



THE CONSORTIUM OF  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CENTERS

# 2026 ANNUAL MEETING



Driven by Legacy  
Racing Toward the Future



May 27 - 29, 2026  
Charlotte Convention Center  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Independently Supported Symposia (ISS)  
[www.mscares.org/2026](http://www.mscares.org/2026)



# THE CMSC ANNUAL MEETING

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) will take place from Wednesday, May 27 through Friday, May 29, 2026, at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. We are pleased to present the guidelines for hosting an accredited **Independently Supported Symposium (ISS)** during this event.

Independently developed satellite symposia are an important and valued part of the CMSC Annual Meeting. The CMSC offers designated time slots for these sessions, which are funded through educational grants and provide continuing education credits for healthcare professionals. These accredited symposia enrich the learning experience for clinicians and offer meaningful opportunities for our supporters.

We welcome proposals from medical education providers and meeting management organizations interested in developing and presenting an ISS on topics relevant to multiple sclerosis or other neuroimmunological disorders care and research.

For further details or inquiries, please contact Tina Trott at [tina.trott@mscare.org](mailto:tina.trott@mscare.org) or call 201-487-1050, ext. 102.

The **Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC)** is the largest multidisciplinary membership organization in North America dedicated to defining and advancing the standard of care for individuals living with multiple sclerosis (MS). Our mission is to improve MS care through comprehensive education, specialized training, clinical research, professional collaboration, and focused advocacy.

CMSC represents a global network of 15,500 healthcare professionals and researchers. Our diverse membership includes physicians, nurses, advanced practice providers, pharmacists, rehabilitation and mental health specialists, scientists, registered dietitians, and patient advocates—each playing a vital role in MS care and support. Through their efforts, CMSC directly influences the quality of care delivered to hundreds of thousands of people affected by MS.

The CMSC Annual Meeting provides a central forum for this community to engage with the latest research, clinical innovations in MS diagnosis and treatment, emerging trends in care delivery, and critical health policy issues that shape access to care.

# DESCRIPTION AND FORMAT

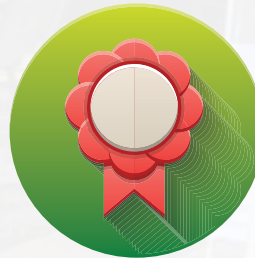
**Independently Supported Symposia (ISS) are accredited, live educational sessions organized by medical education or meeting management organizations.** To be considered, ISS must include at least one form of accreditation: Continuing Medical Education (CME), Nursing Continuing Professional Development (NCPD), or Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE).

Preference is given to programs that provide credit across multiple healthcare professions, supporting interprofessional learning. All symposia offering continuing education (CE) must adhere to the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Standards for Integrity and Independence in Continuing Education. Organizers are responsible for securing accreditation from an approved CE provider. Under special circumstances, CMSC may provide CE credit for a symposium.

## SYMPOSIA MUST:



Deliver high-quality education aimed at improving care for individuals with MS or other neuroimmunological disorders.



Provide balanced, objective, and evidence-based information for MS professionals.



Be developed independently of any ineligible companies.

# Symposia Availability

Exclusive one-hour symposia slot—no competing sessions.

| Date              | Start Time | End Time | Fee       |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Wednesday, May 27 | 8:15 AM    | 9:15 AM  | \$ 50,000 |
| Wednesday, May 27 | 5:00 PM    | 6:00 PM  | \$ 50,000 |
| Thursday, May 28  | 7:00 AM    | 8:00 AM  | \$ 50,000 |
| Friday, May 29    | 7:00 AM    | 8:00 AM  | \$ 50,000 |

## Promotional & Marketing Guidelines

CMSC encourages organizers to independently promote their approved symposia to help increase attendance. All promotional materials (e.g., invitations, email campaigns, advertisements) must be submitted to CMSC for approval before release or posting.

As a courtesy, CMSC will also provide the following promotional support at no additional cost:

- ▶ Posting of a symposium banner with a registration link on the CMSC website: [www.msca.org/2026](http://www.msca.org/2026)
- ▶ Inclusion of the symposium agenda in the official program syllabus
- ▶ Opportunity to include the symposium invitation in delegate bags
- ▶ Access to a CMSC membership mailing list (after materials are approved)
- ▶ A pre-registration list of Annual Meeting attendees
- ▶ One dedicated email announcement sent to the CMSC database
- ▶ Inclusion of the symposium on the CMSC mobile app
- ▶ Posting symposium details and/or registration links on CMSC's social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter)
- ▶ Option for organizers to post a link to any enduring activity resulting from their ISS on [www.cmssc.org](http://www.cmssc.org), including:
  - » One email blast promoting the enduring activity to the CMSC database
  - » A live link hosted for one year from the date of posting

## Rules & Regulations for ISS Events

Organizers must comply with the following requirements:

- ▶ **Pre-approval:** All invitations and email blasts must be approved by CMSC before release or distribution. Suggested language:  
  
“Pre-registration is preferred; however, onsite registration will be accepted (subject to space availability).”
- ▶ **No commercial displays:** Displays are not permitted in the meeting room at any time.
- ▶ **No product promotion or sales:** Marketing of products or services to attendees is prohibited before, during, and after the symposium, as well as within the meeting program.
- ▶ **Signage:** Event signage may be displayed as permitted by the venue and CMSC.
- ▶ **No flyer distribution:** Handouts or promotional materials may not be distributed, including leaving materials on tables.

