Code of Practice between EULAR and the healthcare industry and / or commercial companies

International congresses and symposia are both important and highly visible scientific meetings. They have developed from relatively small meetings into, in some cases, large international events with thousands of participants, both onsite and virtually (via on-demand access, after the live congress days). These meetings are important events for the presentation and exchange of up-to-date scientific data and continuing medical education, and they bring together specialists from many countries for the exchange of information and experience. They also create the opportunity for the companies involved in the healthcare industry to interact face-to-face with health care professionals.

Without the participation of the healthcare industry and / or commercial companies such congresses and symposia would often be scientifically less successful and it would difficult to manage financially. Therefore, the cooperation of companies active in the field is welcomed by the management and organisers of scientific meetings.

Healthcare is mostly provided by public agencies and thus increasingly subject to criticism and remarks. It is essential that the mutual relationships between scientific and medical practitioners and commerce at these events is appropriately balanced and needs to be professionally managed by all parties and fully transparent to the public. This responsibility lies with all involved parties.

For these reasons, the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) has developed the Code of Practice which governs the relationship between EULAR as organiser of the congress and the involved industry representatives in the preparation of, during and after the European Congress of Rheumatology (EULAR Congress).

It is important that the healthcare industry and / or commercial companies participating in international congresses, and any other scientific meetings, under the jurisdiction of EULAR understand that the objective of such manifestations is to advance and enhance science in the field of musculoskeletal diseases. Consequently, commercial activities must be strictly separated from the scientific programme.

For 2024, EULAR decided to hold the EULAR Congress onsite in Vienna. Complying with international, national and local health and safety regulations, EULAR 2024 will allow people from across the world to physically access the latest science and scientific data whilst having the opportunity to interact with peers. Selected congress content will be recorded and made available via our on-demand platform, for educational consumption.

In the case that health and safety or travel regulations change, EULAR will try (if still possible) to adapt the implementation of the onsite congress into a fully virtual congress to ensure continuity of our scientific and educational goals in the field of rheumatology.
1. ORGANISATION
The overall responsibility for the EULAR Congress lies with EULAR. Part of the logistical and infrastructural organisational work may be delegated to a third-party company.

2. PARTICIPATING COMPANIES
Companies involved in the healthcare industry and/or other commercial companies can invest in the congress. To facilitate this, EULAR publishes a set of services including prices on the website www.congress.eular.org under the tab “Industry” – “Exhibitor Resources” [https://congress.eular.org/investment_resources.cfm], transparently available to any interested party.

By selecting and ordering such service(s), the interested party becomes a contracted company for the event in question.

It is the contracted company’s responsibility to inform all subsidiaries, affiliates, third party companies etc. involved on its behalf, of the rules and regulations of the Code of Practice. It is also the contracted company’s responsibility that its subcontractors adhere to all rules and regulations.

EULAR will communicate only with approved contact persons, officially mandated by the contracted company.

Each contracted company is responsible for the material and information they make available at the EULAR Congress.

3. ALLOCATION OF EXHIBITION SPACE, SATELLITE SYMPOSIA and other INVESTMENT ITEMS
Exhibition space, Satellite Symposia and other investment items will be offered to corporate members according to their ranking, and subsequently to other, non-member, healthcare industry and/or commercial companies on a first come, first served basis. Further details are outlined in the attribution process document for corporate members. Corporate membership information is available on the EULAR Congress Website under Industry – Investment Opportunities – Corporate Members Ranking.

4. CONGRESS
a. Exhibition
It is widely recognised that the exhibition stand is a major forum for the pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies to create the opportunities where they may talk to health care professionals about their company and products. Exhibition stands should therefore create the opportunity for the company to show and display information relevant to both the company and its products as well as other scientific information deemed appropriate. Activities not related to the practice of medicine and/or the field of musculoskeletal diseases are forbidden.
b. **On-demand platform**

Delegates may access the on-demand platform to watch recordings of the EULAR 2024 Vienna Congress, which have been made available for educational purposes. Access to the on-demand recordings of all Satellite Symposia is only granted to eligible delegates.

c. **EULAR Networking**

The EULAR Networking function on the EULAR Congress App aims to match people with similar areas of interest and knowledge to help foster exchange and communication. The function’s aim is to create and share contacts, accept contact requests and connect with accepted contacts via chat or video-communication functions. This function is only available on the EULAR Congress App.

