



OMED 2026 Annual Meeting Industry-Supported CME In-Person Symposium Guidelines

CME Symposia are a valued educational component of the OMED Annual Meeting. OMED offers several opportunities to hold these dynamic sessions, supported by educational grants and certified for AOA CME credit and *AMA PRA Category 1.50 Credit™* by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Medical educational/meeting management organizations are invited to submit proposals to conduct OMED CME symposia on topics that relate to the daily practice of physicians and their patients.

OMED is an annual medical conference bringing together thousands of osteopathic physicians, medical students, and other healthcare professionals from across the country.

Quick Symposia Facts

- 90 Minute Timeslots are Available
- Association Fee: \$32,000
- AOA and AMA Accreditation Fee: \$12,500
- Anticipated Attendance: 300
- Applications Due: July 23, 2026

**(Add on one-year enduring activity for \$35,000)*

Before You Submit for Grant Funding

The OMED CME Symposia Guidelines are designated to provide comprehensive information to organizations that wish to hold a symposium at the OMED Annual Meeting. It is important for all organizations, even those who have worked with OMED on symposia before, to **thoroughly read these guidelines prior to initiating any grant requests for a symposium, including responses to Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from any commercial interests/ineligible companies. Should there be any questions or additional information needed, please do not hesitate to contact the AOA for assistance.**

All requests will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Proof of confirmed funding is due when the application is submitted.

BENEFITS OF CONDUCTING AN OMED CME SYMPOSIUM

All accepted CME symposia will be assigned to a room in a specified venue during times that do not conflict with OMED's in-person education session activities and in-person exhibits. OMED promotes all industry-supported CME symposia to registered attendees and potential registrants.

YOUR INNOVATIVE, PATIENT-CENTRIC SYMPOSIUM WILL HAVE:

1. Access to thousands of osteopathic physicians, residents, medical students, and other healthcare professionals seeking to increase their medical knowledge, competence, and performance.
2. CME Accreditation for AOA and *AMA PRA Category 1.50 Credit™* by the AOA.

3. Ongoing program listing with program overview, faculty bios, and learning objectives in the digital OMED program.
4. Ongoing program listing with learning objectives and faculty bios in the OMED mobile app.
5. Branded signage displayed in appropriate areas.

In addition, companies/organizations conducting a CME symposium activity can also purchase marketing opportunities, including:

1. Push notifications, digital program advertisements, and one daily event email to alert OMED registrants.
2. Social media postings.
3. Bumper video.
4. Special marketing packages available.

Please contact Sabrina Bracken, omedexhibits@spargoinc.com to discuss options and pricing.

What's Included?

- Reserved time slot.
- Listings in the AOA conference program, virtual platform, and mobile app.
- One-time use of the pre-registration mailing list and one-time use of the post-registration mailing list.
- Onsite signage promoting the program.
- Enduring activities receive ongoing marketing throughout the year as well as monthly metric reports.
- Continental breakfast to be provided by the AOA (event signage to reflect)
- Standard AV: 2 wireless handheld mics (for Q&A), 1 wireless headset microphone, slide advancer, HD projector with 16:9 resolution and screen, A/V tech, speaker timer, laptop at podium.

Supporting, sponsoring, or third-party organizations must accept financial responsibility for all aspects of the symposium, including advanced marketing, electrical, telephone, shipping, etc.

