

ASCENT

Kansas City Groove

Leading with Rhythm, Results, &
Resilience in Otolaryngology

Kansas City, MO | Sept. 8-12, 2025

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Welcome Letters

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Greetings, fellow ASCENT Colleagues,

It is my honor to serve as the 2025 President of ASCENT. In this role, it is hard for me to think of a more important responsibility than to wholly recommend and thank you for attending our Annual ASCENT Conference in Kansas City. You have made the right choice and one that will impact your career, your practice and life for the better.

Our annual meeting is a chance to learn and further develop our professional skills and take those back to our practice, but it is so much more than that. It is one the best opportunities to connect with fellow colleagues from across the country...many of which are facing similar challenges and opportunities.

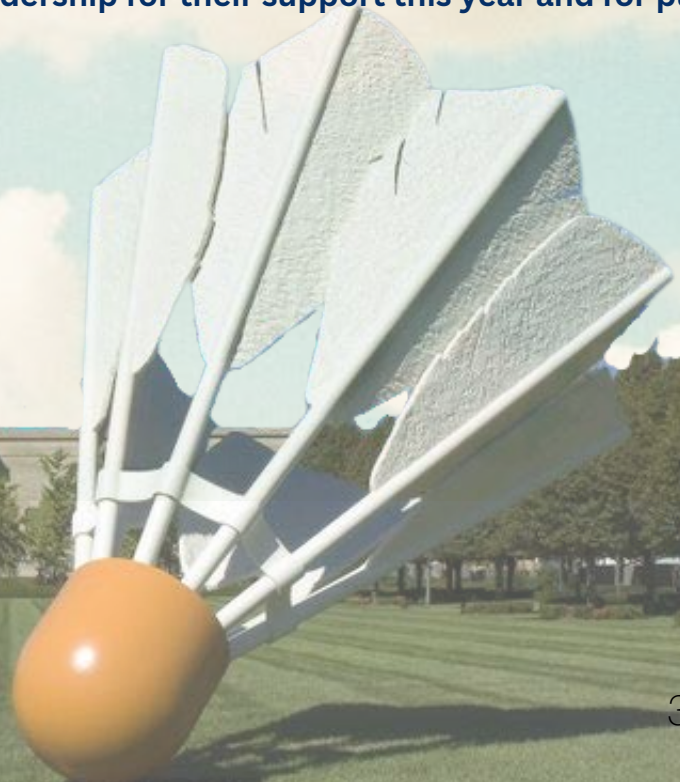
Most likely someone has either gone through a challenge you are facing or is currently going through the same challenge. It is a chance to find those that can mentor you or that you can mentor and give back.

Simply put, you have made a wise choice for yourself, your career and your practice. You are part of the ASCENT community and that is our greatest strength. Thank you and your practice for supporting ASCENT and hope you will enjoy the conference.

My thanks to all the volunteers and ASCENT leadership for their support this year and for putting on a excellent conference.

Sincerely,

Paul Richards, MPA, MHA
ASCENT President



Welcome Letters

A LETTER FROM OUR PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR



Dear ASCENT Members:

On behalf of ASCENT, I am thrilled to invite you to the 2025 ASCENT Annual Meeting, taking place September 8-12 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. This year's theme, "Kansas City Groove: Leading with Rhythm, Results, and Resilience in Otolaryngology," sets the tone for an engaging and impactful experience.

As your 2025 Program Chair, I am dedicated to ensuring this is a meeting you won't want to miss! Our keynote speaker, along with an incredible lineup of sessions, networking opportunities, interactive workshops, and special gatherings designed to foster collaboration and innovation.

The ASCENT home office, Leadership Council, and committees have been working tirelessly to craft a dynamic and enriching program. Whether you're looking to enhance your leadership skills, stay ahead of industry trends, or connect with peers who share your passion for otolaryngology practice management, this meeting is designed for you.

Kansas City, known for its vibrant culture, world-class barbecue, and jazz heritage, offers a fantastic backdrop for our gathering. We encourage you to take some time to explore and enjoy the city while making meaningful professional connections. Stay tuned for more details on our agenda, special events, and registration information. We can't wait to see you in Kansas City!

