The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) welcomes members of the press to write about research presented at our professional meetings, such as the State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium (SOTA), throughout the year. Complimentary registration is provided to approved members of the press to allow them to attend sessions this year in a virtual environment. All members of the press interested in attending SOTA should register by Sunday, May 17.

The in-person 2020 SOTA has been canceled and will be held virtually via ACR Beyond LIVE. Speakers will deliver a range of high-impact content in areas such as therapeutic developments, recent research findings, and scientific advances.

Below you will find a complete listing of the eligibility requirements, guidelines and policies for members of the press who wish to attend SOTA virtually. Please read all policies and guidelines prior to registering. The ACR has the right to inspect the credentials of anyone registering and reserves the right to refuse to register any individual as press.

**Embargo & Copyright Policy**
All presentations and studies presented at the meeting are under embargo until Saturday, May 16 at 8:30 AM (eastern). Approved media may be granted access to a presentation for editorial development purposes with permission from the speaker; however, presentations provided to the media may not be published, shared or replicated in any manner.

The ACR has intellectual property rights to all presentations. Violation of this policy will result in the denial of press credentials for both the offending journalist and outlet/publication for future meetings.

**Who Can Register for Press Credentials?**
All requests for press credentials are subject to review/approval by ACR staff, and approval one year doesn’t guarantee approval the following. News outlets/publications that meet the following criteria are eligible to have up to two (2) employed journalists and/or freelancers apply for press credentials. If the outlet/publication a journalist is working for does not meet the eligibility criteria, their request will be denied.

- The news outlets/publication must publish original editorial news coverage about the practice of rheumatology regularly throughout the year in an ongoing news section. For the purpose of ACR press credentials, original editorial news coverage is considered original articles/videos developed by employed journalists to report facts, commentary, and subject matter expert quotes in a narrative form using a variety of sources (i.e. research, announcements, press releases, events, etc.).
- Advertisers, sponsors, paid editorial, and other funding sources are clearly identified.
• Have complete editorial freedom from advertisers, funders and/or sponsors - The determination to cover the event should be driven by the outlet/publication’s editorial focus and audience independent of external sponsorship or an organization paying for the content to be developed.
• Does not require reprinting of slides, research studies, abstracts, and/or copyright privileges as part of working with the outlet/publication.

The following outlets/publications and individuals are not eligible for press credentials:

• Freelancers without an active work assignment from an eligible news outlet/publication and/or those who wish to attend the meeting to draft articles for pitching to publications after the event
• Persons with exhibitor badges, vendor badges, attendee badges, and any personnel or companies working with said individuals to produce content at the meeting
• Publishers or a publications’ advertising, marketing, public relations, sales, or circulation personnel and any other non-editorial function representatives
• Scientific and medical journals that do not develop and publish original, editorial news coverage in a non-peer reviewed regular news section separate from its publication throughout the year
• Industry/exhibitor’s press officers and their public relations consultants
• Financial or business analysts
• Companies that develop CME and other educational programs/events (including CME writers, editors, and individuals working on behalf of organizations that have written CME based on ACR/ARP Meetings in the past)
• Executive/management personnel of outlets/publications
• Companies/organizations and employees thereof, producing publications, videos, and/or other electronic media intended for internal use, marketing, advertising, financial analysis, or public relations purposes (Exhibitors wishing to film marketing and public relations videos, such as KOLs, may be allowed to do so at their booths during non-exhibit hall hours with written approval for the exhibit hall staff. Please contact NCabrera@rheumatology.org for more information.)
• Media/communications companies producing content that is sponsored by a single organization or whose revenue for the publication or issue of a publication depends solely on coverage of the ACR’s meeting
• Media who produce a communications vehicle that uses the ACR’s name or logo to imply endorsement from the ACR

NOTE: The ACR reserves the right to impose further limitations on the number of badges issued as necessary.

Special Considerations for Press Credentials

Bloggers
Bloggers wishing to be considered for press credentials must submit an assignment letter that includes details about the blog’s audience, content focus, and minimum number of articles that will be produced. The required work samples must include copies of, or links to, recent rheumatology-related posts, and all blogs must demonstrate that original, editorial news coverage is disseminated throughout the year and that the blog has editorial freedom from advertisers and/or sponsors (single-sponsored blogs will not receive credentials; blogs with advertising must have multiple advertisers clearly identified).
Non-writing Editors
An outlet/publication may send one non-writing editor if there is a plan in place to assign editorial coverage during or immediately following the meeting. The editor must submit an assignment letter on the publication’s letterhead that explains what their role is, what type of content they will be assigning, the minimum number of articles that will be produced, and their plans for disseminating the articles. A non-writing editor counts toward the two press badges an outlet/organization can send.