SUMMARY OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities	AOA	Joint Provider
Develop program proposal and budget for grant request.		x
Submit grant request directly or authorize applicant to submit on behalf of the AOA.	x	x
Complete and submit a CME Symposium Application along with proof of funding.		x
Sign a Project Management Agreement generated by the AOA outlining payment schedule and agreed upon milestones.		x
Review and approve symposium grant request.	x	x
Budget for and host the assigned program food service managing all on-site logistics.	x	
Provide meeting space for symposium and pre-program food function with standard room set-up (solely determined by the AOA) to accommodate maximum attendance (on average 150 - 250 attendees).	x	
Provide CME Accreditation for the Program (all symposia must be accredited by the AOA). Programs are eligible for 1.50 AOA Category 1-A credit and 1.50 <i>AMA Category 1 Credit</i> [™] unless otherwise approved by the AOA.	x	
Provide hotel/or convention center contacts, AV, and all other vendor contacts to facilitate logistical execution for symposium unless otherwise directed by the AOA.	x	
Work with the AOA-approved vendors to purchase any additional AV requirements (outside of standard AV set up) to execute the symposium as it was presented to and approved by the grantor.		x
Manage educational grant from commercial supporter and distribute funds to the joint provider per established budget upon achievement of required milestones.	x	x
Provide a meeting space for slide review on premises if facility can accommodate this space.	x	
Develop and produce all required print materials for program including brochure/mail piece, signs, syllabus/meeting materials and evaluation, in addition to any optional advertising. All print materials are subject to AOA approval.		x
Provide all required CME information to the AOA on or before specified deadlines in order for the AOA to accredit program (i.e., faculty forms, program information, executed LOA with AOA as a signatory, etc.).		x
Coordinate and budget for all shipping/receiving of program materials, faculty travel and accommodations, slide review needs, distribution and collection of attendee materials (i.e., syllabus, evaluations), etc.		x
Reference each symposium in official OMED publications– (the OMED web site as well as be promoted on OMED signage at the annual meeting); provided information is submitted by AOA deadlines.	x	

Review and approve all printed materials, both required and optional, including brochures and advertisements, signage, syllabus, etc.	x	
Provide up to 4 lead retrieval units and 4 staff for scanning at each Symposium.	x	
Reconcile all program expenses based on the original budget per supporting company requirements and provide the AOA with copies of reconciliation submission (i.e., online printouts and/or screenshots).		x
One complimentary mailing list. The mailing piece must be approved by the AOA.	x	

PROGRAM PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Grant Request Authorization:

The AOA will advise the joint provider regarding grant request submission process, either authorizing the joint provider to proceed or, if the commercial interest listed requires that the request come directly from the accredited provider, the joint provider will have to provide the AOA with the information for the grant request, exactly as it is to be entered/uploaded, so that it can be submitted under the AOA's user profile. Note that if it is necessary for the AOA to submit the grant, the joint provider should allow 5-7 business days for AOA staff to complete the grant request once all necessary information is received. Every effort will be made to submit grants promptly; however, a faster turnaround cannot be guaranteed. If authorized to submit grant request directly, the joint providers are required to provide the AOA with copies of all grant request submissions, (i.e., online forms, screen shots, uploaded attachments, etc.) and grant number or other tracking information.

All grant requests must properly list the AOA as the sole accredited provider for the program and also the payee for the grant. **The AOA cannot accept grants, Letters of Agreement, and/or CME Symposium Applications with alternate provider/payee information, so it is critical that grant requests are properly submitted.**

CME Symposium Application:

Upon receipt of a grant approval from the commercial supporter, joint providers may submit their completed CME Symposium Application and required attachments, including the grant LOA for AOA signature (note that in the case of electronic acceptance agreements, the LOA must still be submitted to AOA first for online acceptance authorization).

OMED Staff will advise if any application components are missing, as incomplete applications are not accepted. Joint providers may also be advised if any of the proposed faculty is also confirmed for other sessions at the OMED Annual Meeting, as OMED does limit the number of appearances an individual can make on the Annual Meeting Program.

Complete applications will be reviewed by the AOA. Please allow 5-7 business days for AOA staff to review.

Approval Notice and Faculty Confirmations:

Joint providers will be notified once their symposium is approved and advised regarding the faculty selected by the AOA. Additionally, they will be provided with their time slot assignment.

