



African League
Of Associations For
Rheumatology



Rheumatology
Society of Ghana

AFLAR

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SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS

2027 Congress

i3 Innovate, Integrate, Impact:

Shaping The Future Of Rheumatology

**12th –17th | Kempinski Hotel,
April 2027 | Accra, Ghana**

Hosted by
The Rheumatology Society of Ghana in partnership with the
African League of Associations for Rheumatology (AFLAR)



A Welcome From The Chairperson

An Invitation To Partner With Us.

On behalf of the African League of Associations for Rheumatology (AFLAR) and the Rheumatology Society of Ghana (RSG), we are honoured to invite your esteemed organisation to become a strategic sponsor of the 2027 AFLAR Congress, to be held in Accra, Ghana.

This landmark continental event will bring together leading rheumatologists, researchers, healthcare policymakers, allied health professionals, and patient advocates from across Africa and the global health community. It is a significant moment for the visibility of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases in Africa — a disease area of real burden and, for too long, real neglect — and we believe partnership with your organisation can play a meaningful role in shaping its outcome.

The 2027 Congress takes place under the theme Innovate, Integrate, Impact: Shaping the Future of Rheumatology. It reflects both the scientific ambition of our community and the practical work ahead — of building integrated, patient-centred care across a continent where access to rheumatology remains profoundly uneven.

We would warmly welcome the opportunity to discuss how a partnership might best align with your organisation's strategic priorities. This document sets out the context, the Congress programme, and the sponsorship tiers available.

Prof Dzifa Dey
Chairperson, Local Organising Committee
AFLAR 2027 Congress



The Hosts

About AFLAR and the Rheumatology Society of Ghana.

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The African League of Associations for Rheumatology (AFLAR)

AFLAR is the umbrella body uniting national rheumatology societies across Africa. Founded in 1989, it is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of rheumatology on the continent — building clinical capacity, fostering research, and advocating for improved patient outcomes. AFLAR operates under the wider framework of the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR) and serves as the leading professional voice for rheumatology in Africa.

The AFLAR Congress is the principal biennial gathering of the African rheumatology community. Previous congresses have been hosted by Egypt, Tunisia, South Africa, Morocco, Kenya, Algeria, Nigeria, Mauritius, and Cameroon. The 2027 Congress in Accra will mark an important continuation of that tradition and a significant moment for West African rheumatology.



The Hosts

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The Rheumatology Society of Ghana (RSG)

The Rheumatology Society of Ghana is the principal professional body representing rheumatologists and allied specialists in Ghana. The RSG is at the forefront of championing rheumatology education, patient care, and research within the country, and serves as the local organising partner for the 2027 Congress.

In recent years, Ghana's rheumatology community has built institutional links with international partners including the Royal College of Physicians (UK), the British Society for Rheumatology, the International League of Associations for Rheumatology, and leading centres in the United States, United Kingdom, and across Africa. These partnerships have supported training, research collaborations, and policy work, and form part of the foundation on which the 2027 Congress is being built.



The Context

The Burden Of Rheumatic Diseases In Africa.

Rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs) represent one of the most significant and under-recognised public health challenges in Africa today. Although long regarded as conditions primarily of high-income populations, the evidence base over the last two decades has shown that rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, spondyloarthritis, gout, and osteoarthritis are widespread across the continent — and increasingly prevalent as populations age and urbanise.

The impact is considerable:

- ◆ An estimated 150 million Africans live with some form of musculoskeletal condition, including rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, gout, osteoarthritis and spondyloarthritis.
- ◆ RMDs are a leading cause of disability and reduced quality of life, contributing to lost productivity, increased poverty, and strained healthcare systems across the continent.
- ◆ There is a critical shortage of rheumatology specialists in Africa — many countries have fewer than five practising rheumatologists for populations exceeding 20 million people.
- ◆ Late diagnosis and limited access to disease-modifying therapies lead to preventable joint destruction, organ damage, and premature death, particularly in autoimmune and inflammatory conditions.
- ◆ Non-communicable diseases, including RMDs, are increasingly recognised by the World Health Organization and the African Union as priorities requiring urgent investment and policy action.

The 2027 AFLAR Congress will serve as a platform to address these challenges bringing visibility, evidence, and momentum to a disease area that has long been marginal on the African healthcare agenda.



The Host Country

Ghana's Growing Rheumatology Community.

