

2026 AAOA Annual Meeting Schedule - Hybrid



The American Academy
of Otolaryngic Allergy

Pre-Work On-Demand

Session Title	Session Description	Faculty
Surgical Management of Sinus Headache and Migraine	Sinus headache complaints are the least likely symptoms to be successfully treated with endoscopic sinus surgery. This course will review the mechanisms for sinus headache complaints, and review the literature regarding FESS, turbinate resection, contact point resection, and posterior nasal nerve ablation. A focus will be made to discuss selection of appropriate patients for intervention, and options for the surgeon. Even in patients with "sinus headache" presentation of mid facial migraine, recent studies have shown some promising options for these frustrating patients.	Mark Mehle, MD
Joint AAOA-ARS: Contemporary Management of Allergic Fungal Sinusitis	Our AAOA-ARS panel will discuss contemporary Management of Allergic Fungal Sinusitis. We will dive into etiology, barrier dysfunction, diagnosis and current controversies. Subsequently, we will discuss therapies including surgery, steroids, choice of biologics, when to use biologics, revision cases, and the higher propensity of recurrence in these patients. We will wrap up with difficult cases and future directions with research.	Peter Filip, MD, FAAOA; Meha Fox, MD, FAAOA; Amber Luong, MD, PhD; Chris Brooks, MD, FAAOA; and Aria Jafari, MD
Avoidance Measures & Allergies — What Really Works		Farrah Siddiqui, MD, FAAOA
Introduction to Migraine and Sinus Headache	This pre-work lecture is an introduction to sinus headache as a complaint and migraine headache as a diagnosis. Be sure to attend the live session given by Dr. Mark Mehle at 10:45 AM PST on Saturday, September 12 on the Sinus Headache and the Allergy/Migraine Connection, which will expand on this pre-work lecture.	Mark Mehle, MD
If It Is Not Documented, It Didn't Happen - Coding Conundrums	Join Teresa Thompson and Robert Puchalski, MD, FAAOA as they discuss common coding conundrums and best practices to avoid miscoding and reduce the likelihood of an audit. Ms Thompson and Dr. Puchalski review testing codes and when to bill EM, vial prep and the nuances of the CME billable unit and CPT dose, as well as the impact USP General Chapter <797> is having on payer compliance, and incident to and direct supervision. They also share some common payer denials and how to prevent those payment denials, as well as how to view audits as learning and teaching opportunities for better outcomes.	Teresa Thompson, Robert Puchalski, MD, FAAOA
Easy Data Insights for ENT Practices		Cheyenne Brinson

Case Study AAOA Affinity Program Boosts Bottom Line		Cheyenne Brinson
Unique Mechanical Allergens		Scott Hardison, MD, FAAOA

Friday, September 11, 2026

Time		Session Title	Session Description	Faculty
10:15 AM	10:45 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Welcome to 2026 Annual Meeting Desert Theme	We're excited to kick off this year's Annual Meeting with a special gathering in the Exhibit Hall. Join us for an exciting start where you can connect with our valued Corporate Partners, network with fellow attendees, enjoy desert-inspired refreshments, and discover exciting opportunities to win prizes!	
10:45 AM	10:55 AM	Welcome to the 2026 AAOA Annual Meeting	Dr. Robert Stachler officially kicks off the 2026 AAOA Annual Meeting! Get ready for some fun icebreakers.	Robert Stachler, MD, FAAOA
11:00 AM	11:10 AM	Really?!: Worst Denials Panel	This panel shares examples of denials	Moderator: Arvin Rao, MD, FAAOA Panel: Rebecca Kamil, MD, FAAOA
11:10 AM	11:30 AM	Reducing Denials: Mitigating Strategies for Worst Denials	Panel shares mitigation strategies and how guidelines can be effective tool; "Reducing Denials Applying New Sinus Guidelines or Worst denials a) PNN approval/Vivaer – AAOA role b) Biologics c) Imaging d) Referrals for allergy testing Bring some challenges before the panel and bring in summary pearls for each case"	Moderator: Rebecca Kamil, MD, FAAOA Panelists: James Ludwick, MD; Arvin Rao, MD, FAAOA; Keith Sale, MD, FAAOA and Kevin Wilson, MD, FAAOA
11:30 AM	12:00 PM	AFRS Update: Medical? Surgical? Challenging Patients	Emerging Horizons in AFRS: panelists will discuss a case study and a tiered approach to managing AFRS including a foundation of surgical management followed by advances in long-term medical therapy to prevent high rates of recurrence	Moderator: Charles Ebert, MD, FAAOA Panelists: Arvin Rao, MD, FAAOA; Kenneth Rodriguez, MD; Dole Baker, MD, FAAOA
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Non-AAOA Satellite Event		
1:05 PM	1:25 PM	Beyond Saline: Adjuncts in Nasal Rinse Therapy		Moderator: Charles Ebert, MD, FAAOA Panelist: Jack Fornadley, MD; Robert Puchalski, MD; Kenneth Rodriguez, MD, Heidi Martini-Stoica, MD, PhD