Joint providers should immediately contact the approved faculty and confirm their participation. If a faculty member is unavailable or declines the invitation, the joint providers must contact the AOA with replacement recommendations for approval.

CME Submission Requirements:

AOA requires that all activities be submitted for accreditation **no later than three months prior to the start of the activity**. Exceptions may be granted and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In order to receive AOA 1-A CME there must be 30% of the total content presented by a : (1) osteopathic physicians; (2) MDs, PhDs, other professionals with graduate degrees who hold a faculty appointment at a college of osteopathic medicine; (3) AOA staff or AOA component society staff who hold a graduate degree; or (4) clinical COM faculty.

All CME information must be submitted to the AOA Senior Manager of Physician Education and CME. Timeline for submission and further CME guidance will be provided to joint providers once symposia are approved.

Print Materials and Signage:

AOA must approve all program materials (print, digital, or other media) prior to production and distribution. AOA will provide content requirements for all program materials upon initial symposium approval.

At least 2 signs for on-site use will also be required from the joint provider. 22" x 28" Sign proofs must be submitted to the AOA for approval and allow 3-5 business days for review and response.

Additional advertising opportunities are available for symposia including ads in OMED 2026 publications and meeting specific print materials. While optional these items must still be approved by AOA prior to publication.

Syllabus & Presentation Slides:

Joint providers are required to produce a syllabus for their symposium to be made available to attendees either on-site or post event. As with all other print materials, the syllabus must be approved by AOA and content requirements will be provided to the joint provider upon initial symposium approval. Syllabus proofs must be submitted to AOA for approval and allow at least 7-10 business days for review and response. Submitted with the syllabus proof, either in the same document or separate, should also be the activity evaluation, which must also be approved by AOA.

Post Program Documentation & Budget Reconciliation:

AOA requires that joint providers submit a summary report of the attendee evaluations and any other outcomes reporting resulting from their symposium. Reports should be submitted by the stated deadline; however, if longer-range outcomes measurements are being conducted, the joint provider must advise AOA as to the timeline and reports should be submitted upon completion.

Additionally, the joint provider must reconcile all program expenses based on the original symposium budget and provide a copy of their reconciled budget to AOA. As with the original grant request, if the joint provider was authorized to submit the grant directly, then they will also be required to submit the necessary grant reconciliation directly to the supporter and provide copies of their submission to AOA (i.e., online forms/screen shots, uploaded documents, etc.). If it was necessary for AOA to submit the grant request, then the joint provider will need to follow the same protocol for the reconciliation, providing AOA staff with the information exactly as it is to be entered/uploaded and again, a minimum of 5-7 business days should be allotted for AOA staff to complete the submission.

FINANCIAL POLICIES AND MILESTONES

In accordance with AOA Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, it is AOA's policy that all funds and support associated with a CME activity, whether in the form of an educational grant or not, must be given to the accredited provider (AOA).

Activity funds will be distributed to the joint provider upon achievement of the two required milestones listed below. Payments to the joint provider, regardless of milestone achievement, can never exceed the balance of funds received by AOA from the commercial supporter(s).

Milestone 1; Submission of all CME requirements (objectives, needs assessment, agenda, faculty forms, and CVs, etc.)

- 90% of activity grant, less AOA fees.
- Funds will be distributed upon receipt from the commercial supporter(s) – if less than 90% received at time of milestone achievement, remaining balance will be paid immediately upon AOA receipt of funds.

Milestone 2; Submission of post-program documentation and budget reconciliation

- Up to 10% of activity grant—exact amount based on final budget reconciliation.
- AOA will retain any unused grant funds for return to the commercial supporter(s).

If the commercial supporter's payment schedule is 100% upon signing the LOA, AOA will hold the funds for the joint provider until the post-program requirements are completed.

