The most powerful city in the world will be the host city for the ACG 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course. Few cities in the U.S. offer as many prestigious and historical sites for visitors. The ACG staff knows how lucky we are to have so many world-renowned attractions in our hometown and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Whether you are a history buff, art lover, political junkie, gourmand or avid shopper, you’ll find dozens and dozens of things to do and see in DC. Take some time before, during or after ACG 2011 to explore Washington, DC.

ACG 2011 will take place at National Harbor. Nestled along the Potomac River and located just outside of the city, attendees will be able to reach DC, as well as neighboring Old Town, Alexandria, or Mt. Vernon via water taxi, regular taxi or shuttle services. National Harbor features a number of restaurants, shops and hotels and is a major attraction in the DC area.

Getting Around
A great way to get around the city is the subway system, or Metro, and information is provided throughout this article on the best stops to reach locations in and around DC via the Metro. The Metro is about as clean as you can find a large metropolitan subway system. One way it stays so clean is that no eating or drinking is allowed and Metro staff take this very seriously and other riders will tell you so! To take the Metro, purchase a ticket at the station. Each Metro station provides estimates for fares from one station to the next. If you need help, ask for assistance from a Metro staff member.

The National Mall
The first stop on the tour of DC is The National Mall. The Mall, as locals call it, was an early urban renewal project developed as part of the McMillan Plan. It sought to recreate the elegance of European cities such as Paris, London and Rome. On The Mall, you can honor fallen soldiers at the Vietnam, Korean and WWII Memorials. Also on The Mall is the Lincoln Memorial. In addition to learning about President Lincoln, you can stand on the very step where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Between the WWII Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial is the Reflecting Pool. It is called this because the Washington Monument is reflected in the water. It’s a great place to take a short break and watch the ducks and geese that flock to the area every year.

Farther down on The Mall you will find the Washington Monument, which school children refer to as The Pencil. Visitors can again reach the top of the Monument and get a bird’s eye view of the city. But lines may be long so plan to wait to get inside. In warm weather months, you’ll find teams playing softball on the fields surrounding the Monument. These teams are employees from embassies and government offices, as well as companies located in DC. From the Washington Monument you can look out on the Mall and see the Reflecting Pool, the many war memorials, the Lincoln Memorial and the White House.

There are a number of other sites within walking distance of The Mall. Across from the Lincoln Memorial, on the other side of Constitution Avenue at the corner of 22nd and Constitution, is the National Academy of Sciences building. It is on the grounds of the National Academy of Sciences where you will find a statue of Albert Einstein. This large bronze statue, 12 feet in height and weighing approximately four tons, is nestled amongst the trees and was dedicated on the centennial of Einstein’s birth.

On the other side of The Mall, off of Independence Avenue, is the FDR Memorial. The FDR Memorial includes a number of fountains and walks visitors through the historic years that FDR was President—from the Great Depression to World War II. It’s nestled along the Tidal Basin and you can take a trek along the basin to get to the Jefferson Memorial, which is adjacent to the basin in West Potomac Park.

Best Metro stops for reaching The Mall include Foggy Bottom, on the Blue and Orange lines. Walk down 23rd Street towards The Mall. You’ll pass the U.S. State Department and will end up on Constitution Avenue close to the Lincoln Memorial. It’s approximately a 5-10 minute walk from the Metro station. Another stop

Hungry? The Washington, DC area has no shortage of fine restaurants. Each year, Washingtonian Magazine ranks the Top 100 Restaurants and also highlights Cheap Eats. To learn more about places to dine in the DC Metro area, visit their website at www.washingtonian.com. ACG staff also offer these recommendations:

Penn Quarter
- Acadiana (Louisiana style food) – www.acadianarestaurant.com
- 701 – www.701restaurant.com
- Potbelly’s (Sandwiches/salads – great if you are looking for something quick)
- Mendocino Grille and Wine Bar – www.mendocinodc.com
- Baked and Wired (Bakery) – http://bakedandwired.com
- Dolcezza Gelato – www.dolcezzagelato.com
- The Majestic – www.majesticcafe.com
- Acadiana (Louisiana style food) – www.acadianarestaurant.com
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- Baked and Wired (Bakery) – http://bakedandwired.com
- Dolcezza Gelato – www.dolcezzagelato.com
- The Majestic – www.majesticcafe.com

DuPont Circle
- BGR The Burger Joint – www.bgrtheburgerjoint.com
- The Majestic – www.majesticcafe.com
- Acadiana (Louisiana style food) – www.acadianarestaurant.com
- 701 – www.701restaurant.com
- Potbelly’s (Sandwiches/salads – great if you are looking for something quick)
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- Dolcezza Gelato – www.dolcezzagelato.com
- The Majestic – www.majesticcafe.com
is the Smithsonian Station stop, which is also on the Blue and Orange lines. Take “The Mall” exit when departing the Smithsonian Station.

