



IWGGD ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM ENDORSEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The International Working Group on Gaucher Disease (IWGGD) endorsement provides recognition of high-quality academic symposia that advance Gaucher disease research, education, and clinical care. This policy establishes criteria and procedures for evaluating endorsement requests from colleagues hosting independent academic events.

IWGGD endorsement signifies that an event meets our standards for scientific rigour, educational value, and alignment with our mission of promoting industry-independent research collaboration. Endorsement does not imply financial support or organisational responsibility for event outcomes.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Scientific Focus Requirements

- **Primary Focus:** Gaucher disease must constitute at least 50% of the scientific program
- **Relevant Topics:** Lysosomal storage disorders, related metabolic conditions, or broader rare disease themes are acceptable if Gaucher disease receives substantial coverage
- **Educational Value:** Program must advance understanding of Gaucher disease pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, or research methodologies

Organizational Standards

- **Lead Organiser:** Must be a recognised researcher/clinician with established Gaucher disease expertise and a member of the IWGGD
- **Scientific Committee:** Minimum two members with demonstrated Gaucher disease research or clinical experience and members of the IWGGD
- **Peer Review:** Abstract submissions must undergo an independent peer review process
- **Continuing Education:** The event should provide CPD credits where applicable

Independence and Ethics

- **Academic Independence:** The Scientific program must be free from commercial influence in content determination
- **Balanced Representation:** Faculty should represent diverse perspectives and institutions
- **Conflict of Interest:** Clear disclosure requirements for all speakers regarding industry relationships
- **Industry Participation:** Commercial support is acceptable provided it comes from multiple companies wherever possible, is transparently disclosed, and does not influence scientific content in any way.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Required Documentation

1. Event Overview

- Symposium title, dates, location, and expected attendance
- Primary organiser credentials and contact information
- Scientific committee composition and qualifications

2. Scientific Program

- Detailed agenda with session topics and duration
- Speaker list with qualifications and expertise areas
- Abstract submission and review process description
- CPD credit information

3. Independence Verification

- Funding sources and sponsor disclosure
- Statement of editorial independence
- Conflict of interest management procedures
- Industry relationship disclosure for all speakers

4. Quality Assurance

- Venue and logistical arrangements
- Registration and attendance management
- Post-event evaluation procedures
- Publication or dissemination plans

Application Timeline

- **Minimum Notice:** Applications must (ideally) be submitted at least 90 days before the event
- **Review Period:** IWGGD requires 30 days for evaluation
- **Decision Communication:** Applicants notified within 45 days of submission

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Scientific Excellence
- Educational Impact
- Organizational Quality
- Independence and Ethics

ENDORSEMENT BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS

IWGGD Provides

- Use of IWGGD name and logo in promotional materials
- Listing on IWGGD website events calendar
- Social media promotion through IWGGD channels
- Letter of endorsement for sponsor solicitation
- Publication through IWGGD member mailing list

Organizer Obligations

- Acknowledge IWGGD endorsement in all materials
- Provide a post-event summary report within 30 days
- Share attendance statistics and evaluation results
- Submit final program and abstract book to IWGGD
- Maintain compliance with endorsed standards throughout event

Restrictions on IWGGD Name Usage

- Endorsement statement must use approved language: "Endorsed by the International Working Group on Gaucher Disease"
- IWGGD logo usage requires separate permission and style guide compliance
- Organizers cannot imply IWGGD financial support or organisational responsibility
- Marketing materials must clearly identify the primary organising institution

REVIEW PROCESS

Initial Assessment

Applications reviewed by IWGGD Endorsement Committee consisting of:

- IWGGD Chair or designated representative
- Two IWGGD Board members from different geographic regions
- One external expert in symposium subject area (if required)

Evaluation Procedure

1. **Administrative Review:** Completeness check and eligibility verification
2. **Scientific Assessment:** Program quality and speaker expertise evaluation
3. **Standards Compliance:** Independence and ethics requirements verification
4. **Final Decision:** Committee recommendation to IWGGD Board

Decision Categories

- **Full Endorsement:** Meets all criteria with no conditions
- **Conditional Endorsement:** Approval pending specified modifications
- **Declined:** Does not meet minimum standards (with feedback provided)
- **Deferred:** Requires additional information or clarification

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Effective Date: August 13th, 2025

Review Schedule: Annual policy review with updates as needed

Contact Information: info@iwggd.com

Policy Authority: Approved by IWGGD Board

Implementation Responsibility: IWGGD Secretary

Version: 1.0