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Destination AAO 2024
GET READY FOR CHICAGO • PART 1 OF 6

WELCOME

AAO 2024: Elevate
It’s time to start preparing for the world’s largest, most comprehensive ophthalmic meeting. At AAO 2024, you’ll discover the latest methods and technologies in the field and learn new ways to evaluate and manage challenging cases and complications.

When to be there. AAO 2024 runs from Friday, Oct. 18, through Monday, Oct. 21, at McCormick Place convention center in Chicago. Subspecialty Day programs take place all day Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18 and 19. You and your staff members can also attend the American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives (AAOE) Practice Management Program and the American Academy of Ophthalmic Professionals (AAOP) Technician Learning Track.

How to prepare. From now until the meeting, this Destination AAO 2024 section will guide you through deadlines, preview the scientific program, and highlight key events.

Explore Chicago
Make the most of your time in Chicago by taking advantage of some of the unique activities available in the Windy City. Be sure to secure tickets and reservations well in advance of the meeting.

Book a river cruise. The Chicago Architecture Center Foundation River Cruise has been named the Best Boat Tour in North America, according to USA Today. This 90-minute cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady is led by expert docents. You will hear fascinating details about Chicago, including stories about the people who designed the buildings along the Chicago River. Options include both daylight tours and evening cocktail cruises.

Buy tickets for tours at www.architecture.org/tours.

Indulge in Chicago cuisine. Check out the latest version of “38 Essential Restaurants in Chicago” by Eater Chicago. This list is a handy, seasonally updated guide to help visitors answer the question, “Where should I eat if I have only one weekend in town?”


Enjoy world-class museums. Chicago has a top-tier museum to satisfy almost any interest. The Field Museum of Natural History is home to Sue, the world’s largest and most complete T. Rex skeleton on display. The Adler Planetarium on Lake Michigan was the first planetarium in the country when it opened in 1930. And art lovers will relish the Art Institute of Chicago’s collection of more than 300,000 works, including Grant Wood’s “American Gothic” and Georges Seurat’s most famous piece, “A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte.”

Save with a Chicago CityPass at www.citypass.com/chicago/chicago-museums for entrance to these museums and more.


SAVE THE DATE

Registration Opens June 26
Mark your calendar for June 26 if you are an Academy, AAOE, or AAOP member. On this date, registration and ticket sales open, as does the online hotel reservation system. Nonmembers can register and book a hotel room starting July 10.

Register for AAO 2024 and Related Events
The Academy will offer in-person and virtual meeting options for AAO 2024. While registration will remain open through the meeting, you can save money by registering by Aug. 7.

What’s included. With AAO 2024 registration, you get access to symposia, instruction courses, Skills Transfer lectures, original paper sessions, poster podium presentations, informal poster discussions, and videos. Plus, when you attend in person in Chicago, you can take advantage of unique networking opportunities with colleagues, mentors, and members of industry.

Extra events. Some learning opportunities require separate registration or an individual ticket, including the following:
• AAOE Friday Intensives;
• AAOE Coding Camp;
• AAOE Fundamentals of Ophthalmic Coding;
• AAO Friday Intensives;
• Skills Transfer labs; and
• Subspecialty Day meetings.

Learn more and, starting June 26, register at aao.org/registration.

Hotel Reservations
Don’t miss a minute of AAO 2024! Be sure to book a hotel room for check-in on Friday, Oct. 18 (or Thursday, Oct. 17, to attend Friday Subspecialty Day meetings) and plan to stay through the meetings’ end at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 21.

Avoid scams. In the lead-up to the meeting, beware of fraudulent companies impersonating the Academy or falsely suggesting a relationship with the Academy. The organizations might contact you directly via email, or you might find them on the internet. Be sure to deal only with the Academy’s official hotel reservation provider, Expovision, and book hotel rooms and register through the Academy’s website, aao.org/2024. If you are ever in doubt about the legitimacy of a vendor, email meetings@aao.org or call 1-415-561-8500 to confirm before reserving a hotel room.

Learn more and, starting June 26, book at aao.org/hotels.

PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

Dr. Francis to Give AAO 2024 Jackson Memorial Lecture
Jasmine H. Francis, MD, will deliver the 81st Edward Jackson Memorial Lecture, titled “Histiocytosis Advancements Parallel Ophthalmic Innovation,” during the AAO 2024 Opening Session on Saturday, Oct. 19.

Dr. Francis, a clinician-scientist who specializes in ophthalmic oncology, is Attending Surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). Her research focuses on intraocular tumors, particularly retinoblastoma, about which she has published studies leading to changes in standard treatment. Notably, she helped develop ophthalmic artery chemosurgery (OAC). This advance, now used in more than 45 countries, has transformed retinoblastoma from a lethal disease to one that can be treated while retaining the eye structure and visual potential. She has contributed to advances in OAC and to understanding the main factors in OAC treatment failure.

She has also published influential studies in uveal melanoma and the genetics of benign melanocytic lesions. Dr. Francis continues her scientific discoveries, alongside her clinical work, through research evaluating genomic profiling of circulating cell-free tumor DNA in uveal melanoma, other intraocular tumors, and retinoblastoma.

Program Available in June
Search the AAO 2024 program in the online meeting guide starting June 17. It can be accessed from any mobile device, tablet, laptop, or computer. You don’t have to log in or be a member to view program information. You will be able to find information by day, topic, type of event/course, special interest, or presenter. Log in to save sessions to a personalized planner.

Keep an eye out for program updates at aao.org/program.

SUBSPECIALTY DAY

The Lineup for Subspecialty Day 2024 in Chicago
The lineup for Subspecialty Day 2024 in Chicago features world-renowned ophthalmologists presenting the latest developments within their subspecialties.

The following meetings take place on Friday, Oct. 18:
• Glaucoma Subspecialty Day 2024
• Neuro-Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day 2024
• Pediatric Ophthalmology Subspecialty Day 2024
• Refractive Surgery Subspecialty Day 2024
• Retina Subspecialty Day 2024 (Day 1)
• Uveitis Subspecialty Day 2024

The following meetings take place on Saturday, Oct. 19:
• Cornea Subspecialty Day 2024
• Oculofacial Plastic Surgery Subspecialty Day 2024
• Retina Subspecialty Day 2024 (Day 2)

Register for a live Subspecialty Day meeting in Chicago and get the following benefits for the day you are registered:
• flexibility to float among the live Subspecialty Day meetings taking place on the same day, as well as access to virtual Subspecialty Day content for those meetings;
• detailed course syllabi for all Subspecialty Day meetings available online;
• continental breakfast and lunch;
• the opportunity to earn CME credits; and
• for Saturday registrants, access to the Expo on that same day.

Learn more at aao.org/subspecialty-day.