

ERS congress guidelines: Organising meetings and events outside of the official congress programme

Who do these guidelines apply to?

These guidelines are applicable to all participants of the ERS Congress, including industry sponsors, sister/partner societies, patient organisations and representatives, and general delegates.

About these guidelines

The following guidelines are in place to prevent any events, meetings or promotional activities detracting from the ERS congress programme during the period of the meeting. ERS asks all interested parties to respect these limitations. The success of the ERS Congress is in the best interest of all our participants.

- **Meetings, events and activities**

ERS does not approve of any open-invite meetings (either on the topic of respiratory medicine or aimed at ERS congress participants) taking place throughout the entire duration of the Congress, as well as three days prior to and three days after the official opening and closing dates of the ERS Congress.

ERS does not permit or support any sponsored meetings taking place (whether 'open invite' or 'closed invite') throughout the entire duration of the Congress, as well as three days prior to and three days after the official opening and closing dates of the ERS Congress. We ask ERS's industry partners to respect these guidelines if approached by entities for financial support.

ERS understands the opportunity that congress participants represent, but the proliferation of the above-described meetings is not in the best interest of the ERS Congress. We hope that all participants of the ERS Congress will be able to dedicate their time to the congress programme and all the related initiatives and activities planned by ERS.

- **Scientific symposia**

ERS does not permit or support the organisation of scientific symposia outside of the ERS Congress, at any venue within the host city throughout the entire duration of the Congress, as well as three days prior to and three days after the official opening and closing dates of the ERS Congress. This rule also applies to 'Meet the Professor' style events, all events involving speakers presenting data or case studies, practical workshops and all educational events.

All industry sessions will be held within the congress venue on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

- **Closed meetings and social events**

Invitation only/closed meetings and social events of up to 40 participants are permitted provided they do not clash with the congress programme – they should not take place between 08:00–19:30 (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday) or 17:00–20:30 (Saturday). Closed meetings of up to 40 should not deliver content which may compete with the congress programme in any way. Permission is required for any meeting inviting more than 40 participants. (Industry queries: corporate.relations@ersnet.org. All non-industry queries: soraya.barazin@ersnet.org).

- **External press conferences/activities**

Press events organised outside of the congress centre can take place at any time, provided they are closed meetings for staff and media only. Press activities/conferences must present research which is a part of the congress programme. New research not included in the programme should not be included.

- **Meetings for industry-funded delegates**

Companies are entitled to host meetings for more than 40 participants for delegates they have funded to attend the Congress. However, these meetings cannot take place during the Congress programme and must not compete with or dilute the value of the content of the ERS congress programme.

Programmes for such meetings must be approved by the ERS Office, please forward them to corporate.relations@ersnet.org.