anything. In searching for different properties to move the meeting there simply was nothing available because of either destruction or previously booked groups. It seemed at every turn when they removed damaged drywall, there were more and more complications.

In March we had a zoom conference with the La Playa management and were shocked and dismayed to find out that the 17-story tower with majority of hotel rooms was now a declared disaster with completion and occupancy dates being unknown. No assurances were given for completion until long after our May annual session. The only saving grace was that the large, covered terrace and adjacent ball rooms for lectures, exhibitors and events kitchen were intact. But everything else was so bad that I feared the La Playa would just cancel our entire meeting. We were afraid that given this unpredictable situation that the La Playa was considering cancelling our meeting altogether. Ultimately, La Playa agreed to continue forward with only the ballroom and banquet facilities and now we needed to find 120 hotel rooms for our meeting within 10 minutes shuttle distance with only 5 weeks before our annual session!!! Yipes.

Working with the La Playa, thankfully our management company RES led by Nicole was ultimately able to get a commitment of 100 rooms at the nearby

Hilton and another hotel that has 30 more rooms for spill over. Whew ... what a relief. RES thank you so much!

So, we still have the amazing line-up of world-renowned speakers thanks to the diligent efforts of Vice-President/Program Chair Mijin Choi and her committee. At the La Playa we still have a beautiful meeting setting with a large terrace outside the ballrooms with a view over the water for all events and program breaks. We have a great ballroom for our meeting proceedings and the always excellent AV from James Cowherd and another spacious ballroom for our exhibitors. Put all this together with our wonderful Academy Fellows, spouses and guests from around the world, and we are sure to have an outstanding meeting experience filled with stimulating scholarly activities full of fellowship and fun.

For the Blatterfein dinner we will start on the beach with cocktails and then move to the outdoor terrace for dinner with random seating assignments for everyone to get to know someone new. The get acquainted breakfast starts early so be sure to get up extra early to catch the shuttle from the Hilton.

The annual Poster Session & Networking Reception has been moved to Thursday afternoon and we will provide expanded libations and heavy appetizers, and entertainment. This will free up your evening.

The Installation banquet will also be in the grand ballroom. Besides a wonderful dinner and installation of President Izchak Barzily, we plan on having great music with everyone out on the dance floor.

In conclusion, I simply ask for your understanding and appreciation as to just how close we were to not having a meeting place this year and to have patience with the shuttle services to get everyone between the Hilton and the La Playa for our meeting events.

Best of all with this “normal meeting” is the opportunity to renew friendships and enjoy the convivial camaraderie that our Academy is known for with our intimate small group setting. On behalf of the Executive Council we look forward to welcoming you to our annual session. Vangie and I can’t wait to see you all there.

Warmest regards,

John A. Sorensen DMD, PhD, FACP
President, Academy of Prosthodontics