Best regards,

Amy Lounds
2025 Program Chair, ASCENT

Welcome Letters

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Dear ASCENT Members:

On behalf of the ASCENT Education Committee, it is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2025 ASCENT Annual Educational Conference in vibrant Kansas City! Now in its 42nd year, this event continues to be a cornerstone for ENT practice leaders and professionals nationwide, including Practice Managers, Administrators, CEOs, Physicians, Audiology Managers, middle managers, and coders.

This year's theme, “Kansas City Groove”, celebrates the rhythm and energy of this incredible city and the harmony of exceptional education and dynamic professional development. We’re here to groove together—learning, connecting, and leaving recharged with ideas and inspiration.

We’re thrilled to kick off the conference with our specialized ENT Coding and Revenue Cycle Management track, scheduled two days before the main event. This focused program offers deep dives into critical billing and coding strategies, making it a must-attend for your revenue cycle and billing teams.

Throughout the conference, you will engage in a dynamic blend of informative sessions, thought-provoking panel discussions, and hands-on workshops—each thoughtfully designed to provide actionable insights that can be implemented within your practice. Our distinguished speakers bring real-world experience and innovative insights designed to empower you with practical tools to elevate your practice.

Equally important are the opportunities to connect. Whether you're networking during scheduled events or sharing stories between sessions, you’ll find this conference to be a hub of collaboration, professional growth, and community spirit. We're also proud to spotlight and promote the essential role of volunteerism, highlighting how giving back fuels both personal and organizational success.

A special thank you goes out to our sponsors, partners, and dedicated volunteers. Your support makes this event possible and helps us collectively raise the standard of ENT practice management.

Warm regards,
Danielle DeMaio-DeAngelis, MHA, COPM
Chairperson — Education Committee
Chairperson - COPM Advisory Board
Administrator Support Community for ENT — ASCENT

ASCENT

www.askascent.com/ASCENT2025



Keynote

CULTIVATING TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP TO INSPIRE HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE

In today's rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, the demand for visionary leaders who can navigate complexity, inspire change, and drive meaningful outcomes has never been greater. Cultivating Transformative Leadership to Inspire Healthcare Excellence explores how leaders can move beyond traditional management approaches to embrace a dynamic, values-driven style that empowers teams, fosters innovation, and elevates patient care. This lecture delves into the essential traits, strategies, and mindsets of transformative leaders who are not only shaping the future of healthcare but also creating cultures of excellence, resilience, and compassion.



Keynote Speaker

MEREDITH HIRSCH



Meredith Hirsch is the CEO of The Hirsh Center, where she leads a team of rheumatologists, advanced practice providers and 50 dedicated professionals on a mission to provide exceptional patient experiences. With nearly 20 years working in healthcare, Meredith has built a distinguished career rooted in a lifelong connection to medicine, shaped by her upbringing as the daughter of a physician and a social worker.

In addition to her leadership role at The Hirsh Center, Meredith serves as an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University, where she mentors the next generation of healthcare professionals, helping them navigate the complexities of the healthcare industry. In 2023, she was honored with the Florida Medical Association's Distinguished Layman's Award for Helping Physicians Practice Medicine.

A respected consultant, Meredith collaborates with national decision-makers and healthcare organizations, offering her expertise to help shape policy and improve systems. She is also the creator and host of Working Healthcare, a podcast aimed to provide trustworthy and reliable insights into the ever-evolving healthcare landscape.

Passionate about leadership development, Meredith is committed to continually honing her skills while inspiring others to reach their highest potential. Through her work, she strives to empower leaders, foster growth, and drive positive change across the healthcare sector.

Partners

PARTNERING COMPANIES PROVIDING RESOURCES

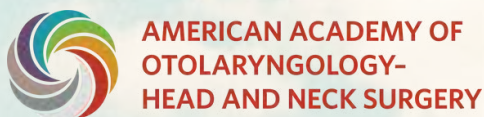
ASCENT EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

The ASCENT Executive Partner program is an exclusive partnership to elevate ASCENT members' accessibility and resources from our partnering companies. With the help of our Executive Partners, ASCENT can provide members with enhanced access to the partnering companies and unique education and resources, including this year's ASCENT 2025 Travel Grant Program.

Please stop by our Partners' booths in the ASCENT Marketplace Exhibit Hall to extend your thanks for providing resources for our association.



