



Why my employer should pay for me to attend the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis Annual Meeting (March 17-18 & 21-22, 2022)

The SBCA annual meeting provides a vibrant forum for people designing, producing, or using benefit-cost analysis to discuss its theory and practice. This is the only conference with a specific focus on benefit-cost analysis, but it incorporates a very broad definition of the field to include risk analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and estimation of program effects. The conference will delve into recent methodological innovations, useful data sets, and new findings.

The conference features several thought leaders in plenary sessions and over 100 presentations organized into approximately 60 sessions and roundtables. The conference attracts an international audience of over 700 people. More information about the Annual Meeting is available on the Society's [website](#).

The meeting's online format means that people can participate without traveling to a conference site. Furthermore, it has enabled a much greater international exchange of ideas that is found in traditional in-person conferences. Conference sessions have been structured to allow for online questions and sessions are left open following their formal agendas to permit interested participants to extend the discussion and make contacts for further follow-up.

Here are a few of the benefits from attending the meeting:

- **Stay current:**
 - **If you teach benefit-cost analysis**, the conference helps you stay current on emerging methods. It also provides examples of topical applications of benefit-cost analysis you can use with your students.
 - **If you produce benefit-cost analysis**, the conference will help you improve your work by providing the latest thinking on issues such as how to incorporate distributional effects into a benefit-cost analysis, how to select a value of statistical life appropriate for your study, cost and benefit estimates for policy actions relevant to your field, and how benefit-cost studies are being used in policy formation and assessment.
 - **If you use benefit-cost analyses**, the conference will give you a better sense of the relative benefits and costs of actions relevant to your field, a clear understanding of what makes for a good benefit-cost analysis, tools for assessing the underlying uncertainty in analyses, a sense for how key regulatory agencies and the courts are using benefit-cost analysis, and a sense of how a wide array of countries use benefit-cost analysis to shape policy.
- **Enhance your understanding of the current policy context:**
 - Learn how key regulatory agencies, particularly OIRA, are using benefit-cost analysis.
 - Discuss emerging requirements and standards for benefit-cost analysis.
 - Learn how the courts are interpreting benefit-cost analysis in regulation reviews.
 - Identify people with expertise in topics relevant to your work.
- **Get recognition for your work:**
 - Enhance the value of your work by letting others understand your methods and findings so that they can use it to improve their work.
 - Your work, name, and organization are listed in the conference program and will be available along with an abstract of your work (with your permission) in the post-conference website.
 - A participant list will be made available to facilitate future contact.
- **Help support the field:**
 - Your comments on other presenters' work will help them improve the content and presentation of their findings.
 - Your conference fees are important to sustaining the Society

All in all, time spent participating in the SBCA annual meeting can make you more effective in producing high-quality analyses and in using this tool to improve decisions making.