AAFP National Conference: Know Before You Go
Advice from Past Resident & Student Attendees

GENERAL ADVICE

- Have fun! The AAFP National Conference is such an exciting event because everyone in attendance is truly interested in, and devoted to, Family Medicine. You will have the opportunity to meet practicing physicians, residents and students from programs across the country, discover more about the specialty, prepare for residency and envision your future career as a family doctor.
- Don’t be shy – make a goal of meeting a set number of new contacts before you go. If you need some networking advice, simply Google “networking tips” and you will be amazed at how much is out there to help!
- Create a packing list of must-not-forget items, including:
  o Business casual attire to wear throughout conference sessions and exhibit hall time; at least one professional outfit, especially if you plan to go to dinner or meet with a future employer or a residency program; and a casual outfit for Friday evening’s AAFP National Conference Celebration and additional receptions (such as MAFP’s!)
  o Your CV and personal statement to hand out in the exhibit hall and/or to take advantage of the program directors who volunteer their time throughout the conference to review these documents.

CONFERENCE EVENTS

- Take a look at the schedule of events before arrival and make a plan of action – there are so many great sessions it is overwhelming to choose once you arrive and you do not want to miss out on the sessions that are most interesting to you. Several of the talks are given multiple times during the conference, but some are only given once.
- We strongly recommend attending sessions in the Career Planning focus area, which are highlighted here.
- Be aware that the Procedural Skills Courses cost an additional $90 per session, each lasting from two to three hours in length. Some of these courses require you to be a third or fourth year medical student or resident to attend; however, feel free to sign up for one if it is particularly interesting to you! All other conference events are included in your registration fee and are open to all attendees.

EXPO HALL

- Visiting the Expo Hall on the second floor of the convention center is an excellent opportunity to speak with program directors and residents from 300+ residency programs all across the country, as well as more than 50 physician employers and over 60 exhibitors offering fellowship opportunities.
- Because there are so many exhibitors, pre-plan your Expo Hall visits. Many of the rows are organized by state and geographical regions (including Michigan).
- We recommend going to the booths you are most interested in first, and then if you have extra time stop by the poster presentations, as well as the exhibits about advocacy activities, international mission trip opportunities, etc.
- Be aware that all of the programs you talk to will gladly give you informational handouts, free pens, flashlights, calculators, hand sanitizer, stress balls, coffee mugs—you name it! Others hold raffles for prizes, such as an iPad or Kindle Fire. We recommend you save room in your suitcase to bring back all of these goodies!
The Expo Hall is a great opportunity for rising fourth year students to ask questions, make a lasting impression and determine which programs to apply for. If you are a first or second year student, this is a wonderful chance to learn more about what Family Medicine residency entails and discovering where you might like to end up the future—plus, if there is a region or program you are particularly interested in, it never hurts to begin networking early.

CONGRESSES

- Attending the Resident and Student Congress sessions is an excellent way to become more involved as a leader in the AAFP! Although only Chapter Delegates can vote in elections, any resident or student members in good standing with the MAFP and AAFP are encouraged to attend the sessions to speak and vote on the recommendations before the Congresses. (P.S. If you are interested in being a Chapter Delegate in the future, contact MAFP!)
- If there is an important health care issue that you would like to see addressed, we encourage you to attend a discussion group and consider writing a resolution. Get more details on how to write a resolution.
- Consider running for an AAFP elected leadership position! Check out the MAFP Toolkit on “Running for an Elected Position at the AAFP National Conference” for more information.

DINNER PLANS

- On Friday, August 2, make plans to join MAFP at the Michigan Reception being held at the Kill Devil Club located in the Kansas City Power & Light District from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. prior to the AAFP National Conference Celebration. Complimentary drinks and hors d’oeuvres will be served.
- Some residency programs will take their group—along with invitations to upcoming fourth year medical students they have met in the Expo Hall who are interested in their program—to dinner on either Thursday or Friday evening. If you are a student and there is a program you are particularly interested in, this is an excellent opportunity to have more one-on-one time with the program’s current residents to ask questions prior to getting an interview.
- Kansas City is well known for its barbeque restaurants, as well as the Power & Light District, which is only a few blocks from many of the hotels. Be sure to try something new while you’re in town!

TRANSPORTATION AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS

- The easiest and most cost-effective way to get from the airport to your hotel near the conference center is to take the Super Shuttle (approximately $30 round trip). Taxis are available to and from the airport, but they can be quite costly (think more than $35 + tip one-way). Get additional details, including pricing and how to make your transportation reservations here.
- There are several nice and reasonably priced hotels in Kansas City within walking distance to the convention center. If you book your reservations by July 3 you can utilize the AAFP group discount rate at select hotels. Learn more here.
- If you are interested in rooming with another resident or student, contact MAFP for assistance. There may be someone who is looking for the same!

QUESTIONS?

- If you would like more information or have additional questions, please contact MAFP at 517.347.0098.
- MAFP Communications Coordinator, Annie McIntosh, will be attending the conference and can be reached at 517.664.9080 (direct line), 517.331.0035 (cell phone) or by email at amcintosh@mafp.com.