

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:

CO-SPONSORSHIP OF OFFICIAL ATS DOCUMENTS

ATS encourages collaboration because it recognizes that collaboration is important to maintaining good relationships with other professional societies, which ultimately helps ATS members and their patients. However, ATS has learned that document developers often make commitments to collaborate with other professional societies without fully understanding the details of what is involved and, as a result, may be disappointed with the concessions that are necessary for collaboration. To balance these issues, the following steps must be followed if collaboration with another professional society is desired:

1. All projects are initially considered ATS-only documents.
2. Co-chairs who wish to develop an official document that will be co-sponsored by another society and/or organization must submit a written request explaining the rationale and benefits of co-sponsorship of their document. The request will be reviewed by the chair and vice-chair of the Documents Development and Implementation Committee (DDIC) in collaboration with the ATS Vice-President (or a designated surrogate) and ATS Chief of Documents.
3. For official documents that are approved for collaboration, the ATS Chief of Documents will work with the ATS Executive Director to negotiate the terms of collaboration and establish the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a co-sponsoring society and/or organization. The MOU stipulates all of the following: administrative support, panel composition, conflict of interest policy, budget, methodology, peer review, approval, publication site, and development of derivatives.
4. While the exact terms of the collaboration are established on a case-by-case basis, the preference is to negotiate the following terms for collaboration:
 - a. Both societies are named in the title of the document.
 - b. ATS leads the project in terms of funding, administration, conflict of interest policy, methodology, chairmanship, and panel composition.
 - c. Co-sponsoring societies appoint one or several representatives and pay the costs of those representatives.
 - d. Both societies peer review and approve the document.
 - e. ATS publishes the document.

Collaboration with the European Respiratory Society (ERS) is exempted from this policy because there is a joint application process for ATS/ERS documents. Anyone who seeks to develop a document co-sponsored by the ERS must submit a proposal for an ATS/ERS project through the usual assembly/committee project proposal process.