**Arlington National Cemetery**

Behind the Lincoln Memorial is the Memorial Bridge which leads to the Arlington National Cemetery. This solemn ground is an important stop on your visit to Washington, DC. Designated an official cemetery in June 1864, there are more than 300,000 individuals buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Notable physicians buried include Dr. Walter Reed and Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, founder of the Army Nurse Corp.

Popular gravesites visited in the cemetery include Audie Murphy’s gravesite. A WWII hero who later went on to become a Hollywood movie star, his heroic bravery during WWII earned him 28 medals, including the Medal of Honor, all before his 21st birthday. Additionally, Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Edward Kennedy are buried at Arlington National Cemetery, including a number of Associate Justices and Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, two presidents, William Taft and John F. Kennedy, and military heroes such as General George C. Marshall and Admiral William Halsey.

But the true purpose of a visit to Arlington National Cemetery is to honor the unsung heroes who fought valiantly in service to their country and many who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. On average, there are 28 funerals a day at Arlington National Cemetery. No funerals take place on weekends.

Guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns, also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Solider, are the Tomb Guard sentinels. The tombs are guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Tomb of the Unknown Solider, are the Tomb of the Unknown Solders, also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier. No funerals take place on weekends.

For those interested in visiting Arlington National Cemetery, you can reach it on the Blue line of the Metro system.

**Art lovers**

The National Gallery of Art is a must-see for the art lover visiting Washington, DC. Located on the Mall, the National Gallery of Art includes works of art from such masters as Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Mary Cassat, Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Henri Matisse, Paul Gauguin, Johannes Vermeer, Winslow Homer, Jackson Pollock, Jasper Johns, Mark Rothko and more. There is also a sculpture garden for visitors to explore. From the Metro, you can reach the National Gallery of Art from the Smithsonian Station, which is on the Blue and Orange lines, or the Archives Station, which is on the Yellow and Green lines.

Not far from The Mall and facing Lafayette Park is the Corcoran Gallery. Opened in 1874, its mission was and is today to showcase the “American genius” in art and it features important works from American artists from the 18th, 19th and 20th century. It also features well-known European artists.

The Corcoran also operates a College of Art & Design. Located on 17th Street across from the White House and just a couple of blocks from the corner of Constitution Ave. and 17th Street, you can reach the Corcoran Gallery of Art via Metro stops Farragut West, which is on the Blue and Orange lines or Farragut North, which is on the Red line.

A hidden gem for art lovers is the Phillips Collection. Reachable from the Dupont Circle Metro, this private museum features works from such masters as Degas, Cezanne, Gauguin, Klee, Whistler, Rothko and many others. The most famous work of art among the nearly 3000 in the museum’s collection is Pierre Auguste Renoir’s “Luncheon of the Boating Party.” If you want to visit specifically to see this famous painting by Renoir, call ahead as it may be on tour at other world-class museums.

You will probably be surprised to learn that the State Department offers tours of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms. It is in these rooms where the Secretary of State, Vice President, and Cabinet members receive and entertain visiting dignitaries. The State Department building is a nondescript 1960s building but the Diplomatic Reception Rooms are designed after an old colonial mansion. This is considered a fine arts tour and features American antique furniture, paintings and decorative arts. It is not recommended for children under 12. You must register at least 90 days in advance. One ACG staffer has taken this tour and if you have an interest in American antiques, apply to take the tour. For more information visit: https://receptiontours.state.gov/.

**Political Junkie**

If you are a political junkie, there are places you’ll want to see at every turn. The White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, is a must see. For more than 200 years, the White House has served as a symbol of the Presidency. There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and six levels. Tours are still available but you must submit your request for a tour to your Member of Congress at least six months in advance.

Walk or take a taxi down Pennsylvania Avenue and you will see the Capitol. Tours of the Capitol are offered Monday through Saturday. The newest addition to the Capitol is the Visitor Center. Built completely underground, it serves as an educational center while also ensuring the safety of its visitors and individuals who work there.

Out of the Ordinary

There have been two new museums added to the list in recent years that are out of the ordinary from what one might expect, but touch on the uniqueness of Washington, DC. The first is the International Spy Museum. The only museum in the U.S. dedicated solely to the field of espionage, it provides an apolitical view of espionage and how it has helped shape history. In addition to artifacts, and yes, there really is a lipstick gun, you’ll see video recouts from real spies. This is truly a unique experience and provides an international perspective.

