AARC’s online member community—AARConnect—is an exclusive member benefit that gives you the ability to network virtually with AARC members and share knowledge with respiratory professionals throughout the world. You can use the app or the desktop version interchangeably. Follow these tips and review the tutorial to begin your journey as a virtual networking guru.

Build Your Professional Profile
The first step to being successfully engaged in AARConnect is to completely fill out your profile information located in the upper right-hand corner of the AARConnect webpage. Make your personal profile shine for everyone to see!

Be sure to include:
• A professional picture of yourself.
• Accurate contact info. Please note that your contact information syncs from AARC’s main database within my.aarc.org. If you need to correct your contact information in AARConnect, it’s required to do so in my.aarc.org.
• A bio that briefly sums up your interests, current position and/or basic career goals.
• Education and job history.
• Your credentials and if applicable, any honors or awards. Please note that your credentials sync from AARC’s main database within my.aarc.org. If you need to correct your credentials in AARConnect, it’s required to do so in my.aarc.org.

Choose Your Communities
There are a lot of communities to choose from in AARConnect, so how many should you join and which ones? The best advice we can give is to join a few communities to get a feel for the way it works, and then add more when you are ready.

Other key factors to consider when joining a community:
• Can you see yourself sharing information and appreciating information in this community?
• Is the community interesting to you? Is this an area that you want to learn more about?
**Tips on Becoming an AARConnect Virtual Networking Guru**

**Start Participating**
Once you’ve logged in and created your profile it’s best to jump in immediately and start participating. That’s where the fun begins and how you’ll make lasting friends.

Here’s a sample of how to get started:
- First, read and agree to the Code of Conduct.
- Practice posting in our Member First Time Postings community.
- Once you feel ready to make your first post to a community, select the Participate tab at the top of the AARConnect landing page to join and make discussion posts.
- Post your introduction to the community. If you have advice to offer or need some advice, come right out and share it with the community. The key is to keep your introduction simple and friendly and to let the members of the community know who you are.
- Try to add value and avoid being generic.
- Read posts regularly to stay on top of interesting topics.

**Continuing Your Regular Engagement**
It’s vital to stay engaged, so read and post topics for discussion or ask questions that are thought-provoking. Share your thoughts and engage your fellow community members. Make sure to check back on your discussions often so you can participate and stay active in the discussion.

**Add Friends and Contacts**
As a new AARConnect member, now is the best time to start building your network of friends by sending direct contact invitations to individual members. Usually, it’s proper etiquette to know someone before inviting them as a contact. If you already have friends or contacts that you know use AARConnect, go ahead and invite them to be a contact. And if you are just starting to get engaged with your communities, don’t miss your chance to send invitations to those you’ve had interactions with in a discussion group.

Sending invitations:
- Simply click on the Directory tab on the AARConnect webpage, find the member, and select ‘Add as Contact’ to send an invitation.
- Make sure to include a friendly message when you send your invitation.
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Customize Your Account Settings
AARConnect allows you to set your preferences so you can receive discussion notifications as you wish. It’s best to choose settings that will help serve as reminders for engagement and to keep you informed of new topics of discussion.

To create your settings:
• Go to your profile.
• Select ‘My Account’.
• Customize your privacy, email, notification settings and more.

Explore Additional Features
Once you’ve accomplished the basics, continue to explore other features in the platform that will enable you to partner up with your connections. You’ll find a library for shareable resources, a Help Line for assistance and event announcements just to name a few.

We wish you success in building your new virtual community!