

How Program Directors Can Use AACAP's 2026 Annual Meeting

AACAP's 2026 Annual Meeting is an invaluable resource for Program Directors and their trainees. Here are the Top Ten Ways to use the Annual Meeting in your program:

1. Become a Member

CAP Program Directors can join the [100% Club](#) (i.e. all your fellows are AACAP members) by having trainees join AACAP! Help trainees understand [membership](#) costs (i.e. \$100 for residents/fellows, \$0 for medical students along plus Regional Organization Dues) and benefits at [AACAP Member Resources](#).

2. Get Oriented

In addition to the in-person meeting, there is also the [CAP@Home Virtual Annual Meeting Experience](#) . This virtual attendance option allows members the opportunity to earn up to 90 CME credits via utilizing access to the plenary sessions (7), institutes (8), new research posters and [bonus content](#), which includes select Symposia and Clinical Perspective(s) on this year's hottest topics. Check out the [comparison table of the options](#) and [registration rates](#).

3. Prepare for the Atlanta in-person meeting using the information below.

- [Hotel Reservations](#) are available in several Atlanta hotels. Trainees may consider using the [roomshare link](#) to express interest in sharing a room with other peers.
- [Registration](#) is open. Online registration ends October 31.
- **If you have not yet booked your travel**, and you fly with United Airlines or Delta, consider using the [airline savings information](#).
- [Monitors](#) are residents and fellows who help during the meeting and as a benefit, can register for free.

4. Prime their Minds

Make time for trainees to take the [Self-Assessment Exam](#) prior to the meeting. It's free for all attendees registered for either the CAP@Home or in-person meetings.

5. Let AACAP Do Work for You

Program Directors can use AACAP Annual Meeting content as part of scheduled didactics.

- All 8 [Institutes](#) (i.e., 40+ hours!) are included with [registration](#). Topics include psychopharmacology, suicide, autism, ADHD, and much more. Institutes will be viewable

September 30 through November 30 for those registered, so be sure to plan protected time in your curriculum to take advantage of this pre-recorded material!

- Purchasing [PsychStream](#) allows access to recorded content all year round.

6. Trainee Events

Make sure trainees are aware of the [MSR Events Guide](#) that highlights Medical Student and Residents (MSR) signature conference events for trainees!

7. Targeted Kudos

Be sure that folks at your institution know when others (especially trainees) are presenting posters and giving presentations, so that you can support each other! Perhaps even post on social media (with their permission).

8. Follow Your Passion and Find Your People!

Encourage trainees to attend sessions related to topics that they are truly excited about. Trainees have reported that they get the most out of the meeting when they attend sessions about their area of highest interest. This allows trainees to meet experts and colleagues who share their passion within the expansive field of child and adolescent psychiatry.

9. Network, Network, Network

The Annual Meeting events provide many opportunities for engagement, mentorship, coaching, and leadership development!

- Be sure trainees are aware of networking events (e.g. MSR/ECP Meet Up, MSR Resource Room Fair, Mentorship Programs, Receptions & Reunions).
- Please inform trainees that they can sit in open [Committee Meetings](#) to get a better sense of what is happening on a national level.
- Encourage attendance at sessions with speakers from geographies where trainees want to interview for their careers.
- Explore [Annual Meeting programming](#) interests by [date](#), session or [program type](#), or [committee sponsored](#) programs.

10. Have FUN!

If your trainee travels to Seattle, they can enjoy the social hours, film nights, and wellness activities. Also, [Explore Atlanta](#) is a website curated by AACAP to help us take full advantage of the city surroundings!

For trainees who stay home, consider reserving a large conference room for in-person watch parties or create [virtual watch parties](#)! Please also share YOUR innovative ideas on the AADPRT CAP Listserv.