

The Summer Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology: Chicago

Ah, once again summer is upon us, the daylight lingers, the flowers bloom and the grass grows greener. Sounds of baseball fill the parks and children laugh, play, and splash with abandon. Our thoughts turn to the aroma of the BBQ, visions of fireworks and the fourth of July, the rush of warm air in our faces as we drive convertibles down sunlit country roads, and, of course, sunscreen, sunglasses, and protective clothing. We plan time with friends, family and colleagues as we prepare for vacations, reunions, and the summer meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD).

The Academy meeting? Summer fun? Time with friends and family? Yes, and more. In fact, the annual Academy meeting is indeed all of these combined. The real purpose of the summer AAD meeting is to provide attendees with an opportunity to obtain world-class education in a venue that supports family time and fun. Although the schedule, format, faculty, and exhibits essentially are all the same as the annual AAD meeting, the tone, tenor, and pace are all dampened. Sound interesting? Then read on.

This year the venue for the summer meeting of the AAD is none other than the city of Chicago; the “home” of American medicine, “the second city,” the “windy city” (not in the summer!), “Chi-town” and the nicknames go on and on like the “dog days” of summer itself. Chicago, famous for its pizza and sausage; sports; and family friendly beaches, parks, and attractions is a wonderful destination for vacation for the entire family. While selecting from a veritable arms-length checklist of exciting things to do and places to see, your family will be sure to be entertained while you diligently earn continuing medical education (CME) credit.

Speaking of CME, one of the benefits of the summer AAD meeting is easy access to your first choice of course

selection. Unlike the stampede of the annual AAD meeting, with tens of thousands of attendees all vying for the same lecture, the summer meeting has traditionally allowed a much smaller group of attendees to “cherry pick” their course selections. Because the faculty and lectures, courses, and workshops generally are similar to the annual meeting, the opportunities for learning are significant and substantial. In fact, the access to faculty is usually far greater than at the annual AAD meeting where there are so many competing demands for time that it seems like everyone is on a rollercoaster ride at the county fair—not sure where to get on or off, how long the wait is, and whether it really is the E-ticket experience promised.

The real purpose of the summer AAD meeting is to provide attendees with an opportunity to obtain world-class education in a venue that supports family time and fun.

Perhaps it is the vacation, summertime, relaxed mentality that takes control. The weather is nice, the days are long, the nights are warm, and everyone seems just a bit less harried, more relaxed, and open to the fun of vacation that makes the difference. Perhaps this sounds just right for you?

Regardless, the best thing about the summer meeting is having the chance to enjoy your specialty through education and your family and friends through recreation. If you have not had the chance to visit Chicago recently, or to attend the summer AAD meeting, or if you need to pick up a few dozen CME credits, or maybe you just want a good excuse to take a trip with your family to a really nice destination that does not just

The author reports no conflict of interest in relation to this article.

EDITORIAL

have a theme park, then Chicago may be just the place for you.

Speaking of recreation and vacation, do not forget about yourself. The museums, parks, architecture, sightseeing, shopping, skyscrapers, and sports teams all combine to make for great diversions. A little fun makes for a healthier and happier physician and dermatologist (not to mention a little boost to the local economy) and if your family cannot make the trip with you this year, then FedEx or UPS can certainly assist in getting that perfect little surprise home for them.

So mark your calendar for August 4 to 8, 2010; book a flight or plan a drive, reserve a hotel room, and do not forget to register at www.aad.org if you are attending. But hurry, because early registration closes July 8, 2010. Even if you miss the early registration, you can still sign up on-site, August 4, 2010. If you have any questions, you can call 866-503-SKIN (7546).

See you in Chicago!

Wm. Philip Werschler, MD
Seattle, Washington