d. **Speaker Licence Agreement (webcasting policy)**

The speakers and chairpersons appearing in any of the Satellite Symposia need to sign a speaker licence agreement (webcasting policy) that grants EULAR the worldwide and perpetual right to use, share, copy, store, archive and redistribute the content in any medium or format. The licence is exclusive until the first Monday following the end of the EULAR Congress at which the Satellite Symposium is scheduled.

e. **Poster viewing/guided poster tours**

The published time slots for poster viewing / poster tours are officially part of the Scientific Programme. They are published in the final programme and on the EULAR Website. Poster tours may only be organised by EULAR to the exclusion of any other party. Company-organised events, meetings, and activities involving delegates are not allowed during these times, with the exception of Consult-The-Expert sessions & Corporate Scientific Walkway sessions.

f. **Satellite Symposia / Consult-The-Expert sessions - general**

Satellite Symposia are to be held onsite in Vienna with an onsite audience, must take place at the congress centre during the official time slots offered by the organisers (see EULAR website).

Consult-the-Expert sessions are to be held onsite in Vienna with a maximum of 25 participants attending. Attendance is subjected to a first come first serve basis, and the EULAR Congress App can guide the eligible delegates to enter the commercial exhibition area where the sessions take place.

Companies holding a Satellite Symposium or Consult-The-Expert outside the congress centre and/ or outside the official slots will be fined with the amount equivalent to the highest priced Satellite Symposium slot, and they will not be invited to participate at the two following congresses. EULAR also reserves the right to close the booth of the contracted company if the company is exhibiting at the congress.

Satellite Symposia held by the contracted companies will have, as their main objective, the communication of scientific material, which will enhance the knowledge of attending healthcare professionals. Material inducement or publication of a reward to attend the Satellite Symposium and/
or Consult-The-Expert session is not allowed. Contracted companies may send special invitations to delegates but they may not offer a reward to participants for attending a Satellite Symposium and/or Consult-The-Expert session. It is not permitted to prevent delegates who are eligible to access content from attending a Satellite Symposium and/or Consult-The-Expert session unless prohibited under applicable legislation.

At least 60% of the programme of a Satellite Symposium or Consult-The-Expert session must be of general scientific content, and not more than 40% may be related to any specific drug or form of treatment or similar. The Satellite Symposium and Consult-The-Expert programme must be submitted to the EULAR Office 16 weeks prior to the EULAR Congress (23 February 2024) and must be approved by EULAR (no response within 21 days implies assent). Voting members of the EULAR Council (EULAR Board and Committee Chairs), Congress Scientific Chair and Congress Abstract Chair are not allowed to accept any invitation as a speaker or to chair any Satellite Symposia. All non-voting members of the EULAR Council should not accept more than one invitation.

Each contracted company is responsible for the compliance of the material and information it makes available at the EULAR Congress. EULAR will inform in due course about the precise categories of persons that have access to Satellite Symposia, Consult-The-Expert sessions and exhibition on the EULAR Website (https://congress.eular.org/registration.cfm). Patients and patient representatives are not allowed to have access to any event or session organised by a contracted commercial company. Patients’ statements recorded prior to the EULAR Congress may only be shown and used in line with the legislations of the patient’s home country and any applicable legislation. Contracted companies and their mandated organisations are only allowed to present material and information which have been approved by their legal departments and which are in compliance with any applicable legislation. Upon EULAR’s request, the contracted company must present the approval of its legal department. The contracted company shall indemnify EULAR from and against any loss, liabilities, damages, and claims arising out of the non-compliance with this clause.

The chairperson has the responsibility to oversee that the messages and conclusions presented are based on available scientific data. The contracted company must inform the chairperson(s) of this responsibility. In addition, the contracted company and the chairperson are jointly responsible for adhering to the assigned time slot.

g. Corporate Scientific Walkway

Corporate Scientific Walkways can only be used during the scheduled coffee breaks for presentation of abstracts only. Outside these breaks, the walkway will stay open, but no activity will be possible in there. It is strictly prohibited to share information on an abstract that is scheduled for presentation at an upcoming EULAR scientific session that has not yet been conducted. Activities in any Corporate Scientific Walkway must be related to the practice of medicine and/or the field of musculoskeletal diseases. The usage of audio equipment is not allowed in the walkway.
h. **Give-aways and printed material**
   It is the contracted company’s responsibility to adhere to any restrictions and/or limitations which may be applicable according to any applicable legislation.

i. **Space integrity and promotional activities**
   Contracted companies are prohibited from publicising, distributing, canvassing, and/or maintaining any activities, inducements, demonstrations, materials, or displays outside the agreed format approved by EULAR.

j. **Limitation of liability – Early termination**
   In no event does EULAR endorse any product or service of any contracted company or any healthcare industry and / or commercial company.

