



Destination Chicago

GET READY FOR THE JOINT MEETING

PART ONE OF FIVE

BEAT THE CLOCK

Mark Your Calendar

The countdown has begun for the Academy's Joint Meeting with the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO).

- **June 1**—the program will be published online.
- **June 23**—registration, ticket sales and housing open to Academy and AAOE members.
- **July 7**—registration, ticket sales and housing open to nonmembers.
- **Aug. 4**—early registration deadline.
- **Aug. 25**—last day to register and have your badge and meeting materials mailed to you prior to the meeting.
- **Sep. 22**—preregistration deadline.

In the Mail: *Joint Meeting Scheduler*

In late May, check your mail for the *Joint Meeting Scheduler*. This 20-page booklet features sections such as "Meeting Overview" and "Programs-by-Day" that will help you get ready for the Joint Meeting. For more in-depth information, read the *Virtual Advance Program* or use Program Search (see box on next page).



JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES. More than 12,000 Eye M.D.s will be heading to Chicago for five days in the fall:

- Oct. 15–16: Subspecialty Day.
- Oct. 16–19: Joint Meeting.

PLAN AHEAD. Each month, check the Destination Chicago section of *EyeNet* for these quick updates:

- **Beat the Clock** will alert you to upcoming deadlines.
- **Program** will pinpoint some of the most exciting elements of Subspecialty Day and the free symposia, as selected by the physicians organizing those events.
- **Hall Highlights** will help you make the most of your limited time among the exhibits.
- **Social Events** will spotlight ophthalmology's most glamorous galas, as well as its less formal get-togethers.

Visiting From Abroad?

If you need a visa, apply early. The process can take up to six months in some countries.

If you are a VWP traveler, ESTA is now mandatory. Residents in countries covered by the visa waiver program (VWP) must participate in the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) program

before traveling to the United States. If you do not register, your airline may refuse to let you board the plane. ESTA replaces the I-94W form previously used by some travelers. Your registration with ESTA will be valid for up to two years.

For more information on visas, ESTA and to print a letter of invitation, visit www.ao.org/visa.

AAO x MEACO
CHICAGO
OCTOBER 16-19

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PROGRAM

Much to Choose From at Subspecialty Day

This year, you can pick and choose from seven Subspecialty Day meetings, which take place on Friday, Oct. 15, and Saturday, Oct. 16.

- **Cornea 2010**—The Cornea: Going Rogue (Saturday)
- **Glaucoma 2010**—Current Concepts and Future Horizons (Saturday)
- **Oculofacial Plastic Surgery 2010**—Decades of Progress: What's Next? (Friday)
- **Pediatric Ophthalmology 2010**—Pearls and Pitfalls (Saturday)
- **Refractive Surgery 2010**—Seeing Is Believing: Vision 2010 (Friday and Saturday)
- **Retina 2010**—A Panreti-

nal Perspective (Friday and Saturday)

- Uveitis 2010—Managing Our Patients With Uveitis: Identifying the Gaps in Diagnosis and Treatment (Saturday)

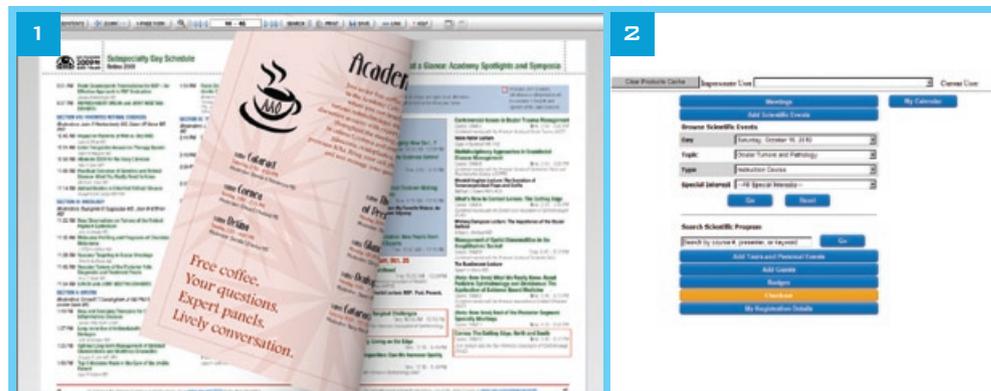
Hop from one program to the next. If you register for a one-day program, you also can attend any of the other programs that take place on that same day. If you register for either of the two-day programs, you will have access to all seven of the Subspecialty Day programs.

Exhibition access. If you register for one of the six Subspecialty Day programs that take place on Saturday, you can use your Subspecialty Day badge to visit the Joint Meeting Exhibit Hall on that day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (From Sunday onward, you will need a Joint Meeting badge to access the Exhibition.)

Access to Health Care and Volunteerism: The View From Overseas

“For an ‘eye-opening’ discussion about eye care in the United States, attend this year’s International Forum,” said Zélia Corrêa, MD, PhD, who chairs the Academy’s Global Outreach Committee. “In addition to the panel on U.S. eye care, a second set of panelists will focus on the not-so-uncommon discrepancy between what volunteers are willing to do and what the host community actually needs. For a successful and fruitful initiative, it is critical that you communicate with the local hosts—whether individuals or an organization—prior to planning the project.”

