

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHAIRS

BRIEFING NOTES FOR CHAIRS OF CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Dear Colleague,

many thanks for agreeing to step in as a chair for concurrent sessions at the 39th EFI Conference.

Ahead of the conference, we felt it would be helpful for us to share with you some briefing notes to assist you with the chairing. Below are some general recommendations as well as specific guidance notes depending on the format of the session.

BEFORE THE SESSION

- Please be in your session room at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the Session.
- Check prior to the session whether all AV equipment is working properly.
- Please note that there will be an iPad at each session for you to see if attendees ask any questions through mobile app. A technician will be on hand to explain how to operate it.
- Please familiarise yourself with the session being presented. Have the speaker details on hand, e.g. Name, Country, Title of Session. If there are multiple presenters make sure you have information on all.
- Some sessions may have two chairs to support each other and facilitate the discussion. Please discuss with your co-chair how would you like to work together.
- Please ensure that the session and the individual presentations within it run to time – this is the most crucial function of a chair, particularly in multi-presenter sessions.

DURING THE SESSION

- Start your session on time. Stick to the timetable.
- At the start of each presentation briefly introduce each speaker/speakers.
- Please make the fire safety announcement: “There are no planned fire drills during the conference. If a fire alarm goes off in the event of a fire, please leave via the clearly marked fire exits, where venue staff will guide you to the designated meeting point”.
- Explain the format of the session and its timing, and remind the speakers to strictly adhere to the time limits.
- In case a presenter does not show up, continue with the next presentation right away.
- Ask the attendees if they have any questions, if there is time and the session format allows it.
- Check the iPad for any questions from the mobile app, if there is time and the session format allows it.
- Prepare some questions for the presenter if there is no discussion.
- Ensure best use of the limited time for discussion, prevent the discussion from getting stuck on one particular point.
- Support presenters to make the best of their presentations, especially if this is their first conference presentation.
- At the end of each session, please thank the speakers and attendees and tell Conference participants the next point in the programme (coffee break, another session, plenary).