   EULAR reserves the right to refuse applications from any healthcare industry and / or commercial company who do not meet or, in previous occasion did not met the standard requirements or expectations. EULAR reserves the right to curtail or to close exhibits (wholly or partially) that reflect unfavourably on the character and the purpose of the EULAR Congress, or due to violation of the Code of Practice or any material violation by the contracted company.

   EULAR cannot be held liable for any amendments made by EACCME to their regulations, even if it influences EULAR’s investment opportunities. Hence, EULAR will not provide any refund in the event that EULAR has to change or cancel an investment opportunity.

5. **RECORDING and BROADCASTING**
   a. **Recording**
      Recording of any session at the EULAR Congress may only take place with prior authorisation from the EULAR Press Office (whether press, scientific or industry).

      Contracted companies must seek permission from the EULAR Office to conduct any recording or photographing (including screen shots) of the content displayed during EULAR Congress. Unauthorised recording or photography (including screen shots), is prohibited. The EULAR Logo and/or EULAR Congress branding may not be used.

      To request authorisation, please email: press@eular.org.

   b. **Broadcasting**
      Presentation of a Satellite Symposium or a session to a public or closed audience outside the Congress Platform during the official time slots offered by EULAR is prohibited in any way until the first Monday following the end of the EULAR Congress at which the Satellite Symposium is scheduled (please see the website for the date and time of the end of the EULAR Congress). Consult-The-Expert
sessions cannot be live streamed.

In the event of infringement, EULAR can set a fine to the amount of the highest-priced Satellite Symposium slot or the highest-priced investment package. Additionally, EULAR may decide to restrict the contracted company’s participation in two subsequent congresses and may choose to close the company profile.

c. Filming

Filming may only take place in the designated filming areas with prior authorisation from the EULAR Press Office (whether press, scientific or industry). Authorised Filming Permit badges will need to be worn in a visible place at all times during the congress when filming or carrying filming equipment by all relevant personnel. A valid filming permit must be shown when asked for by a member of EULAR staff. Those who do not have these badges will be directed to the EULAR Press Office to obtain a badge.

Filming of an Satellite Symposium may only be organised by the contracted company of that particular Satellite Symposium who have sought prior approval from the EULAR Press Office. Industry are required to seek permission from the EULAR Press Office to film within the congress centre, that does not include of the filming of the Satellite Symposia. Industry partners are permitted to film within their own hospitality suite proving that they have sought prior authorisation from the EULAR Press Office, they have received an Authorised Filming Permit badge, and that the EULAR logo and/or EULAR congress branding is not visible. The filming inside the hospitality suite must not be visible to other delegates.

Exhibitors are permitted to film their own exhibitor stands for documentary purposes (including time-lapse photography), but they may not record other exhibitor’ stands. This filming may only take place outside of exhibition opening hours and permission must be granted by EULAR and an Authorised Filming Permit badge sought.

All delegates are prohibited to photograph or record within the congress centre, during the congress, including in scientific sessions, public spaces, poster sessions, and in the exhibition halls. Filming outside of the congress centre (outside of the boundaries of the congress venue, or in neighbouring venues) does not require permission. In this case, the EULAR Logo and/or EULAR Congress branding may not be used as a back-drop or in final production.