ASCENT ADVANTAGE PARTNERS



Sponsors & Exhibitors

IN THE MARKETPLACE

ASCENT MARKETPLACE

Take advantage of an outstanding ASCENT Marketplace full of business solution providers who can help you solve your toughest challenges and ultimately make your life more manageable. The ASCENT Marketplace is where you will get first-hand experience with the new products, technology, and innovative tools for managing today's ENT practice.

ASCENT SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS AS OF JUNE 6, 2025

AAO-HNS	Karl Storz	Red Spot Interactive
American Institute of Balance	KSM CPAs and Advisors	Rivet Health
ALK	Medfluence Advisors, LLC	Surgimate
Audigy	Medsender	The Form Team - a division of
Brevium	Modernizing Medicine	The Highland Group
CQ Partners	NextGen Healthcare	The Solutions Team, Inc.
First Healthcare	One Source Hearing	Thomas Jane Medical
Compliance/Panacea Healthcare	Optim LLC	Topple Diagnostics
Solutions	Phonak	Tungsten Medical Network
Fuel Medical Group	Physician Angels	US Ent Partners
Healthcare Compliance Pros, Inc.	Prosidio Inc.	
Intersocietal Accreditation	Rectangle Health	
Commission (IAC)		



EHR

PM

RCM

Immunotherapy

Modernize how you communicate with an AI-Powered practice

With ModMed® Patient Collaboration, there's a better way — patients can connect with your practice how and when it works best for them.

ModMed Patient Collaboration can help:

- Improve response times with AI-assisted message routing
- Reduce call volume with patient self-scheduling
- Decrease no-shows with automated reminders



Learn more at the ASCENT Annual Conference

Sept. 10–12 • Kansas City, MO



Registration Information

PRICING, DISCOUNTS, & MORE

CONFERENCE PRICING

Early Bird Pricing - Before June 1 | Regular Pricing - June 1

Member Full-Conference Registration.....\$900/\$1000

Member Full-Conference and Coder RCM Registration.....\$1050/\$1150

Staff of ASCENT Member Registration.....\$850/\$950

Non-member Full-Conference Registration.....\$900/\$1000

Guest/Spouse Registration.....\$400/\$400

2025 Boot Camp: AI for ENT Administrators.....\$0

2025 Boot Camp: Problem Solving the Most Common ENT Problems.....\$0

2025 Boot Camp: Create Your Own Leadership Program.....\$0

Thursday Evening Out Event Ticket - FREE (Must RSVP in Registration for Event)

Add-On Guest Ticket.....\$85

Coder RCM Registration – Mon., Tues. & Workshop Wed. Only\$550/\$600

Boot Camp: Compliance Plans 2024 - Wednesday (Coder RCM)\$0

Registering three or more attendees from your same practice? Register the first two at full price and receive \$100 off the third registration and each additional one after that. Use the promo code 3ORMORE on your third attendee registration (and each additional one after that) and provide ALL of the names of the attendees from your practice in the "Group Discount Requirement" field. Any coders participating in the Monday/Tuesday ONLY track are not eligible for the group discount.

Register Here

Coding & RCM Conference Schedule

MONDAY, SEPT. 8, 2025

- 7:00AM Registration
- 8:00AM Welcome and Introductions
- 8:30AM Best Practice in Validating the Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) | *Deborah Grider*
- 8:30AM From Confusion to Confidence: Mastering Essential Coding Resources for Accuracy and Compliance | *Michelle Netoskie*
- 9:30AM Audit-Claims | *Kim Steffenhagen*
- 9:30AM Basic Coding | *Kim Pollock*
- 10:30AM Break
- 11:00AM Denials | *Kim Steffenhagen*
- 11:00AM Allergy Basic | *Deborah Grider*
- 12:00PM Lunch
- 1:00PM Documentation | *Speaker TBD*
- 1:00PM Maximizing Revenue in ASCs: Contracting, Billing & Reimbursement | *Camille White*
- 2:00PM Is Your Revenue Cycle Healthy? | *Rita Genovese*
- 2:00PM Flaps and Grafts | *Kim Hopkins*
- 3:00PM Break
- 3:15PM The Ins and Outs of Coding Laryngology Procedures | *Kim Hopkins*
- 3:15PM Staying Ahead of the Curve: Navigating Compliance Challenges in Today's Hearing Aid Market | *Michelle Netoskie*
- 6:00PM Sponsored Dinner for Coding Attendees