Cancellation Policy

AOA has established a cancellation policy for OMED CME Symposia as follows:

- The third-party joint provider is required to provide confirmation in writing from the supporter or the supporter's grants office that the supporter has officially approved the program.
- In the event that the joint provider has not provided confirmation in writing from the supporter or the supporter's grant office, and the supporter chooses not to provide support for the program at any time, AOA will charge a cancellation fee of 25% to the third-party joint provider.
- Supporter will be charged a 50% fee if canceling satellite symposia 90 days or less prior to the scheduled providing a replacement satellite event is scheduled.
- **Cancellation notice received less than 90 days prior to the event and no replacement symposium is scheduled will not receive a refund.**

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

Standard Program Format:

The standard program format for AOA symposia is to have 1-3 presenting speakers delivering content for up to 90 minutes, including Q&A. Other formats may be accepted upon AOA review and approval.

All symposia will be preceded by a light food service and AOA symposia time slots are scheduled to allow additional time beyond the 1.5 hours on the agenda to accommodate this function.

Meeting Space & Time Slots:

Meeting rooms for symposia will be provided by AOA. The food function and educational session will be in the same room with set-up per AOA specifications. Based on room size and AV space requirements, each room is expected to accommodate approximately 300 people.

There are multiple time slots for symposia – dates and times are as follows:

Friday	October 23, 2026	Morning – Prior to General Session
Saturday	October 24, 2026	Morning – Prior to Educational Sessions
<i>Additional timeslots per day can be added for an additional fee.</i>		

Please note – should additional symposia applications be approved once existing slots have been filled, AOA may choose to hold additional symposia that may run concurrently and/or create new slots on alternate days/times to accommodate the added symposia. Meeting space for additional symposia will be provided either at the host hotel or an alternate venue as determined by AOA (e.g., convention center).

Attendance:

The estimated total OMED meeting attendance is 5,000 to 6,000 (in-person and virtually). While attendance is consistently robust, it is also driven by the educational subject matter of the symposium. Session recording allows for concurrent viewing by virtual attendees.

Upon request, AOA will provide regular updates to the joint providers regarding the pre-registration numbers for the overall meeting. This information is provided to assist for planning purposes only – symposia are not ticketed events, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis (OMED attendees are very familiar with this process). Please note that the AOA does not “pre-register” Symposia Attendees for these events, nor is it suggested that this be done as a measure to anticipate attendance.

Lead Retrieval:

OMED will provide up to 4 lead retrieval units from AOA’s exclusive meeting vendor to capture attendee data and attendance numbers for their symposium. In addition, up to 4 staff/temps will be provided to assist with crowd control and scanning.

AV Service:

As stated in the summary of roles and responsibilities, the Joint providers are financially responsible for any additional AV costs associated with their symposium that are not provided in the standard AV package as listed. Please note that all Audience Response Systems (ARS) need to be coordinated with the AV vendor prior to the meeting– no outside equipment may be used unless exclusively approved by the OMED AV vendor.

BUDGET INFORMATION

Joint providers are responsible for developing a budget to cover all the required elements of their symposium as well as any added components or enhancements and their program management/service fees.

The following items are required components for AOA symposia that all joint providers must include in their budgets:

Accreditation (\$12,500) & Association Fee (\$32,000)

- Includes CME accreditation for the activity as well as issuing of CME certificates to those who attended the session.

- Includes platform space, promotion in all OMED-related publications and virtual signage where appropriate, as well as one member of the AOA to act as Liaison between the joint provider and all vendors where deemed necessary.

Faculty Honoraria – Joint Provider to Determine Cost

Customary faculty honorarium levels for symposia are as follows (and approximations):

- Speakers: \$2,500 - \$3,000 each
- Chair: \$3,000 - \$3,500 each

Faculty Expenses – Joint Provider to Determine Cost

All symposia faculty are to provide any faculty cost related to their participation. Joint providers will be responsible for providing any required transparency report per the grant agreements.

AOA Display Signage for CME Symposium – Joint Provider to Determine Cost

Joint providers are required to produce at least two (2) signage images that can be used on-site for their program.