1:25 PM	1:40 PM	Posterior Nasal Nerve Management in Rhinitis Patients with Migraine. A New Opportunity for the Otolaryngologist?	1. PNN ablation has emerged as a very effective tool for managing chronic rhinitis that is refractory to medical treatment. 2. in recent years, other medical specialties have found that ablation of the sphenopalatine ganglia may offer a benefit to migraine sufferers. 3. Almost 70% of allergic rhinitis patients have concomitant migraines. Almost 70% of migraine patients have concomitant rhinitis. 4. This year, for the first time, we have new evidence surrounding whether PNN ablation for rhinitis may offer a benefit to patients who also have migraine headaches. This was first presented at COSM this year and will be discussed in this presentation	Mark Mehle, MD
1:40 PM	2:00 PM	Everybody Lies: Clinical Cases Challenges When Patients Do Not Give Information		Moderator: Christine DeMason, MD, FAAOA; Panelists: Christopher Brook, MD, FAAOA; Bryan Leatherman, MD, FAAOA; Kenneth Rodriguez, MD
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Demo Labs		
2:15 PM	2:30 PM	More than Polyps: Individualizing MABs Care	To include data for treating comorbid conditions that we see as otolaryngologists and allergists including atopic dermatitis.	Moderator: Christopher Brook, MD, FAAOA
2:30 PM	2:45 PM	Beyond Meds: Diet as a Tool for Sinus Care		Moderator: Nalin Patel, MD, FAAOA
2:45 PM	3:15 PM	Deny or Try TikTok Myths		Christine DeMason, MD, FAAOA
3:15 PM	3:35 PM	Lost in Translation: Health Literacy in the Age of Dr. Google	When patients arrive already “informed,” our job shifts from delivering facts to translating them. This session follows one patient's search for answers — and equips you to close the gap.	Keith Sale, MD, FAAOA
3:35 PM	3:50 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Demo Labs		
3:50 PM	4:20 PM	Exploring the Explorers Course	Point/Countpoint Interview on rhinology, laryngology, and infectious disease	John H. Krouse, MD, PhD, MBA, FAAOA
4:20 PM	4:40 PM	“I Know I Have Allergies but My Doctors Can’t Find Them”	Nonallergic rhinitis and second opinion assessments	Jack Fornadley, MD, FAAOA
4:40 PM	5:30 PM	Shark Tank: Prior Authorization	Shark Tank Prior Authorization • Focus on AI and automation • AI tools for prior auths and appeals • AI-assisted coding and documentation (e.g., suggestions to support higher-level billing) • Automation of referral processes and payer requirements.	Moderator: Haidy Marzouk, MD, MPH, FAAOA Sharks: Tucker Harris, MD, FAAOA & Jack Fornadley, MD, FAAOA; Presenters/Pitchers: Edwin Lee, MD, FAAOA; James Ludwick, MD

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Time		Session Title	Session Description	Faculty
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Open House		
8:00 AM	8:30 AM	AAOA Foundation Research Forum	Moderated by Carlos Ebert, MD and Kenneth Rodriguez, MD from the AAOA Foundation. Join us to support our young investigators and gain insights into state-of-the-art research.	Moderators: Charles Ebert, MD, FAAOA; Kenneth Rodriguez, MD Research Panelists: Heidi Martinit-Stoica, MD, Emily Moldof, ARNP
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Poor Compliance: Managing Patient-Related Factors to Improve Outcomes	- Therapy-Related Factors: Complexity of the regimen (number of pills/times a day), duration of treatment, and side effects. - Socioeconomic Factors: Financial limitations/cost of medicine, lack of social support, and lifestyle constraints. - Healthcare System/Provider Factors: Quality of patient-provider communication, trust in the doctor, availability of care, and patient education. - Disease Factors Cognitive function, knowledge, motivation, beliefs about medication (fear of side effects), and routine-setting skills.	Moderator: Jack Fornadley, MD, FAAOA Panelists: Charles Ebert, MD, FAAOA and Haidy Marzouk, MD, FAAOA
9:00 AM	9:15 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Demo Labs		
9:15 AM	9:30 AM	OSA Changes on the Horizon	What is new in OSA? What changes are on the horizon? Session will focus on new approaches to second hypoglossal nerve stimulator. Usin cases, it will off a brief overview of new and existing technology and how it is similar/different.	Christine DeMason, MD, FAAOA
9:30 AM	9:45 AM	"Precision Sleep: Tailoring OSA Therapy to the Individual"	Individualizing OSA Treatment in Patients:	Matthew Patterson, MD, FAAOA and Adam Kreuser
9:45 AM	10:00 AM	Meds for Bed: Medications for OSA		Kevin Wilson, MD, FAAOA
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Demo Labs		

