

1	<b>RESOLUTION</b>	
2	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>AAD/A 003 (A-26)</b>
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4	<b>TITLE</b>	Support for Discounted Registration for Volunteer Leaders at the AAD Annual Meeting and Innovation Academy
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7	<b>INTRODUCED BY</b>	Alex Means, MD, FAAD
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10 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and American Academy of  
11 Dermatology Association (AADA) mission and strategic plan emphasize excellence in  
12 dermatologic education, leadership development, and reducing administrative and  
13 financial burdens on dermatologists <sup>a</sup>; and

14 WHEREAS, AAD volunteer leaders—including speakers, moderators, course directors,  
15 task force and committee members, section leaders, and Advisory Board members—  
16 devote substantial uncompensated time preparing scientific and educational material  
17 and fulfilling governance responsibilities; and

18 WHEREAS, participation at the AAD Annual Meeting and AAD Innovation Academy is  
19 central to advancing these goals, as many committee, task force, council, and Advisory  
20 Board activities occur in conjunction with these meetings, and in-person engagement  
21 strengthens the Academy's educational and governance infrastructure; and

22 WHEREAS, registration fees for AAD's flagship meetings represent a substantial direct  
23 cost to individual dermatologists, with 2025 AAD Annual Meeting physician-member  
24 registration listed at \$1,080 <sup>b</sup> and 2025 AAD Innovation Academy registration at \$525;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, other nationally recognized specialty societies of comparable prestige—  
27 such as the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)—offer substantially  
28 lower meeting registration fees, with member-physician rates for the AAOS Annual  
29 Meeting beginning at \$350 <sup>c</sup>; and

30 WHEREAS, reducing the financial burden for AAD volunteer leaders to attend essential  
31 AAD meetings is aligned with AAD's strategic goals to support professional well-being,  
32 sustain high-quality volunteer participation, and strengthen the Academy's core  
33 educational programs; and

34 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAD and AADA shall develop a policy  
35 whereby current-year AAD volunteer leaders—including invited scientific and  
36 educational session speakers, moderators, course directors, and members of  
37 AAD/AADA boards, councils, task forces, standing committees, and the Advisory  
38 Board—are eligible for discounted base registration for the AAD Annual Meeting and  
39 AAD Innovation Academy; and

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discounted registration rate shall be  
41 recommended by the Annual Meeting Committee after review of available data on  
42 historical meeting expenses, current registration pricing, volunteer participation needs,  
43 and benchmarking data from other medical and professional societies; and  
44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting Committee shall annually report  
45 the number of individuals who received discounted registration and the associated  
46 financial impact on meeting operations, to guide evaluation of program sustainability and  
47 effectiveness;  
48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall remain aligned with AAD and AADA  
49 bylaws, mission, vision, and strategic goals, and shall be periodically reviewed to ensure  
50 fiscal responsibility and continued support for high-quality volunteer engagement and  
51 leadership development.

52 **References**

53 <sup>a</sup> AAD Strategic Plan: <https://www.aad.org/about/strategic-plan>  
54 <sup>b</sup> AAD Annual Meeting 2025 Registration Fees: <https://www.aad.org/member/meetings-education/am26/registration/fees>  
55 <sup>c</sup> AAOS 2026 Registration Rates: <https://www.aaos.org/globalassets/aaos-annual-meeting/attend/registration/registration-open/aaos-2026-reg-rates.pdf>

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**Does the resolution fall within the scope of the AAD and AADA bylaws, mission, vision, or strategic goals?**

59 Yes.

60 **Relevant Background and/or AAD Policy Considerations:**

61 Every year, as part of the annual budgeting process, an assessment of all revenue and  
62 expenses related to both the AAD Annual Meeting and the AAD Innovation Academy is  
63 conducted. The Budget Committee is presented with and discusses the proposed  
64 budgets for both meetings and recommendations related to meeting expenses and  
65 revenue, including registration fees. The annual budget as approved by the Budget  
66 Committee is then presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

67 The option to provide discounted registration fees to faculty members (directors,  
68 speakers, poster presenters) at the Annual and Innovation Academy Meetings has been  
69 discussed on several occasions by the Secretary/Treasurers, the Budget Committee and  
70 the Board of Directors during the budget development process. Due to the potential  
71 financial impact, discounted registration fees for session directors and speakers at the  
72 AAD Annual Meeting has not been recommended by the Budget Committee. For the

73 AAD Innovation Academy, the Budget Committee and the Board of Directors approved  
74 providing complimentary registration to session directors.

75 **Fiscal/Resource Impact:**

76 Revenues generated from the AAD Annual Meeting fund high-priority Academy  
77 programs throughout the year, including advocacy efforts. In previous discussions on  
78 potential discounts in registration fees to faculty, the Budget Committee has weighed the  
79 negative fiscal impact on the Academy's overall budget and considered the impact on  
80 Academy programs. In the past, the Budget Committee has declined to recommend  
81 discounted registration fees for the AAD Annual Meeting, but it did recommend and the  
82 Board of Directors approved complimentary registration for session directors at the AAD  
83 Innovation Academy.

84 The fiscal impact of providing discounted registration fees for faculty would need to be  
85 evaluated in the context of the location for the Annual Meeting and the Innovation  
86 Academy, anticipated expenses for each meeting and the overall annual budget for the  
87 Academy.

88 In addition to direct fiscal impact, there are logistical challenges to assess if any  
89 registration discounts were to be considered. For example, the majority of speakers are  
90 confirmed after registration opens, so a significant change in process would need to be  
91 developed and implemented in order to provide a discount to these speakers, likely post-  
92 meeting. Further research on how to implement any change in registration fees for  
93 speakers would need to be conducted.

94 Currently there are no systems in place to automatically track the individuals in various  
95 Council, Committee, Task Force, and Board positions as it relates to meeting  
96 registration, other than a manual process. There are currently more than 1,200  
97 individuals serving as members of CCTF's, so further research and a full analysis of the  
98 potential impact of any discounted registration fee, as well as the logistical challenge of  
99 implementing a discount, would need to be conducted.

100 **References:**

101 The Annual Meeting has approximately 300 session directors, 1200 speakers and 420  
102 oral poster presenters.

103 The Innovation Academy has approximately 60 session directors and 200 speakers.  
104 Session directors receive complimentary registration to Innovation Academy.