



ACR Convergence 2025 Affiliate Events

Meetings and events organized by exhibitors, universities, non-profit organizations, and government entities may be held in conjunction with the ACR Convergence. Any meeting or event that involves ACR scientific meeting attendees hosted by a company or organization, regardless of exhibiting status, is considered an affiliate event.

POLICIES

- All events must be approved by the ACR
- Events cannot offer CME (except for approved [industry supported symposia](#), handled via a separate application process). Affiliate applications for educational events will not be approved.
- Signs, banners or hospitality desks in lobbies or public areas of the hotels or convention center are NOT allowed.
- One sign may be placed directly outside the meeting room.
- Events must be held during the approved affiliate event schedule
- Onsite registration for affiliate events may not begin before the approved times.
- Organizers must show approval letter from ACR to secure meeting space.
- If an organization is planning to host a virtual event, affiliate event organizer will be responsible for securing their own virtual meeting platform. Affiliate events will not be hosted on the official meeting platform and may not offer CME.
- All marketing materials, agendas and handouts must be in compliance with the [Promotional Materials Guidelines](#).
- No reference to the ACR, the ARP, or the Rheumatology Research Foundation (The Foundation) may be included.

ELIGIBILITY

To hold an affiliate event, you must be one of the following:

- a 2025 exhibitor
 - *If the ACR receives notice that an exhibiting company cancels exhibit space, all affiliate event approvals, as well as housing reservations, badges, etc., will be cancelled.*
- a non-profit organization
- a university, college or school of medicine
- a division of the government

TYPES OF EVENTS

Attendee Meetings: Any event at which an ACR attendee will be invited.

- **Advisory Boards:** Sponsored and financially supported by a pharmaceutical/biotech organization, academic center, nonprofit organization or consortium that focuses on a genuine need, benefits patient welfare, documents outcomes and advances the field of rheumatology.
 - All participants must have a signed contract with the sponsor.
 - Advisory board meetings may not be held for more than four hours during the approved times.
 - Attendees may not be compensated for travel or lodging to the annual meeting.
 - Compensation for lodging expenses outside the annual meeting dates is acceptable.
- **Analyst/Financial Meetings:** These events cannot occur during official hours of the annual meeting.
- **Committee Meetings:** May not exceed eight hours in length during the approved time. There are different time slots for industry vs. non-industry committee meetings.
- **Fellows/Trainees/Medical Students Events:** Any event or activity outside those offered by the ACR is prohibited Friday, October 24 – Wednesday, October 29.
- **Focus Groups:** Meetings that target a specific group of attendees to obtain specific data.
- **Hospitality Suites:** Small social gatherings sponsored and financially supported by an external entity. These events must be held in hotel hospitality suites. Educational activities of any kind are not permitted.
 - To obtain a hospitality suite, contact ACR Housing & Registration:
Maritz Housing Services
E-Mail:
Telephone: **864-208-2481**
- Monday -Friday from 9 am to 5 pm Eastern. Email Inquiries: ACRGroups@Maritz.com
- **Industry Supported Symposia**
 - **Companies interested in offering a symposium should refer to the Industry-Supported Symposia Guidelines.**
 - **There is a separate application process for this type of event.**
 - This includes all CME and non-CME symposia.
- **Investigator Meetings:** Restricted to fewer than 150 individuals and sponsored and/or financially supported by a pharmaceutical/biotech organization, academic center, nonprofit organization or consortium.
 - Must focus on institutional review board or regulatory agency-approved protocol and serve to review conduct or results of a specific study. Such studies must benefit patient welfare, document outcomes and advance the practice of rheumatology.
 - Promotional meetings for data presentation or to launch a drug or study are prohibited.
 - May not be held for more than four hours.
 - Investigators and other study personnel attending may not receive honoraria or be compensated for travel or lodging to the annual meeting.
 - Compensation for lodging expenses outside the annual meeting dates is acceptable.
- **Social Events (pharmaceutical/biotech organizations):** A reception, dinner, etc., where there is no CME educational programming, and which is sponsored and financially supported by an exhibiting organization. Speakers may be engaged provided they are primarily employed by (primarily employed is defined as 50 percent or more of an individual's working time) the supporting organization. *The ACR does not regulate, endorse or support social events. The ACR strongly discourages large social events.*
- **Social Events (university, government or nonprofit):** Events organized, sponsored and financially supported by a university or nonprofit organization.

Non-Attendee Meetings

- Any event at which only full-time employees of organizations will be present. They cannot include ACR attendees unless the individual is an employee of the company or sits on the board. They may not offer CME.

Approved Times: Unrestricted

APPROVED TIMES FOR ATTENDEE MEETINGS (ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME)

Events which only include full-time employees of the organization and do not include ACR scientific attendees are unrestricted.

Approved times for any event in which ACR attendees will be present is as follows:

Industry Affiliate Events

Thursday, October 23:	unrestricted
Friday, October 24:	unrestricted
Saturday, October 25:	before 7:30 AM and after 6:00 PM
Sunday, October 26:	before 8:00 AM and after 8:00 PM
Monday, October 27:	before 7:30 AM and after 8:00 PM
Tuesday, October 28:	before 7:30 AM and after 8:00 PM
Wednesday, October 29:	before 7:30 AM and after 3:30 PM

University, Government and Non-profit Organizations

Thursday, October 23:	unrestricted
Friday, October 24:	unrestricted
Saturday, October 25:	before 7:30 AM and after 5:30 PM
Sunday, October 26:	before 7:30 AM and after 5:30 PM
Monday, October 27:	before 7:30 AM and after 5:30 PM
Tuesday, October 28:	before 7:30 AM and after 5:30 PM
Wednesday, October 29:	before 7:30 AM and after 12:30 PM

**University, government and non-profit organizations may hold committee meetings between 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.*

All third-party agencies acting on behalf of an exhibiting company are expected to adhere to ACR exhibitor rules and regulations. The exhibiting company will be held responsible for the activities of any third-party agency appointed on its behalf. Any violations by the supporting company or their third party will be dealt with as follows:

- The first penalty assessed by the ACR will result in the company not being allocated the priority points for participation in the current year.
- The second penalty assessed by the ACR will result in the company losing one-half of its accrued priority points.

- The third penalty assessed by the ACR will result in the company not being eligible to host industry-sponsored events and/or services at the next annual meeting.

The fourth penalty will result in the company *not being eligible to exhibit* at future ACR meetings.