10:30 AM	10:45 AM	Not All Coughs Are the Same		Robert Stachler, MD, FAAOA
10:45 AM	11:05 AM	The Migraine/Allergy Connection and the Sinus Headache Patient	Migraine and allergy are both common diseases. Many patients suffer from both, and the vast majority of patients with “sinus headache” complaints are found to have migraine, making migraine identification important to otolaryngic allergists. This review will confirm that allergy and migraine are comorbid conditions, focusing on epidemiology, shared biochemical pathways, and underlying mechanisms. Therapeutic implications of this relationship have been the subject of several recent studies, making a review of this association timely and prudent.	Mark Mehle, MD
11:05 AM	11:45 AM	Co-Morbidities Impacting Outcomes: "It's Complicated: When Your Patient Brings Baggage"	Jeopardy Format Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus, Chronic Lung Disease, Kidney disease, Obesity, Immunodeficiency, Sleep Quality	Christopher Brook, MD, FAAOA
11:45 AM	12:00 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Demo Labs		
12:00 PM	1:00 PM	Non-AAOA Satellite Event		
1:00 PM	1:15 PM	"Operating on Yourself: Surgeon Health and Ergonomics"	Join us to learn some OR techniques and stretches	Christine DeMason, MD, FAAOA & Charles Ebert, MD, FAAOA
1:15 PM	1:45 PM	Workflow/Efficiency	a) Testing/shots; b) Immunotherapy compliance; c) In office procedures; d) Office day flow (scribes, AI, triage, etc.); e) How to manage call responsibilities with office flow; f) Automated appointments, confirming patients etc.	Panel: Christine DeMason, MD, FAAOA academic, Tucker Harris, MD, FAAOA or Marzouk hospital-based; Wesley VanderArk, MD, FAAOA, private practice; Rebecca Kamil, MD, FAAOA, solo private
1:45 PM	2:00 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Demo Labs		
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	Using APPs Effectively	APP usage panel; Revenue strategy data; Referral flow; WRVU/hour OR vs. office; Specialization of APPs; Training – NP vs. PA and formalization of training; Presenting data to springboard to expansion strategies (should we hire new APP vs surgeon, how to use exam rooms vs telehealth, etc.)	Haidy Marzouk, MD, MBA, FAAOA & Tucker Harris, MD, FAAOA

2:30 PM	3:00 PM	Expansion: Setting Up for Success	A Panel Discussion to help you decide when and how to grow your practice	Moderator: Scott Fortune, MD, FAAOA Panelists: Robert Puchalski, MD, FAAOF; Bryan Leatherman, MD, FAAOA; Erik Swanson, MD, FAAOA
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Demo Labs		
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Growing Pains: Expanding Your Practice Without the Headache	Interactive Expansion Group Work Should all services be available at both locations or specialize? How should the staff be divided and travel days? APPs vs. Surgeons? Should we expand services with upfront overhead vs. piecemeal? 1. STOP: Pinpoint & Mitigate top mistakes; 2. START: New Streams Determine high-impact ancillary service line; 3. OPTIMIZE: Connect clinical service performance to operational efficiency (staffing, scheduling, billing) to ensure maximum reimbursement; 4. NEXT STEPS Commit to three immediate actions to implement in your practice this week.	Haidy Marzouk, MD, MBA, FAAOA & Tucker Harris, MD, FAAOA
4:00 PM	4:30 PM	Cultural Competency: AI		Keith Sale, MD, FAAOA
4:30 PM	5:00 PM	Rapid-Fire Cases	Audience Engagement	Christopher Brook, MD, FAAOA
5:00 PM	6:00 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Open House	Reception	

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Time		Session Title	Session Description	Faculty
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Open House		
8:00 AM	8:15 AM	Open Sinuses & Persistent Symptoms		Kenneth Rodriguez, MD
8:15 AM	8:35 AM	Chicken or Egg? The Upper vs. Lower Airway		Robert Stachler, MD, FAAOA
8:35 AM	8:50 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors: Open House		

8:50 AM	9:45 AM	Allergy Master Class: Challenging Cases	Challenging Immunotherapy Cases	Kevin Wilson, MD, FAAOA; Jack Fornadely, MD, FAAOA; Haidy Marzouk, MD, MPH, FAAOA; and Robert Stachler, MD, FAAOA
9:45 AM	9:50 AM	Program Wrap		Robert Stachler, MD, FAAOA

Learn more: www.AAOAllergy.org