Coding & RCM Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9, 2025

- 8:00AM Breakfast
- 8:30AM Regulatory Compliance in 2025 and Beyond - Lessons Learned Thus Far | *Sean Weiss*
- 8:30AM All Ears on ENT: One-stop Session on ENT Struggle Spots | *Shannon DeConda*
- 9:30AM Nose to Nose with Preoperative Necessity | *Shannon DeConda*
- 10:30AM Break
- 11:00AM Audiology Billing: So many myths, what to believe? | *Deborah Abel*
- 11:00AM Sniffing Out the Perfect E/M Level | *Shannon DeConda*
- 12:00PM Lunch
- 1:00PM Hot Topics | *Kim Pollock & Cheyenne Brinson*
- 1:00PM Art of Code Interpretation | *Michelle Netoskie*
- 3:00PM Coding Special Interest Group



Annual Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, SEPT. 9, 2025

- 8:00AM Breakfast
- 9:00AM Bootcamp: AI for ENT Administrators: Leverage AI to Save Time and Cut Costs | *Joe Goldstein*
- 9:00AM Bootcamp: Topic TBD | *Speaker TBD*
- 10:30AM Break
- 11:00AM COPM Study Group
- 12:00PM Full Conference Registration Opens
- 12:30PM Bootcamp: Problem Solving the Most Common ENT Problems | *Adele Allison*
- 1:00PM Speed Dating with Vendors
- 2:00PM Community Meetings - Academic, Small-Mid, & Large
- 4:00PM Welcome to Kansas City Cocktail Hour | *Sponsored by*
- 5:00PM Academy Update
- 5:30PM Keynote: Cultivating Transformative Leadership to Inspire Healthcare Excellence | *Meredith Hirsch*

Annual Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10, 2025

7:00AM Walk/Run

7:30AM

- Inside Scoop to Acquisitions: Due Diligence and Valuations | *Nick Hernandez*
- Coaching Employee Performance | *Rita Genovese*
- Ready for a Breach?: Interactive Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercises for ENT Practices | *Joe Goldstein*
- Advocacy Update | *Jacob Manthey*

8:00AM Breakfast

8:30AM Bootcamp: Create Your Own Leadership Program | *Meredith Hirsch*

9:00AM

- The Closest Thing to the “Silver Bullet” | *Rich D’Amico*
- Ears to Earnings: Closing the Hearing Loss Treatment Loop in ENT Clinics | *Amy Nedostop*
- Virtual Medical Office Design and Implementation | *Afser Shariff*
- Rewire Your Brain for Creativity: A Problem-Solver's Guide | *Karla Brandau*
- Three Things Great Leaders Should Know, Think They Know, But Don’t | *Jim Fedio*

10:00AM Break in the Marketplace

10:45AM

- Seeing around corners: drive your practice's future with data | *Nate Moore*
- Maximizing Profitability & Efficiency in your ENT Practice | *Keith Matheny*
- That Was Then This Is Now | *Rita Genovese*
- Replace Time Wasting Habits with Time-Wasting Strategies | *Karla Brandau*
- HIPAA Rules Regarding Right of Access and Proper Disclosure | *Magen Toombs & Jeremy Winn*

11:45AM Lunch

1:00PM

- 2024 ASCENT Survey: Leveraging Benchmark Data To Transform ENT Outcomes | *Mark Benninghoff*
- Growing Private Practices Through Physician Owned MSO | *Dave Hinkle*
- AI and Robotic Process Automation (RPA) for Medical Practices | *Nate Moore*
- Is AI the future of medical coding? | *Deborah Grider*
- See Others with 20/20 Vision - Bridge the Personality Gap by Understanding Opposite Personalities (PART 1) | *Karla Brandau*

Annual Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10, 2025

2:00PM Break in the Marketplace

2:45PM

- The Administrator & Billing Manager Partnership for RCM Success | *William Ranes*
- Current Trends, Market Updates, and Best Practices in ENT Provider Compensation | *Brad Reay*
- Navigating Cybersecurity and Compliance in Healthcare: Preparing for the Worst- future of medical coding | *Magen Toobs & Jeremy Winn*
- See Others with 20/20 Vision - Bridge the Personality Gap by Understanding Opposite Personalities (PART 2) | *Karla Brandau*