All unauthorised recording of material will result in the intervention of EULAR mandated security personnel, the confiscation of the recorded material and potential invalidation of the access credentials. To request permission to film in a designated filming area, please email: press@eular.org.
6. **ONSITE CONGRESS - EXHIBITION**

   a. **Use of rented space & height limitation**
      
      The Exhibition Technical Manual provided for contracted companies as well as local regulations and/or safety and security regulations are the binding guidelines for the use and branding of rented space. The height limitation as communicated in the Exhibition Technical Manual must be respected both for onsite and visual devices (e.g. lasers, gobos, etc.). No part of the stand may exceed the rented surface of the stand. Rigging (hanging items from the ceiling) is not permitted.

   b. **Noise**
      
      Exhibitors may not produce noise and/or use amplification of music and/or voice which may be heard outside the space assigned to the exhibitors, or which may interfere with or be felt objectionable to attendees or other exhibitors. The volume level must not exceed 70dB (A) at the boundaries of the stand. EULAR reserves the right to request exhibitors to discontinue any such activity. Live presentations at the stand are not permitted without prior approval from the organisers.

   c. **Stand activities**
      
      Press briefings at the stand are not allowed during the official scientific programme (scientific and educational sessions, poster tours and posters viewing, Satellite Symposia). A round table for a maximum of 8 participants during coffee breaks (no further audience) is accepted. A request to hold such sessions must be submitted to EULAR for approval. Stand activities such as quizzes, contests, etc. can take place throughout the exhibition opening hours with a limitation of 8 simultaneous participants.

   d. **Alcoholic beverages**
      
      Serving of alcohol at the congress is not permitted at any time, except during the EULAR Networking Platform and by EULAR only.

   e. **Space integrity / promotional activities**
      
      Exhibitors are prohibited from publicising, distributing, and canvassing, and/or maintaining any activities, inducements, demonstrations, materials, or displays outside the space assigned to them.

   f. **Exhibitor’s participating in sessions**
      
      Participants registered as exhibitors will not be permitted to attend scientific sessions at the EULAR Congress. Exhibitors interested in attending any scientific session must register as regular congress participants. Exhibitors will receive complimentary exhibitor registrations. The number of complimentary registrations depends on the size of the exhibit. EULAR reserves the right to refuse applications of companies not meeting or not having met in previous occasions the standard requirements or expectations. EULAR reserves the right to curtail or to close exhibits (wholly or partially) that reflect unfavourably on the character and the purpose of the congress, or because of serious violation of the “EULAR Code of Practice” by the contracted company.
g. **Product Disclaimer**

As all material presented within the remit of the EULAR Congress is of public interest and no longer confidential, EULAR expects such publications to be accessible without prior registration to a site, even if the registration is free.

h. **Non-European companies exhibiting at the EULAR Congress**

Non-EU companies will need a EU Marketing Authorisation from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to exhibit at the EULAR Congress. If the non-EU company fails to receive EU Marketing Authorisation from the EMA, they will not be able to exhibit.

7. **ONSITE CONGRESS - NETWORKING**

The social networking programme is an important part of the EULAR Congress. It creates the opportunity for participants from different countries to get together outside the busy scientific programme of the congress. However, all contracted companies are reminded that such events must not be arranged during the congress programme hours. Transportation to networking events must not depart during the congress programme hours. Networking events organised according to the “EULAR Code of Practice” may contain a “Welcome Introduction” not exceeding 15 minutes in total with a maximum of two speakers. This introduction may be referred to in the invitation to the networking event as “Introduction to... (subject)” and may not contain more than 40 percent product placement.

8. **ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION DURING THE CONGRESS**

a. **Online promotion**

Each contracted company is entitled to use the official EULAR Congress logo as well as the official hashtags #EULAR2024 #EULAR2024congress on invitations and promotional documents related to the approved Satellite Symposia, Consult-The-Expert sessions and booth presence. The contracted companies and the healthcare industry and / or commercial companies are not allowed to use the EULAR corporate logo under any circumstances.

Satellite Symposia programmes and invitations may be distributed. Each contracted company will ensure that all company publications referring to Satellite Symposia mention: “EULAR European Congress of Rheumatology 2024 Industry Symposia” to avoid any confusion with the official EULAR Scientific Programme.

b. **Social Media**

The intention at EULAR 2024 is to facilitate the sharing of content within the scientific, health professional and patient communities while still respecting the copyrights and intellectual property of the presenters. In order to achieve these important objectives, EULAR has developed guidelines below.

EULAR will allow delegates to take photographs (still images) within the scientific, health professional
and patient sessions and share on social media for the purpose of disseminating educational content to the academic community. However, as an exception to the rule stated above,

- Presenters have the right to request no photographs during their session; presenters will place an icon on slides/posters where photographs for social media sharing is NOT permitted.
- Presenters have the right to request no photographs of their posters presented at the congress; they will include an icon on their poster to demonstrate their request. Please respect the wishes of the presenters.
- The recording of presentations and sessions is not allowed in any way (neither image, nor sound).
- Live streaming of presentations and sessions is not allowed in any way (neither image, nor sound).

