

Chicago Dermatological Society Conference Exhibitor Policy

Adopted by Plans & Policies Committee: 05/15/2013

Purpose

This policy is to outline parameters for commercial exhibitors at Chicago Dermatological Society (CDS) educational conferences. It is the intent of the CDS to adhere to the spirit of the PhRMA guidelines concerning commercial support for medical educational conferences and interactions with healthcare professionals, as well as CME accreditation rules, the policies and procedures of meeting venues, and all antitrust laws.

Background

The CDS conducts a number of educational conferences each year for its members, residents, fellows and certain guests. In order to cover some of the costs of these conferences and to accommodate the desires of companies in the dermatology market, the CDS leadership has determined that it would be beneficial to allow exhibitors to attend the conferences upon paying a fee in return for display space allocated to them. In doing so, it is the desire of the CDS to enhance the value of the conference for members by facilitating exchange of information between company representatives and CDS attendees; and also to help defray some of the conference expenses incurred by CDS through fees charged to exhibitors.

Policy

The CDS Plans & Policies Committee hereby adopts the following policy concerning commercial support and participation at educational conferences:

1. Commercial companies, non-profit entities or other organizations may purchase a tabletop display space to exhibit at CDS educational conferences at a fee to be determined by the CDS governing board.
2. Registration Fees:
 - a. All exhibiting companies shall be offered the same exhibit fees and meeting space opportunities without favoritism.
 - b. Discounted exhibit fees may be offered (not to exceed 50%) at the discretion of the CDS executive director for a new vendor or when a company commits to participation at multiple conferences.
 - c. The CDS board may establish varying levels of fees in return for additional opportunities or exhibit space granted to companies willing to pay a premium.
 - d. Exhibit fees may be waived upon approval of the President for a non-profit organization provided the subject matter of the display is relevant to the practice of dermatology and has a public – and not commercial or political – benefit.
3. Participation:
 - a. Exhibitors permitted to participate shall be those providing valid clinical subject matter, practice management information, or products/services which would be of interest to CDS members.
 - b. CDS reserves the right to deny exhibit space to political entities or any organization which the Society deems to be not in the best interests of the membership, or which would cause the Society to violate any law or restrictions imposed on it by a meeting venue.
4. Exhibit area logistics:
 - a. Exhibitors shall be provided a tabletop display space in an area expected to have reasonable traffic of CDS members during the hours of the conference.
 - b. Logistical management of their participation will be coordinated by the CDS administrative office.
 - c. Exhibitors will be provided a printed list of registered attendees' names, office addresses and office phone number. Email addresses shall not be provided to exhibitors by CDS.
 - d. Companies who purchase a higher level of participation, if any is offered, may be provided additional benefits as defined by the CDS.

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5. Compliance:

- a. CDS will abide by restrictions established by the meeting venue, if any, even if it means limiting or cancelling some or all exhibitor opportunities provided that the meeting venue has informed the CDS administrator of any such restrictions at least 60 days *in advance* of the conference (and preferably at the time the meeting space is reserved). It is understood that it may be difficult or impossible for CDS to comply with restrictions that are not conveyed by the site before the date of the conference.
- b. Continuing Medical Education Rules: CDS shall comply with all relevant rules pertaining to continuing medical education accreditation. To assure compliance with CME, exhibitors may be asked to acknowledge that they do not have any influence over the educational content of the CDS conference.
- c. PhRMA Guidelines: The exhibiting companies shall comply with the PhRMA Code on Interactions With Healthcare Professionals, as well as PhRMA policies concerning pharmaceutical company support for continuing medical education.