3:55PM

- Business Intelligence for your bottom line: data analysis for medical | *Nate Moore*
- When to Coach Up and When to Coach Out | *Jim Fedio*
- Rethinking Audiology Staffing: Expanding Access Through Team-Based Care | *Rose DuLude*
- Don't play whac-a-mole: A holistic approach to improving operational efficiency | *Ravi Kalidindi & Camille White*
- Practicing at highest level of the AuD | *Katie Plum*

5:30PM President's and Partner Reception

Annual Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 2025

7:00AM Walk/Run

7:30AM

- The Profitability Blueprint: Optimizing Revenue Cycles for ENT Success | *Susan Gregory*
- Negotiating the Case for Better Culture | *Steve Beck*
- Unified Solutions for the Future of ENT | *Mary Bunting*
- Growing the "Organic" ENT garden in times of drought | *Chris Andrew*
- Listening to Learn, And Act! | *Sarah Wimberly*

8:30AM Breakfast in the Marketplace

9:00AM

- Accidental to Intentional: Optimize Culture from the Inside Out | *Natalie Johnson*
- AI's Impact on Search & Patient Acquisition | *Kelly O'Keefe*
- Evaluating ENT Service Lines: Financial and Operational Strategies for Success | *Matthew Kolinski*
- Administrator Round Table on Common HR topics | *Sarah Laughlin*
- Where to Start Today to Implement an Effective Compliance Program at Your Practice | *Magen Toombs & Jeremy Winn*

10:00AM Break in the Marketplace

10:45AM

- Transforming ENT Practice Management: Proven Strategies for Success | *Michael Kupferman*
- Design Your Office to be Your best Practice Tool | *Larry Brooks*
- PRE-PEN® (Penicillin Allergy testing) with ENT's | *Camysha Wright*
- Generation We | *Lee Silber*
- Scope Reprocessing Best Practice- A Hands on Exercise | *Brian Woodhead*

11:45AM

- COPM/COPM-C: Why should I certify and what I need to do to prepare? | *Speaker TBD*
- Lightning Session - Marketing Placemat: A Balanced Marketing Approach | *Christina Graiff*
- Lightning Session - Emotional Intelligence in Healthcare: Strengthen Patient and Team Connections | *Danielle Frank*
- Lightning Session - Change Readiness & Management | *Sarah Wimberly*
- Lightning Session - USP797 in 2025 | *Pam Lowry*

12:30PM Lunch

Annual Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 2025

1:30PM

- Mastering Mental Focus: Training for Today's Healthcare Attention Economy | **Natalie Johnson**
- Maximizing Staff Engagement and Leadership Effectiveness in ENT Practices | **Matthew Kolinski**
- Fraud, Waste & Abuse: The Government's Initiatives | **Ron Chapman**
- Allergy ROI | **Jim Lowry**
- Executive Leadership Reporting: Measuring Historical Performance and Forecasting Future Performance | **Ryan Lehl**

2:40PM

- Building a Spectacular Workplace Environment | **Andrew Demuth**
- Better Your Patient Flow for Increased Patient Volume | **Larry Brooks**
- Navigating the Complex Legal World Affecting Otolaryngologists | **Matthew Catoe**
- Setting up & Managing an Allergy Department | **Jim Lowry & Pam Lowry**
- The Real Reason You're Stretched Thin: Diagnosing and Healing Systemic Dysfunction | **Zed Williamson**

3:40PM Break in the Marketplace

4:15PM

- Lightning Session - Hot Topics | **Speaker TBD**
- Lightning Session - Database Management: Optimizing Your Patient Journey | **Danielle Frank**
- Lightning Session - Should I Stay or Should I Go Now | **Michael Sharpe**
- Lightning Session - From Chaos to Control: Guide to IT Resilience | **Todd Gooden**

6:30PM Evening Out

Annual Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 2025

7:00AM Walk/Run

8:00AM Breakfast

9:00AM

- Profit vs. Patient Care: Conflicting Priorities? | *Walter Bass*
- Let an Improv Actor Fix Your Next Meeting | *Glenn Anderson*
- From Foundation to Peak: Building Your Practice's Presence in the Digital Era | *Greg Caesar*
- The Business Case for Better Culture | *Steve Beck*
- Academic Session