The integration or placement of the EULAR Congress logo, EULAR logo and all other EULAR branding visuals without permission is strictly prohibited. Penalties will be applied when violation occurs.

9. COMPANY MEETINGS, PRESS, MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS
Press conferences, briefings of any kind or similar group events organised directly or indirectly by the contracted company may not be organised during the official congress hours. All such events with groups larger than 8 participants need the prior approval by EULAR.

Not affected by this regulation are meetings with investors (Investor Relation Meetings) and company internal meetings with entirely sales and/or marketing personnel. They may be held at any time during the EULAR Congress.

Press releases of healthcare industry and/or commercial companies are bound to the EULAR Abstract Embargo policy.

The use of the EULAR name and EULAR Congress in any fashion for any purpose is expressly prohibited before, during and after a congress without prior written consent of EULAR. The official congress logo may be used on invitations for officially approved Satellite Symposia upon request to the EULAR Office. Unauthorised recording of the Scientific Programme or any part of the Scientific Programme is not allowed. Press and media interviews can be arranged on request through the officially appointed EULAR press and media agency. Please also refer to the EULAR Press and Media Rules and Regulations document in this context.

10. INTERNET PUBLICATION OF MATERIAL
The guidelines for press, media and publications are applicable for the publication of material and information on the internet.
11. LEGAL ISSUES
Each contracted company is responsible for the material and information it makes available at the EULAR Congress. Contracted companies and their mandated organisations may only present material and information which has been approved by their legal departments and which is in compliance with any applicable legislation.

Contracted companies must directly address any legal issues and/or any conflicts arising between contracted companies. EULAR does not intervene or arbitrate any legal issues or conflict amongst its contracted companies.

12. EULAR CODE OF PRACTICE ENFORCEMENT
All contracted companies must comply with the Code of Practice and general congress guidelines. Penalties will be applied when violations occur.

The procedure for controlling and enforcing the guidelines and regulations is as follows:
• Alleged violations will be reported to the EULAR Office.
• Once the alleged violation has been duly considered by the EULAR Office, a representative of the relevant healthcare industry and / or commercial company will be invited to present their view. The decision on appropriate measures will be taken by the EULAR Presidency. Their decision is final and binding.

13. OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS
Further to this Code of Practice, the following webpages and documents are applicable:
• EULAR Abstract Embargo Policy
• EULAR Congress Speaker Licence Agreement
• EULAR Exhibition Technical Manual
• EULAR Press and Media Rules and Regulations document
• EULAR Data Protection Policy
• EULAR Investment Opportunities Manual

They are available from EULAR and can be downloaded from the EULAR Congress website under “Industry” – “Exhibitor Resources”

14. OFFICIAL CONGRESS COMMUNICATION
Note that all official emails related to EULAR 2024 need to be sent to an e-mail address ending in @eular.org. Please find the main contact email addresses below:

• Registration congress.reg@eular.org
• General Communication / Account activation congress@eular.org
• Abstracts congress.abs@eular.org
• Programme congress.prog@eular.org
• Corporate Relationship corporates@eular.org
• EULAR Congress system - Technical Support techsupport@eular.org
• EULAR Press Office press@eular.org

Congress Time Schedule
You can find all the relevant information on the EULAR Congress website https://congress.eular.org/time_schedule.cfm.

- Wednesday, 12 June 2024 13:00 – 19:45 CEST
- Thursday, 13 June 2024 08:15 – 18:45 CEST
- Friday, 14 June 2024 08:15 – 18:45 CEST
- Saturday, 15 June 2024 09:00 – 15:00 CEST

Included are:
- the official opening plenary session
- all scientific sessions and workshops
- all abstract sessions
- the poster tours and posters viewing times
- the opening and closing times of the exhibition
- the Satellite Symposia & Consult-The-Expert time slots
- the coffee breaks
- the official networking platform

The On-Demand Platform and content will be available until 31 December 2024 23:59 CET.

Kilchberg / Zürich, August 2023

EULAR Office
Seestrasse 240
8802 Kilchberg
Switzerland
T: +41 44 716 30 30
congress@eular.org