Syllabus/Meeting Materials – Joint Provider to Determine Cost

Symposia partners are strongly encouraged to create a syllabus that be made available to attendees as an electronic download during and post event.

Symposia partners will be required to provide AOA with a copy of meeting materials in a PDF format.

Additional Services

In addition to the required expenses above, symposium budgets should include the fees and/or costs for the joint provider's services along with other enhancements or additional components the joint provider elects to add to the symposium. These additional elements may include, but are not limited to:

Audio Visual Equipment and Services

- Symposia partner is responsible for all additional AV costs outside of the standard AV package.
- Additional equipment including confidence monitors, extra microphones, enhanced lighting, etc.
- Additional services including video recording, audio recording, etc.
- Audience Response System

**ALL ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES MUST BE PURCHASED FROM/
APPROVED BY AOA'S EXCLUSIVE AV VENDOR**

Advertising

In addition, companies/organizations conducting a CME symposium activity can also purchase the following:

1. Push notifications, digital program advertisements, and one daily event email to alert OMED registrants.
2. Social media postings.
3. Bumper video.
4. Special marketing packages available.

Please contact Sabrina Bracken, omedexhibits@spargoinc.com to discuss options and pricing.

Faculty Slide Review

AOA does provide a Faculty Slide Review meeting space if enough room is available at the host facility.

Enduring Materials

While both the live and enduring activities may be approved by a single grant from a commercial supporter, they are each a separate medium of learning. Therefore, all enduring materials undergo a separate review and approval process.

AOA welcomes enduring activities to enhance the educational reach of the symposia presented at our Annual Meeting. Like the live symposia, enduring material spin-off activities are directly accredited by AOA for dual credit.

The AOA offers multiple enduring options to complement CME Symposia and we encourage you to explore them as they directly reach an extended DO audience of thousands — details are available upon request.

Symposia partners must indicate on their request form if any enduring material spin-offs are being developed from their live activity and if so, indicate whether funding is being requested for the live and enduring together or via separate grant requests. As noted previously, joint providers may not submit grant requests to any commercial interests without authorization from AOA – this includes requests for enduring materials.

Enduring materials (AOA Webcast – audio and slides from live symposium)

AOA cost for webcast posting and promotion, development of visual theme for web page and promotion materials. Includes CME certification and certificates, CME review and approval, marketing, online posting services, and guest editor honorarium.	\$35,000
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Industry-Supported CME In-Person Symposium Application



Submit to omedexhibits@spargoinc.com by July 23, 2026. All requests will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Proof of confirmed funding is due when the application is submitted.**

Print or type contact information for CME Symposium Organizer:

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Print or type Industry Supporter information to whom grant support will be requested:

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Costs

Association Fee: \$32,000 + AOA and AMA Accreditation Fee: \$12,500 = **\$44,500**

Enduring materials - AOA cost for webcast posting and promotion, development of visual theme for web page, and promotion materials. Includes CME certification and certificates, CME review and approval, marketing, online posting services, and a guest editor honorarium.

Producing an enduring web archive of the satellite symposium with the AOA = **\$35,000**

Please contact Sabrina Bracken at omedexhibits@spargoinc.com to discuss options and pricing for the following additional enhancements:

- Push notifications Digital program advertisements Daily event emails
- Social media postings Special marketing packages

Total Cost = \$ _____

Symposium Details:

<u>Symposium Title:</u>
<u>Topic Description:</u>

Learning Objectives (provide 3 learning objectives for this session):

<u>Objective #1:</u>
<u>Objective #2:</u>
<u>Objective #3:</u>

Please list the topics, chairs, and speakers proposed for this symposium.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker Name/Institution</u>	<u>City, State, Country</u>

If you have any questions or if you do not receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application within 72 hours of submission, contact: Sabrina Bracken | omedexhibits@spargoinc.com | (571) 207-8392.