

Annual AAOS Meeting—Rock Stars, Fellowship, and MOC

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As I prepare to attend my 30th annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), I am struck by how my priorities for this meeting have evolved over the years.

As an orthopedic resident in the early 1980s, I was most intent on meeting and listening to the presentations of the “rock stars” of orthopedic surgery, whose textbooks and journal articles I was reading. It was truly thrilling to see such luminaries as Dr. Mark Coventry, Dr. Charles Rockwood, Jr, and Dr. John Insall in the flesh. Even more important was my discovery that such legends in our profession were also wonderful human beings and true scholars, willing to field questions from lowly residents like me. This appreciation of the humanity shown by many of the orthopedic leaders I met at AAOS meetings early in my career certainly has influenced my subsequent priorities.

As I matured, becoming a fellow of the AAOS and developing my own private practice in orthopedic surgery, my priorities for the annual meeting evolved into a deepening respect and admiration for the “fellowship” among Academy members. The mission of the AAOS—to foster continuing education—and the will-



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ingness of the Academy experts to share their knowledge with all members in the form of presentations, workshops, and symposia are truly remarkable accomplishments and a tribute to the culture espoused by the AAOS.

I look forward to this year’s meeting not only to learn what are the current best practices in our field but also to reconnect with my friends from residency and fellowship, as well as other colleagues who I get to see only once a year at this event. Renewing such fellowship is an important priority for me at this stage in my career.

Finally, I am preparing the first 3-year cycle in my Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process for diplomats of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, whose certificates expire in 2018. The requirement to amass 120 category 1 continuing medical education credits approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, 20 of which must be scored and recorded self-assessment examination credits, is considerable and takes the equivalent effort of attending 2 AAOS-type annual meetings each year plus sitting for an examination similar to the Orthopedic In-Training Examination for residents. I am happy to use my credits from attending the AAOS meeting to satisfy my MOC requirements, now an additional priority for my annual conference attendance.

So, I look forward to attending next month’s annual Academy meeting for many reasons—fellowship, education, satisfying MOC requirements, and, of course, the anticipation of meeting the next orthopedic “rock star.”

AUTHOR’S DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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

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