The other new museum in DC is the Newseum. Dedicated to five centuries of news-making, it features up-to-the-second technology and hands-on exhibits. Newspapers from around the world are featured daily. In addition, ABC News “This Week” is filmed at the Newseum. Located along Pennsylvania Avenue, it’s a short walk from the Capitol building.
esophageal tumors and lung cancer. His studies have resulted in 434 publications in peer-reviewed journals, 161 book chapters and 9 books, and he has been invited to present 37 named lectures. He received an honorary Doctorate of Medicine degree from Linköping University, Sweden, the University of Athens, Greece and the University of Padua, Italy. Dr. DeMeester was elected a member of The Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars, and honorary membership in the German Society of Visceral Surgery, the Spanish Association of Surgeons, the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Hungarian Surgical Society.

He is an Officer of the French Order of the Academic Palms, Paris. He serves on the editorial board and as an ad hoc reviewer of many surgical journals, and is past president of five societies.

The David Sun Lecturer, with a distinguished background in gastroenterology or an allied field, is chosen by the Course Directors of the Postgraduate Program subject to the approval of the Educational Affairs Committee and the Board of Trustees. All who are registered for the Postgraduate Course are invited to attend this special lecture on Saturday from 10:00 am – 10:30 am in Ballroom C.

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#### Other highlights of DC

- Library of Congress
- National Archives
- Bureau of Engraving & Printing
- Georgetown
- Embassy Row
- Union Station
- Eastern Market
- Iwo Jima Memorial
- National Air & Space Museum
- National Museum of Natural History
- National Museum of American History
- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- National Museum of American Indian
- National Geographic Society
- Ford’s Theatre
- National Zoo
- U.S. Botanic Garden
- Theodore Roosevelt Island
- Entertainment – Kennedy Center, National Theatre and Warner Theatre

#### Take a water taxi to Old Town Alexandria

Across the Potomac River from National Harbor where ACG 2011 will take place is Old Town Alexandria. The third oldest historic district in the country, you’ll still find cobblestone streets in parts of Old Town. Old Town is best seen on foot and you can reach most locations via its main avenue, King Street. It’s a great place to visit if you want to have a mix of historic sites, shopping and eating.

Farther up on King Street is the Masonic Temple. Built in honor of U.S. President George Washington, it is open 7 days a week and is free to the public.

To see where George Washington lived, you can visit Mt. Vernon, which is just 8 miles from Old Town Alexandria and it is also reachable by water taxi from National Harbor. When George Washington lived at Mt. Vernon, the estate consisted of more than 8,000 acres and included the estate, gardens and farm. Today, 500 acres remain and more than 20 buildings and 50 acres of gardens are preserved as they existed back in the 18th century.

A unique place to visit for art lovers is The Torpedo Factory. It got its name because it was once a torpedo factory. Today, the Torpedo Factory is home to over 160 artists. Visitors can browse the studios and buy art. This is truly a treat and one you shouldn’t miss.

#### Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center on the Potomac River

Understated and elegant, the Gaylord National will be the ACG headquarters hotel for ACG 2011. Easy to navigate, the convention area is adjacent to the hotel and attendee-friendly compared to other facilities you may have stayed. October is a perfect time to visit DC. Enjoy the weather at one of the many outside seating areas or relax inside the Gaylord National’s large atrium.

You don’t have to venture far from National Harbor if you are hungry. The National Harbor features more than 20 dining options including Old Hickory Steakhouse. Located in the Gaylord National, it is an elegant restaurant designed with the feel of a Georgetown rowhouse. On staff at the Old Hickory is a Maître d’Fromage who oversees the glass-enclosed artisan cheese cave with cheeses from around the world.

You’ll also find Bond 45, a New York Italian steak and seafood house, Foster’s Crab and Lobster, McCormick & Schmick’s, Grace’s Mandarin, Sushi and more. For dessert, visit Cake Love, a favorite in the DC area.

A number of cruises can be taken from the marina and piers at National Harbor. Want to catch a Nationals baseball game? A water taxi is available that will take you to and from Nationals Park. You’ll also find the Washington Monument Cruise, Odyssey Cruise, and the Spirit of Washington Cruise. You can also rent canoes and sailboats, and take a guided bass fishing tour.

Water taxis to Old Town Alexandria, Mt. Vernon and Georgetown are available from the National Harbor marina or take a cab into the city. If you are flying into DC, your best airport option is Ronald Reagan National Airport which is just minutes away. Other airport options include Washington Dulles International Airport or Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport. For travelers on the East Coast corridor, Amtrak has the Northeast Regional or Acela and then take a taxi to National Harbor.

We look forward to seeing you in DC for ACG 2011!