

1	RESOLUTION	
2	NUMBER	AAD/A 003 (A-26)
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4	TITLE	Support for Discounted Registration for Volunteer Leaders at the AAD Annual Meeting and Innovation Academy
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8	INTRODUCED BY	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 ^a; 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 ^b 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 ^c; 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the discounted registration rate shall be recommended by the Annual Meeting Committee after review of available data on historical meeting expenses, current registration pricing, volunteer participation needs, and benchmarking data from other medical and professional societies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting Committee shall annually report the number of individuals who received discounted registration and the associated financial impact on meeting operations, to guide evaluation of program sustainability and effectiveness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall remain aligned with AAD and AADA bylaws, mission, vision, and strategic goals, and shall be periodically reviewed to ensure fiscal responsibility and continued support for high-quality volunteer engagement and leadership development.

References

^a AAD Strategic Plan: <https://www.aad.org/about/strategic-plan>

^b AAD Annual Meeting 2025 Registration Fees: <https://www.aad.org/member/meetings-education/am26/registration/fees>

^c AAOS 2026 Registration Rates: <https://www.aaos.org/globalassets/aaos-annual-meeting/attend/registration/registration-open/aaos-2026-reg-rates.pdf>

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

Yes.

Relevant Background and/or AAD Policy Considerations:

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

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

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

Fiscal/Resource Impact:

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

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

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

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

References:

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

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