



The ACE Award is a competitive, *new product* award for AOSSM's corporate partners exhibiting at the Annual Meeting. This annual award recognizes cutting-edge innovation in the field of orthopaedic sports medicine. The award represents the Society's recognition of industry partners' contribution to the field and the importance of corporate innovations that impact our members and their patients.

Application deadline: June 5

[APPLY HERE](#)

Eligibility and Guidelines

- All exhibitors at the Annual Meeting can submit entries for this award. There is no limit to the number of entries for exhibitors.
- There is no fee to apply.
- Eligible products include devices, procedures, techniques, materials, etc. introduced since the last day of the 2025 AOSSM Annual Meeting (July 13, 2025). This includes modifications to existing concepts that substantially improve outcomes in orthopaedic sports medicine.
- Submission must be on display at the AOSSM Field House (exhibit hall) during the Annual Meeting.
- Supporting information must be made available for the judges to inform their scoring and deliberations.
- Supporting information may include, but is not limited to, product literature and data, podium and/or poster presentations about the product or similar data and information.
- At the judges' discretion, up to three winners will be selected, but no more than three winners, at the Annual Meeting.

Important Notices

- Only exhibitors who are paid in full by June 5, 2026, are eligible for this award.
- For questions about the ACE Award, please contact Mari Ekstrom, Director of Administration marianna@aossm.org.

Evaluation Process

To apply, exhibitors must complete the online application including uploads of supporting information by June 5, 2026. A panel of AOSSM members ("judges"), free of significant financial or intellectual conflicts of interest, will review submitted entries from applicants. Judges will select 4-6 products as finalists for review during the Annual Meeting. Finalists will be notified at least two weeks prior to the start of the meeting. Applications can be electronically submitted at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACE_2026

The judges will visit the selected finalists' exhibition space in the Exhibit Hall at specified times and meet with exhibitor representatives to review the product. Exhibitors selected as finalists must ensure AT LEAST ONE person at the booth during the judging time frame can discuss the product with the judges. Judges will convene for private discussions and determination of award winners.

Scoring Criteria

The judging panel's decision will be based on the following criteria (in no order of significance):

- Creativity and Innovation – the exhibited concept reflects a novel discovery in musculoskeletal science coupled with the creation and evaluation using appropriate science. (0-5 points)
- Long term applicability in practice – the exhibited concept is likely to sustain a lasting impact in the field and/or goes beyond an incremental improvement to existing knowledge. (0-5 points)
- Potential impact on clinical practice – the exhibited concept is practical, likely to see substantial uptake in the field, and sustained use by practitioners. (0-5 points)
- Improves standard of care – the exhibited concept compares well to an existing gold standard in the field or creates a new paradigm for patient care. (0-5 points)
- Benefits vs. Harms and/or effectiveness – the exhibited product is safe and minimizes risk to patients while displaying positive outcomes. (0-5 points)

Celebrating ACE Award Products

- Winners will be announced in the AOSSM Field House on Thursday, July 9th during the Annual Meeting.
- Upon announcement, the judging panel will present the ACE Award to each company. Companies will be visited in alphabetical order with a time for photos.
- All winners will be given permission to advertise their concept as the award winner, including the use of the ACE Award logo in marketing and communications materials.
- AOSSM will undertake its own communication strategies to promote the products selected for an ACE Award (e.g. social media, SMU, podium slides).
- Winners will be shipped a custom ACE Award plaque for display after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.