ASHP MCM is a busy convention. There are opportunities to earn CE (or just to learn), present research (podium or poster presentations), and to find employment. There are 2 major ways to find something to do next year. One is PPS, which encompasses jobs, some fellowships, and some residencies (especially specialty residencies). The other is “the match,” which is the way to learn about and obtain a general practice residency. Other sources of fellowships and residencies is ACCP. When I attended, I focused only on PPS and the match; I really did not attend any CE during the day. Some evening I would attend an educational talk or roundtable meeting.

My advice is to register as soon as possible if you know for sure you are going to attend Midyear. Be sure to join ASHP as a student member. Your registration will be reduced but will still be over $100. I registered in September and still never received a schedule or information from ASHP before I left. You may be wondering what day you should arrive; I arrived on the Friday before but did not do anything with the program until Sunday. The convention typically runs Sunday- Thursday. On Saturday this past year there was a board review that I didn’t attend (I think it costs extra) and an overview of PPS which some people said was not helpful. Do what you feel comfortable with.

If you know you are definitely doing PPS, register by October. It costs about $50. You will probably be able to register on-line; allow one day for your request to be processed. There is a 50-word resume you post about yourself on the internet that potential employers read and will actually contact you based on what you write there. The deadline to be published is in October. If you miss this deadline, you will be in the supplemental listing. I would do it early because before Midyear I actually received e-mails from those interested in interviewing, and we set up interviews before we arrived. You can also read job descriptions on the internet before the convention begins to know what is there and what you would like to interview for. You can register on-site for PPS, and that is okay, too. I would suggest registering beforehand, however, because once you get there are only a few books that list the jobs, and it is busy. Once you arrive, you will have messages waiting for you in your box and you will start setting up interviews. Interviews actually start Sunday. When you go to the convention center bring copies of your resume and cv and wear your suit! The match ~ you do not have to register before Jan, but I would register early so that you receive the booklets in the mail and you can read about the different residencies before you arrive. It costs about $75. I registered in September and received the booklets beforehand. Some of my friends did not register until later and did not get the booklets before they left. It is important to know that not every residency is showcased every day. The showcase runs Monday - Wednesday. Each program will just be there one of those days. There were some problems because friends of mine had planned on going to the meeting Sunday-Wednesday; and missed talking to those who were there on Wednesday. At the showcase, only a few wanted a copy of your resume. Mainly, it is just a time to ask questions and hear about different aspects of their program. If that hospital has a specialty residency, that resident will usually be there to answer questions about the specialty program.

It is a lot of work but you are spending a lot of money to go (it cost me about $1000 for airfare, hotel, and registrations); discipline yourself during the day to get as much out of interviewing
and meeting people as possible. It is very much worth the money. Just to meet the actual people you will potentially be working with will help you decide if you want to apply to their program. It makes you look more interested and may make you a stronger candidate. Also, you may learn of opportunities you did not even know existed ~ I did!

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