Prohibited Activities of Registered Press/Photographers/Videographers
Registered press is strictly prohibited from engaging in the following activities. Violation of these parameters will result in loss of press credentials for the offending journalists and/or outlet/organization for future meetings.

- Sales, marketing or representing a company for the purposes of obtaining advertising, subscriptions, selling photography/video production, or other products or services from any registrant or exhibitor
- Misrepresentation of role or activities to obtain media registration
- Sharing or distributing embargoed materials prior to the end of the embargo
- Developing or assisting in the development of continuing medical education programs
- Soliciting presenters and/or attendees for inclusion in CME programs or non-ACR publications
- Publishing or posting presentation slides or copyrighted meeting materials or live streams of meeting presentations

Code of Conduct
All those participating in, or otherwise in attendance at, ACR meetings and events are subject to the ACR Code of Conduct, which can be found, in full, at https://www.rheumatology.org/Learning-Center/CME-MOC/Policies-Disclosures. The ACR is committed, and expects its staff, guests and participants to be committed, to providing a friendly, safe and welcoming environment for all, regardless of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status.

Meeting Coverage Promotion Guidelines
If you intend to present coverage of the virtual 2020 ACR State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium in a dedicated website, newsletter, or promotional piece of any kind, please include the following disclaimer at the top of your piece:

This information is brought to you by [insert organization name] and is not sponsored by, nor a part of, the American College of Rheumatology.

Acceptable titles of your coverage are as follows:

- Highlights from the 2020 ACR State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium
- 2020 ACR State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium Highlights
- 2020 ACR State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium Review

Additionally, you may not use the 2020 ACR State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium logo nor company name to imply affiliation. The ACR reserves the right to request promotional activities
violating this policy be edited or removed. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the loss of press credentials for future meetings.

**Use of Insignias/Logos**
Insignias and logos of the State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium, ACR, ARP and Rheumatology Research Foundation are proprietary marks. Use of these in any fashion, by any entity, for any purpose, is prohibited without the written permission of the ACR. The use of insignias, logos and images that mislead the intended audience to believe that a piece or production is coming from the ACR is strictly prohibited and will result in the denial of press credentials for future meetings.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- **Does the ACR share its media list?**
The ACR does not share, rent or sell the current or past list of registrants with attendees, exhibitors or their representative public relations and marketing agencies.

- **Does the embargo lift on all presentations at the same time?**
Yes. The embargo lifts on all presentations on Saturday, May 16 at 8:30AM (eastern), regardless of when it is presented.

**How to Apply for Press Access**
To apply for press access, visit [https://www.rheumatology.org/About-Us/Newsroom/Media/Press-Pass-Request](https://www.rheumatology.org/About-Us/Newsroom/Media/Press-Pass-Request). Eligible outlets/publications sending multiple people should have each person submit a separate, individual request. Each journalist must provide the following:

- Photo identification (such as a driver’s license or passport)
- Media identification certifying that you are a working member of the print, broadcast or online media (such as a business card, accredited press pass or an official media outlet-issued credential)
- An assignment letter from an editor, assistant editor, assignment editor or designated organization official confirming that the journalist will be representing the organization and explaining the intended use of the resulting coverage (Bloggers may submit an overview of their blog and explain the intended use of the resulting coverage in lieu of an assignment letter.)
- Bylined, published work samples, preferably related to the practice of rheumatology (scientific research studies, textbooks, textbook chapters, brochure/promotional copy, etc. do not qualify as news coverage)

**NOTE:** Journalists who received credentials for the previous year’s meeting must submit bylined coverage from the meeting in lieu of general work samples. If meeting coverage is behind a paywall, a username and password must be provided so ACR can verify the outlet/publication eligibility and confirm post-meeting coverage. If the journalist is new, but the outlet/publication is not, the assignment editor may be asked to provide proof of coverage from the previous year before journalists representing the organization will be approved for the current year’s meeting.

Once your application has been reviewed, you will receive confirmation of its approval or denial from Monica McDonald, mmcdonald@rheumatology.org, within three to seven business days depending on the volume of requests being received.