10:10AM

- Speeding Up Prior Authorization Without Sacrificing Accuracy | *Jennifer McNamara*
- Boss to Builder: How to Lead, Empower, and Scale with Purpose | *Morgan Littlefield*
- Academic Session

11:30AM Luncheon and Business Meeting

11:45AM Farewell Kansas City Closing Reception

Hotel Stay

KANSAS CITY MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN | KANSAS CITY, MO

KANSAS CITY MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

200 W 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

Prime Location

Situated in the heart of downtown Kansas City, the hotel is directly connected to the Kansas City Convention Center via an enclosed walkway. It's also within walking distance to the Power & Light District, T-Mobile Center, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, and other major attractions, providing guests with easy access to the city's vibrant entertainment and dining options.

Accommodations

The hotel features 983 guest rooms and suites across two towers—the historic Muehlebach Tower and the modern Marriott Tower. Rooms are equipped with 55-inch Smart TVs with Netflix, mini-fridges, premium bedding, and ergonomic workspaces. Pet-friendly rooms are available, accommodating up to two dogs per room.

Dining Options

Guests can enjoy a variety of on-site dining experiences:

- **MetropolitanKC:** *Serving American cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.*
- **BARCENTRAL:** *A lively spot featuring a massive 32-foot video wall, ideal for watching sports and enjoying drinks.*
- **VOO Lounge:** *Offers craft cocktails and live piano entertainment in a vibrant setting.*
- **CoffeeCentral:** *A full-service coffee house with freshly brewed coffee and pastries.*
- **Fresh Bites:** *Provides mobile order room service with delivery or pick-up options.*

Amenities

The hotel boasts a rooftop indoor pool and a 22nd-floor fitness center equipped with modern exercise machines. Additional amenities include free Wi-Fi, a business center, concierge services, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Event and Meeting Spaces

With nearly 100,000 square feet of flexible event space, the hotel is well-equipped to host conferences, weddings, and social events. Facilities include 43 venues, two ballrooms, and an exhibit hall, accommodating up to 2,200 guests.



Exploring Kansas City

While you're in town for ASCENT 2025, take time to explore Kansas City—a city where creativity, culture, and hospitality converge. From jazz and barbecue to iconic landmarks and vibrant neighborhoods, there's something for every interest just beyond the conference doors.

Arts & Culture

Kansas City's cultural scene is both historic and cutting-edge. Visit the world-class [Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art](#), featuring everything from ancient artifacts to contemporary installations—don't miss the giant shuttlecock sculptures on the lawn. The [Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts](#) offers striking architecture and live performances ranging from symphony to ballet. For music lovers, the [American Jazz Museum](#) and [Negro Leagues Baseball Museum](#), located in the historic 18th & Vine District, offer a rich look into the city's African American heritage and its foundational role in jazz.

Culinary Delights

No trip to Kansas City is complete without indulging in its legendary barbecue—slow-smoked and sauce-slathered at favorites like [Joe's Kansas City, Q39](#), and [Gates Bar-B-Q](#). Beyond BBQ, the city's food scene boasts creative farm-to-table restaurants, global cuisine, and craft cocktail bars. Don't miss [Corvino](#), [The Town Company](#), or [Parlor](#), a modern food hall with local chef-driven concepts.

Sports & Entertainment

Known for its passionate fans and major league teams, Kansas City is home to the Kansas City Chiefs (NFL), Kansas City Royals (MLB), and Sporting KC (MLS). If your visit doesn't coincide with a game, the [Power & Light District](#) is the next best thing—a lively entertainment hub packed with restaurants, music venues, and nightlife. Nearby, the [T-Mobile Center](#) hosts concerts, sporting events, and shows year-round.

Historic Landmarks

Step into history at [Union Station](#), a beautifully restored 1914 train station now housing science exhibits, a planetarium, and seasonal events. Across the street, the [National WWI Museum and Memorial](#) offers immersive exhibits and sweeping city views from the Liberty Memorial tower. Walk the [Crossroads Arts District](#) for a mix of industrial charm, galleries, and public art, especially vibrant on First Fridays.

