

Statement by the Scientific Programme Committee to address criticism and repeated inquiries regarding the evaluation

Thank you very much for evaluating the 9th World Congress on ADHD in Amsterdam 2023. Your feedback is always highly appreciated and helps us to maintain the high standard of the congress or even optimise certain issues mentioned here. Some issues are due to organizational, financial or practical constraints which we want to address here:

Scientific programme development

One of the issues often mentioned is diversity. The World Federation of ADHD (WFADHD) definitively strives for more diversity and try to request a highly diverse scientific committee and thus, a diverse set up speakers which of course must match with the scientific topics we aim to cover. The WFADHD will seek to balance membership by sex and ethnicity. The last World Congress on ADHD in Amsterdam had a 45 % female vs. 56 % male ratio.

One year ahead of the congress, the scientific programme committee is asked to hand in suggestions for topics, sessions and speakers and you are invited to get in touch with any of them to discuss your thoughts. Also mentioned in your feedback was the heavy focus on psychiatry and medication. The detailed process of the scientific programme development as well as the members of the scientific programme committee is explained here:

<https://www.adhd-congress.org/scientific-programme/spc.html>

Through this process, WFADHD seeks to create a current and balanced scientific programme, that allows congress participants not only to increase their professional knowledge and clinical skills, but to offer real perspectives on the current status and future of ADHD research.

Criticism of the event organization

Food options

On an organizational level, the lack of food has been criticised. This is due to the fact that the industry offers lunch symposiums on the one hand and on the other hand this would increase the congress fee tremendously for all while not all would make use of the lunch option.

Ticketing educational seminars

The educational seminars are ticketed extra due to the fact that they take place in special small groups with international experts in their field of research. These settings cause extra costs.

Record sessions & Provide slides and presentations

The presentations are not online available due to issues of data protection and handling. Every speaker would have to state her/his consent, plagiarism checks need to be done as well as check on research ethics. Professional recordings would require a high additional technical and financial input leading to high ticket prices.

We thank for very much for your time and efforts to complete the evaluation survey. You can be assured that all them are analysed, evaluated and taken into consideration for improvement of the upcoming congresses. Besides criticism, many appraisals have been received. Thank you very much for this, too. We very much appreciate that you are enjoying the World Congresses on ADHD and are happy to read that so many of you can add insights from there to their daily work. We are already looking forward seeing you in Prague 2025!