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### Welcome Letter from Dr. Jack Eades, Site Selection Committee Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as the site selection chairperson. In that capacity, I visited the Grove Park Inn. For those of you who have never been there, I believe you will be favorably impressed. Following are a few of my observations.

This historic Inn in the Blue Ridge Mountains was the brainchild of the E.W. Grove who became exorbitantly wealthy principally by selling a patent medicine tonic, containing quinine, which was effective in quelling malaria in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Grove Park Inn was thus built in 1913, with pharmaceutical money. As malaria was noted for a degree of cachexia, one slogan for the tonic was: "makes people fat as pigs." I will simply observe that it was a different era.

After the hotel was opened, it rapidly attracted the wealthy and family. Early visitors included Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and Thomas Edison. Up until the recent renovations by Omni Resorts, brass plaques were on most doors on the old section in honor of the luminary who stayed in that room. Now the only ones remaining are in the 440-block commemorative the rooms used by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The construction of the Inn made use of the local rock, which can be appreciated upon arrival, but especially when one observes the massive stone fireplaces in the lobby. The vistas are breath taking especially from the terrace. Built on Sunset Mountain, full advantage was taken of the long-range view over Asheville and to the mountains beyond. The Sunset Trail (easily accessible by crossing the parking lot) through a wooded area to the Summit is an early example of conservation efforts and was laid out in 1913. It is a lovely walk!

As time went on, the "shops" were added on the property. These are outbuildings, some of which were local industries; almost all of which now are museums. Notables include the antique automobile museum and the Biltmore Industries Museum. The latter supplied high quality cloth and tailor-made clothing far and wide, including several presidents (Hoover, Roosevelt and Nixon). The Biltmore Industries Museum details manufacture and has an outstanding collection of correspondence as well. This company was run by Fred Seely, the son-in-law of E.W. Grove and the general contractor who supervised the building of the Grove Park Inn. The automobile museum is comprised of cars from the private collections of Harry Blomberg (a native of Savannah, GA), who was an early and prominent car dealer in Asheville. It includes a Model T, A, Edsel, REO, Overland and much more.

There is an excellent fitness center with yoga, cardio, weights and an excellent lap pool. There is also a large outdoor pool (take the shuttle). Within the fitness center is a good family game room, featuring Air Hockey, Foosball, Ping Pong and Skee Ball.

Partially built underground and visible from the terrace is an elaborate and well-appointed spa. Finally, there is a golf course, also overlooked by the terrace. I had the pleasure of playing it a few years back with my friend Spencer Atwater. As he is a good golfer (contrary to me), I will defer any comments on the course to him.

All of the preceding are right there on the Grove Park Inn campus. Nearby is more extensive hiking, fly-fishing and white-water rafting. These excursions can be booked through the Nantahala Outdoor Center, adjacent to the main lobby. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Asheville's current claim to fame. There are more than 25 independent micro-breweries in and around the city, including sierra Nevada, New Belgium, Highland, French Broad etc. Several are clustered together for easy access and easy guide map is available from the concierge.

The receptions will be at the Mountain Terrace to the left of the main terrace. Registration will be to the left of the lobby and down the hall, approximately 50 yards, with the meeting room and the exhibitor room in close proximity.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at the Grove Park Inn.

Sincerely,

Jack R. Eades, MD