Can't-Miss Highlights

Make time for a morning stroll through [City Market](#), where fresh produce, local goods, and food stalls fill one of the oldest markets in the Midwest. Take a photo at the colorful ["Kansas City I'm So in Love" mural](#) or enjoy panoramic skyline views from the [Liberty Memorial grounds](#). If you're up for a short ride, visit the [Country Club Plaza](#), a Spanish-inspired shopping and dining district along the scenic Brush Creek.

With its rich blend of history, innovation, and hospitality, Kansas City is more than just the backdrop for ASCENT 2025—it's an essential part of the experience. Be sure to step out and explore!



Getting to Kansas City

Traveling to ASCENT 2025 is easy and accessible, whether you're flying, driving, or taking the train. Kansas City, Missouri, sits at the heart of the U.S., making it a convenient destination from nearly anywhere in the country.

By Air

The newly renovated Kansas City International Airport (MCI) offers over 50 nonstop flights daily, connecting major hubs across the U.S. and select international destinations. Located just 20 miles from downtown, MCI is modern, efficient, and traveler-friendly. Ground transportation options from the airport include taxis, rideshares (Uber and Lyft), car rentals, and shuttle services.

Kansas City International Airport (MCI)

By Car

Centrally located at the intersection of several major interstates—including I-70, I-35, and I-29—Kansas City is within a day's drive for many attendees in the Midwest and beyond. Ample parking is available at the conference venue and surrounding hotels.

By Train

Amtrak's Union Station in downtown Kansas City is served by the Missouri River Runner and Southwest Chief routes, connecting the city with Chicago, St. Louis, and other key destinations. The station is just minutes from the conference center and hotel.

- [Amtrak – Kansas City Union Station](#)

Local Transportation

Once you've arrived, getting around is simple. The KC Streetcar provides free and frequent service throughout the downtown corridor, connecting key points including Union Station, the Power & Light District, and the River Market. Taxis, rideshare services, and city buses are also widely available.

- [KC Streetcar](#)

With easy access by air, road, and rail—and convenient transportation throughout the city—getting to Kansas City and ASCENT 2025 is seamless and stress-free.



Registration Checklist

CHECK IT OFF AS YOU GO!

Print this checklist and cross off items on your ASCENT 2024 to-do list as you complete them!

- ☐ Register to attend at www.askascent.com/ASCENT_2025
- ☐ Register by June 13 to secure the lowest registration rates.
- ☐ Aug. 15 Deadline: Secure your hotel room at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown
- ☐ Encourage your colleagues to attend - register two individuals from your practice at full price and receive \$100 off each additional registration with promo code 3ORMORE.
- ☐ Make plans to meet fellow otolaryngology professionals.
- ☐ Check your email and the website frequently for updates and new program information.
- ☐ Map out your plans to visit vendors in the ASCENT Marketplace Exhibit Hall. Visit www.askascent.com/ASCENT_2025 for a list of exhibiting companies.
- ☐ Review the schedule and plan which session to attend using the Whova App.
- ☐ Attend one of the Boot Camps or Sessions given pre-conference.

Use **#ASCENT2025** now and through the conference to connect on social media and share your experience!

Bring Your Own Bag

A SUSTAINABLE CHOICE FOR OUR UPCOMING MEETING

Print this checklist and cross off items on your ASCENT 2024 to-do list as you complete them!

This year, in an effort to promote sustainability and reduce waste, we will not be handing out new meeting bags to attendees. Instead, we encourage everyone to bring their favorite bag to the event. By doing so, you'll not only have a chance to showcase your unique style but also contribute to our collective effort to minimize our environmental footprint.

For those who may not have a suitable bag or forget to bring one, we will have a limited supply of bags from prior meetings available on a first-come, first-served basis. However, these will be in short supply, so it's best to plan ahead and bring your own. Bringing your own bag ensures that you have something familiar and comfortable to carry your materials in, and it helps us avoid the production and distribution of additional bags.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this initiative. By taking this small step together, we can make a significant impact on our planet. Let's set an example for others by embracing sustainable practices and making conscious choices. We look forward to seeing you and your favorite bag at the meeting!



ASCENT

See You In Kansas City!

Kansas City, MO | Sept. 8-12, 2025