- **Increasing Access and**



FROM JUNE 1—GO ONLINE FOR JOINT MEETING INFORMATION. Both the *Virtual Advance Program* (1) and the *Spouse and Guest Program* will be published online as “virtual booklets.” You can flip through pages with the click of a mouse, and you can personalize them with notes and bookmarks. You also can click on live links that will connect you to the Program Search (2) where you can read event abstracts. Other links connect you to the housing and registration Web site, which goes live on June 23.

These resources will be available online at www.aaio.org/2010.

Affordability of Eye Care in the USA. The first panel will assess disparities in eye health within the United States. The panelists will provide their perspectives on how health care access and affordability can be improved, and they will discuss the importance of U.S. ophthalmologists who volunteer in their local communities. The panel will include Art Jones, MD (Chicago), Gullapalli N. Rao, MD (Hyderabad, India), Hugh R. Taylor, MD (East Melbourne, Australia) and Richard P. Mills, MD, MPH (Seattle).

- **International Volunteering From the Host’s Perspective.** When you volunteer in another country, you can impact the host community in many ways. Are these all positive? Not necessarily. The second panel will discuss both the beneficial and the not-so-beneficial repercussions of a volunteer’s visit. The panelists will feature Kunle Hassan, MD (Lagos, Nigeria), Susan Lewallen, MD (Moshi, Tanzania), Ahmed Trabelsi, MD

(Tunis, Tunisia), He Wei, MD (Shenyang, China) and Babar Qureshi, MD (Peshawar, Pakistan).

The International Forum is a free event that will take place on Monday, Oct. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

HALL HIGHLIGHTS

Museum Celebrates 30th Anniversary With Wide-Ranging Exhibit

From an ancient Egyptian amulet to a 1970s prototype Vitreous Infusion Suction Cutter, this year’s Museum of Vision exhibit (Booth #2357) surveys the entire history of eye care. The items on display—which will include 17th-century books, antique vision-aids and one of the original lens implants designed by Sir Harold Ridley—will highlight ophthalmology’s key moments in time.

Where did these items come from? Since it was founded in 1980 with a goal of preserving ophthalmology’s heritage, the museum has collected more than

38,000 artifacts, rare books and other archival materials. The majority of these were donated by members of the Academy.

To learn more about the museum, visit www.museumofvision.org.

Visit the Exhibit Hall to Learn About EHRs and “Meaningful Use”

Starting next year, you can earn a bonus for adopting electronic health records (EHRs).

Earn \$44,000 over five years. If you can demonstrate “meaningful use” of EHRs for a continuous 90-day period in 2011, you can earn a bonus of \$18,000 for that year. You would then earn smaller bonuses over the next four years. You can earn the same amount—a total of \$44,000 over five years—if you start in 2012. However, if you start after 2012, you earn less, and the timeline is compressed to meet the meaningful use criteria. Starting in 2015, practices that haven’t adopted EHRs will be hit with an initial 1 percent penalty

of Medicare fees that in subsequent years can rise to a maximum of 5 percent.

Who is providing EHRs? The exhibit hall offers a convenient opportunity to meet vendors who have experience with ophthalmology practices. Get prepared for those conversations by visiting www.aao.org/ehr, where you'll find information on vendors, links to relevant articles, an archived Webinar and much more.

Interoperability can boost efficiency. It is hoped that the EHR-certification process, along with the continued development of global standards, will improve interoperability. This means that your devices and information systems can all work together.

What is *meaningful use*? The Office of the National Coordinator issued an interim final rule in March, but the regulations—including the criteria for “meaningful use”—have not yet been finalized. The final regulations may be published next month. At the Joint Meeting, pick up handouts on the final rule at The Electronic Office (Booth #3967). Attend free presentations on how to earn the bonus at The Electronic Office and at The Technology Pavilion (Booth #765).

There will also be ticketed Instruction Courses to help you select an EHR system, implement it and take advantage of the incentive bonus. (In June, check the Program Search and select “Practice Management—Information Technology” from the pull-down list of topics.) In the meantime, get the latest updates at www.aao.org/ehr.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Dine, Dance and Catch Up With Colleagues

Dozens of alumni associations and interest groups will be organizing receptions to coincide with the Joint Meeting. Six of this year's more prominent events have been announced:

- **OphthPAC Reception**—Saturday, Oct. 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel. Contribute to OphthPAC and find out how you can advocate for your profession at www.opthpac.org.
- **Global YO (Young Ophthalmologist) Reception**—Sunday, Oct. 17, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hyatt McCormick Place. Free to all international and U.S. members-in-training and ophthalmologists in their first five years of practice.
- **AAOE Reception**—Sunday, Oct. 17, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Swissôtel Chicago. Free for AAOE members.
- **The Academy Foundation Orbital Gala**—Sunday, Oct. 17, 6 to 10 p.m. at the Palmer House Hilton. To buy a ticket or donate an item to the silent auction, visit www.faa.org.
- **Academy Seniors Reception**—Monday, Oct. 18, 4 to 5 p.m. at the convention center in Room S102. It is preceded by the Academy Seniors special program, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., which includes talks by Edward Uhlir, FAIA, who is design director of Chicago's Millennium Park, and Ivan R. Schwab, MD, who will talk about the evolution of the eye. Both the special program and reception are free for all attendees and their spouses.

The 9th Annual Downeast Ophthalmology Symposium

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2010
Bar Harbor, Maine



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