

Virginia is for (Management) Lovers!

SMA Annual Meeting Heads to Norfolk October 8-12

By Stephany Below, PR Specialist

Nor-fok. Naw-fok. No matter how you pronounce it, the experience is sure to be memorable!



This year, the [SMA annual meeting](#) will draw hundreds of attendees to Norfolk, VA **October 8-12** for a wide variety of enlightening management sessions set against the backdrop of [one of America's favorite](#) cities.

It's easy to see why Norfolk was recently named one of the [Top 50 Places to Travel in 2017](#). This year's annual meeting location offers a variety of exciting activities, vibrant entertainment and culture, delicious cuisine, and 144 miles of shoreline just waiting to be explored!

Visitors can explore numerous cultural attractions, such as the Battleship Wisconsin, Nauticus Maritime Museum, MacArthur Memorial, and the Norfolk Botanical Garden. The city's thriving arts community also welcomes you into its studios, galleries and up and down the streets of downtown, the NEON Arts District—home of the Chrysler Museum of Art—and beyond.



"I was pleasantly surprised by Norfolk, as I'm personally not a big fan of small towns for conferences," said 2019 Program Chair **Janaki Gooty**. "But this is a very vibrant city, located right on the waterfront with a little something for every type of SMA member: There's history, great beer and wine, live music, delicious food, and art."

If you're looking for world-class cuisine, look no further. From traditional Southern fare to a wide range of nouveau and international offerings, Norfolk's eateries offer something for everyone – and every appetite. With the Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean, and countless rivers in its backyard, Norfolk visitors are never far from the water or a wide array of water activities.



Learn more at [Visit Norfolk's website](#) or read [TripAdvisor's top Norfolk attractions!](#)

Don't miss what is sure to be a fantastic annual meeting and a memorable experience. SMA has a long history of being very collegial and high-quality, Gooty explained.

"Further, I think it has the best doctoral consortia, parties, and locations," she said. "We have even posted videos on the SMA Facebook page that address this. We conducted interviews with several members about why SMA is the best conference."

[Watch the videos on SMA's Facebook page here](#) or click the video image!



Why Do You Come to SMA?

"We have taken specific steps to re-engage and attract back to the conference some SMA regulars, like SMA past President **Chris Shook** for example," Gooty added. "We have so many new initiatives for PDIS—from Open Science to sessions discussing what it is like to be a dean, the innovations are tremendous this year!"

Registration for SMA 2019 will open soon. Check the [meetings page](#) for updates and information, and be sure to use and follow the meeting hashtag **#SMA2019NFK!**

Questions about this year's annual meeting can be directed to 2019 Program Chair Janaki Gooty at jgooty@uncc.edu.

Photo Credit: Visit Norfolk