## Application Process & Deadline

Organizations interested in hosting an ISS must secure written confirmation of funding before submitting an application to CMSC.

- ▶ **Deadline:** Applications must be received by March 20, 2026.
- ▶ **Processing:** Proposals are reviewed on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis. Timeslot requests will be honored when possible.
- ▶ **Notification:** Applicants will receive written confirmation of acceptance, including the assigned date, time, and meeting room once the proposal has been reviewed.
- ▶ **Review:** The CMSC Continuing Education Committee will evaluate and either approve or deny proposals. Space and scheduling limitations may restrict availability.

Submit applications via email to [tina.trott@mscare.org](mailto:tina.trott@mscare.org) or by fax to 862-772-7275.

CMSC reserves the right to decline proposals that are not in the best interests of its members. If any ISS timeslots remain open after March 31, 2026, CMSC may consider proposals for non-accredited educational events.

## Symposium Outline

- ▶ **Draft Agenda:** Submit the initial draft of the proposed program agenda to CMSC by March 20, 2026.
- ▶ **Final Agenda:** Submit the final agenda, including confirmed faculty, by April 10, 2026.



## Cancellation Policy

- ▶ On or before March 20, 2026: Eligible for a refund, minus a \$10,000 non-refundable application fee.
- ▶ After March 20, 2026: No refunds will be issued.

## Meeting Space & Room Setup

CMSC will provide meeting space, core audiovisual (A/V) equipment, and promotional support as outlined previously.

- ▶ Seating: Audience seating will be arranged by CMSC to comply with venue requirements.
- ▶ Setup: CMSC will coordinate with organizers on registration desks and food & beverage stations.
- ▶ Organizer responsibilities: Costs for additional services—including catering, music license fees, supplemental A/V, labor, internet, electricity, honoraria, travel, accommodations, and faculty registration—must be covered by the symposium organizer.
- ▶ Meeting registration: CMSC will provide complimentary registration for faculty and staff.

## Catering

- ▶ Provided by CMSC: Attendees will be served breakfasts, lunches, and dinners from the Opening Luncheon in the Exhibit Hall on Wednesday, May 27 through the Closing Ceremony on Friday, May 29.
- ▶ Encouraged add-ons: While not required, organizers are encouraged to provide additional refreshments for symposium attendees.
- ▶ Venue restriction: The Charlotte Convention Center does not allow outside food and beverage.
- ▶ Organizer responsibilities: All catering expenses are the responsibility of the provider. Finalized Banquet Event Orders (BEOs) must be submitted to CMSC for coordination and support.

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**ANNUAL MEET**  
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## Audiovisual (A/V) Equipment

CMSC will provide the following at no charge (subject to change):

### Video Package

Two (2) 9' x16' truss screens with dress kits

Two (2) 14,000 lumens LCD projectors

### Audio Package

One (1) Podium microphone

One (1) Laptop audio package

One (1) 6 channel audio mixer

Six (6) Powered speakers on door stands

### Stage and Lighting Package

One (1) Stage wash with front and back lighting

One (1) Lighting console

Wall to wall drape

Twelve (12) LED uplights

## Audiovisual Requirements

All organizers must use the official CMSC audiovisual (A/V) contractor, Precon Events. For assistance with A/V needs, please contact Rick Mathews at Precon (contact details can be found on the last page of this document).

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## Use of CMSC Logo

The CMSC name and logo are registered trademarks of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers. To request permission to use the CMSC logo in any promotional or marketing materials, submit a written request to [tina.trott@mscare.org](mailto:tina.trott@mscare.org).

## No Implied Endorsement

ISS programs are not part of the official CMSC program. Promotional materials must not suggest that CMSC endorses or sponsors satellite symposia.

All promotional pieces must include the following statement:

**“This symposium is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers.”**

## Evaluation Summary

Evaluation is an essential component of the CME/CE process. Feedback from attendees helps determine whether learning objectives were met and can inform future educational programming.

Organizers are required to submit a copy of their symposium evaluation summary to CMSC by September 15, 2026. This information will remain confidential and will not be shared with outside organizations.



# QUICK REFERENCE KEY DEADLINES & REQUIREMENTS

| TASK   | DEADLINE             | DETAILS   |
|--|----------------------|---|
| ➔ Secure written confirmation of funding                       | Before submission    | Required before submitting ISS application to CMSC        |
| ➔ Submit ISS application                                       | March 20, 2026       | Applications reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis |
| ➔ Cancel program (for refund minus \$10,000 fee)               | March 20, 2026       | No refunds after this date                                |
| ➔ Submit draft symposium agenda                                | March 20, 2026       | Initial outline of proposed program                       |
| ➔ Submit final symposium agenda (with confirmed faculty)       | April 10, 2026       | Required for inclusion in program materials               |
| ➔ Submit proposals for non-accredited events (if slots remain) | After March 31, 2026 | Considered only if ISS slots are still open               |
| ➔ Submit Banquet Event Orders (BEOs)                           | Per venue deadline   | Required for catering coordination with CMSC              |
| ➔ Provide evaluation summary to CMSC                           | September 15, 2026   | Confidential report; not shared with other organizations  |



# QUESTIONS AND SUPPORT

For the most up-to-date information  
visit [www.mscares.org/2026](http://www.mscares.org/2026) or contact:



Applications, Content Approval and General Info

Tina Trott

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Audio Visual/Production

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