Progress Worth Noting

Ghana's rheumatology community, working through the Rheumatology Society of Ghana, the University of Ghana Medical School, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, partner organisations including The Rheumatology Initiative (tRi) and international collaborators, has contributed to:

- ◆ Successful advocacy for the inclusion of disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs and corticosteroids on Ghana's national essential medicines list, extending access through the National Health Insurance Scheme.
- ◆ Negotiated reductions in biologic therapy prices, improving affordability for patients who previously had no realistic route to advanced treatment.
- ◆ Development of RheumChat — a toll-free SMS-based screening and referral platform allowing patients in remote areas to be triaged and connected to rheumatology services.
- ◆ The launch of the RheumaConnect digital health application in October 2025, combining patient education, self-management tools, clinician training, and referral streamlining.
- ◆ Structured training of over 300 medical officers and the first two rheumatology specialty nurses in Ghana, through partnerships with ILAR, the Royal College of Physicians, and the British Society for Rheumatology.
- ◆ The "Spotting Lupus Early" programme — an ILAR-funded initiative that trained 269 frontline clinicians across all ten regions of Ghana in lupus recognition and early referral, with documented gains in knowledge and confidence.
- ◆ Active patient advocacy communities, including Rheusolute, providing peer support, counselling, and advocacy for people living with rheumatic diseases.
- ◆ A growing research profile, with Ghanaian rheumatologists contributing to multi-centre studies on lupus genetics and outcomes in populations of African ancestry, published in *Frontiers*, *Clinical Rheumatology*, and related international journals.

These achievements do not solve the problem of rheumatology access in Ghana the specialist shortage remains severe — but they represent a body of work that has given Ghana credibility as a host for AFLAR 2027, and provides a foundation on which Congress-related collaborations can build.



The Congress

Aflar 2027 At A Glance.

EVENT	2027 AFLAR Congress
THEME	Innovate, Integrate, Impact: Shaping the Future of Rheumatology
DATE	12th – 17th April 2027 (12th - 14th April 2027 pre conference workshops)
VENUE	Kempinski Hotel, Accra, Ghana
ATTENDANCE	300 – 1,500 delegates from 40+ countries (onsite and hybrid)
AUDIENCE	Rheumatologists, internists, orthopaedic surgeons, researchers, policymakers, patient groups, and industry partners
HOST	Rheumatology Society of Ghana (RSG)
CONVENING	African League of Associations for Rheumatology (AFLAR)



Why this Congress matters

The 2027 AFLAR Congress is expected to be one of the most significant gatherings of African rheumatologists and partners in recent years. Hosting the Congress in West Africa provides an opportunity to strengthen rheumatology practice and research in a region where specialist density remains particularly low, and where the scale of unmet need is correspondingly high.

For sponsors, the Congress offers focused engagement with the clinical, academic, policy, and patient advocacy leadership of African rheumatology — across four days of structured scientific programming, workshops, exhibition, and networking.



The Programme

Key Congress activities.

The Congress scientific programme is designed to combine the traditions of a major continental meeting — plenaries, parallel sessions, workshops, and poster presentations with contemporary emphasis on practical skills, policy engagement, and patient voice.

Key elements include:

- ◆ Scientific plenary sessions and keynote lectures delivered by internationally recognised rheumatologists.
- ◆ Hands-on workshops in musculoskeletal ultrasound, joint injection techniques, and capillaroscopy building practical skills in diagnostic and interventional rheumatology.
- ◆ Abstract presentations highlighting cutting-edge African rheumatology research, with particular focus on epidemiology, outcomes, and innovation in resource-constrained settings.
- ◆ Satellite symposia on emerging therapies, biologics, and precision medicine, providing sponsors with structured opportunities for scientific exchange.
- ◆ Dedicated sessions on paediatric rheumatology and rare autoimmune diseases, supported by the Paediatric AFLAR (PAFLAR) network.
- ◆ Health policy roundtables with government officials and WHO representatives to discuss integration of rheumatology into national NCD frameworks.
- ◆ Patient advocacy forums amplifying the voices of those living with rheumatic diseases a long-standing priority of AFLAR.
- ◆ An industry exhibition showcasing the latest diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, and medical technologies relevant to the African rheumatology market.

Who Attends

Delegates are expected to include rheumatologists and paediatric rheumatologists from across Africa; international guests from EULAR, PANLAR, APLAR, and the ACR; internists, orthopaedic surgeons, and family medicine physicians; specialist nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals; patient advocates and organisation leaders; health policymakers and Ministry of Health representatives; academic institution leaders; and industry partners from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, diagnostics, and digital health sectors.

