

IAFP 2026: Maximize Your Time

New Orleans, Louisiana • Smart ways to network, learn, and make the most of the meeting
Quick guide to sessions, PDGs, students, first-timers, and the Exhibit Hall



Network often

Use the app

Join PDGs

Visit the Exhibit Hall

Network, Network, Network

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- ◆ **During breaks:** Visit and talk to exhibitors, poster presenters, and other attendees during breaks.
- ◆ **At lunch:** Try sitting next to someone you don't know and strike up a conversation.
- ◆ **Stay connected:** Exchange business cards if you have them.

Learn + Participate

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- ◆ **Before the meeting:** Download the conference app on your phone before the meeting.
- ◆ **Build your plan:** Use the app to create a calendar schedule of sessions you want to attend, noting that some may overlap.
- ◆ **Poster sessions:** Visit poster sessions each day. New posters are presented daily and grouped by main topic areas.
- ◆ **Join PDGs:** Attend Professional Development Groups of interest to you on Sunday.
- ◆ **Roundtables:** Roundtable sessions are a great opportunity to interact with speakers and panelists on topics of interest.
- ◆ **Ask questions:** Talk with presenters and join the conversation.

Help Plan Next Year

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- ◆ **Get involved:** Joining and participating in PDGs helps shape and plan next year's meeting.

Students + First-Time Attendees

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- ◆ **Students:** Introduce yourself to prospective employers and use the Job Board.
- ◆ **Explore:** Investigate areas and technologies that interest you and may lead to future employment.
- ◆ **Build your network:** Build a professional network that lasts throughout your career.
- ◆ **Student Lunch:** Attend the Student Lunch on Sunday, July 26. Registration is required in advance.
- ◆ **First-timers:** Attend the Welcome Informational Meeting on Sunday, July 26 from 5:00–6:00 PM.

Exhibit Hall + Foundation Booth

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- ◆ **Best times to connect:** Breaks, lunch, and evening receptions are great chances to interact with exhibitors.
- ◆ **Ask exhibitors:** Exhibitors have extensive technical knowledge and can be very helpful—even if you are not planning to buy anything.
- ◆ **Student PDG Booth:** A good place for networking and finding other students.
- ◆ **Foundation Booth:** Stop by the IAFP Foundation Booth to learn how you can help support IAFP.
- ◆ **Silent auction:** Check out the great items available at the silent auction.

Tip: Ask questions, meet someone new, and use the app to build a plan before you arrive.

Student Lunch requires advance registration • Welcome Informational Meeting: Sunday, July 26, 5:00–6:00 PM