Who will be there.

AFLAR 2027 assembles a uniquely high-value audience for any organisation working in rheumatology, autoimmune disease, diagnostics, digital health, or medical education in emerging and underserved markets.

Scientific audience

- ◆ African rheumatologists — the prescribers, researchers, and department heads shaping rheumatology practice across 40+ countries.
- ◆ Internal medicine and family medicine physicians the gatekeepers who refer patients into specialist care.



Who will be there.

- ◆ Rheumatology trainees and early-career researchers through the Young African Rheumatology Network (YARN).
- ◆ Allied health professionals: specialist nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists.
- ◆ International delegations from EULAR, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), APLAR, PANLAR, and ILAR.

Policy And Institutional Audience

- ◆ Ghana Ministry of Health officials and National Health Insurance Scheme representatives.
- ◆ Regional WHO AFRO representatives.
- ◆ African Union health desk officials.
- ◆ National medical council representatives from multiple African countries.
- ◆ Academic institution leaders from universities across the continent.

Patient advocacy audience

- ◆ Leaders of patient organisations from across Africa and the diaspora.
- ◆ tRi and partner support communities.
- ◆ Global advocacy bodies including Lupus Foundation of America, Arthritis Foundation, and EULAR IPARE.



The Partnership

Why sponsor the 2027 AFLAR Congress.

Partnering with AFLAR and the Rheumatology Society of Ghana offers your organisation an opportunity to engage meaningfully with the African rheumatology community at a significant moment for the field. The Congress provides the following benefits to sponsors:

- ◆ Demonstrated leadership and commitment to improving healthcare outcomes in Africa, aligning with global ESG and corporate social responsibility priorities.
- ◆ High-visibility brand exposure among Africa's most influential rheumatologists, healthcare leaders, and decision-makers from over 40 countries.
- ◆ Opportunities to showcase products, therapies, diagnostics, or services to a highly engaged and targeted professional audience through exhibition space and symposia.
- ◆ A role in shaping the narrative around rheumatic disease management in Africa, and contributing to the evolution of treatment guidelines and health policy.
- ◆ Lasting relationships with key opinion leaders, academic institutions, and health ministries across the continent.
- ◆ Access to networking forums, VIP events, and direct engagement opportunities with delegates and policymakers.

Your Impact

By sponsoring the 2027 AFLAR Congress, your organisation will directly contribute to:

- ◆ Training and upskilling hundreds of healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and management of rheumatic diseases.
- ◆ Funding travel grants that enable young researchers and clinicians from underserved regions to attend the Congress.
- ◆ Advancing research that shapes clinical practice guidelines across Africa.
- ◆ Strengthening health systems through multidisciplinary collaboration between rheumatologists, primary care physicians, and policymakers.
- ◆ Empowering patient communities through education, advocacy, and improved access to therapies.



Sponsorship Packages

Partnership opportunities.

Progress Worth Noting

We offer a range of sponsorship packages designed to suit different levels of engagement and investment. Custom sponsorship packages can also be tailored to meet your organisation's specific objectives and marketing priorities — we are happy to discuss bespoke arrangements.

Platinum Partner Gh¢ 550,000 + (USD 50,000+)

Exclusive Headline Congress Partner

- Lead congress branding across all materials
- Opening ceremony keynote opportunity
- Premium exhibition pavilion
- Dedicated 30-minute flagship scientific symposium
- 10 VIP networking invitations
- Branding across congress app, livestream and replay platform
- Featured acknowledgement in congress proceedings and post-congress publications
- Sponsored patient advocacy leadership forum
- Delegate bag and lanyard branding
- Thought leadership interview in congress media coverage

Gold Partner Gh¢ 164,00-220,000 (USD 15,000- 20,000)

- Premium congress branding
- 20-minute sponsored scientific session
- Premium exhibition booth
- 5 VIP invitations
- Livestream and virtual platform branding
- Inclusion in post-congress abstract supplement acknowledgements
- Innovation showcase opportunity
- Brand presence in patient education and advocacy sessions



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Silver Partner Gh¢ 110,000-153,000 (USD 10,000- 14,000)

- Standard exhibition booth
- 15-minute scientific or product showcase
- 3 VIP invitations
- Recognition across Congress digital and print materials
- Virtual platform logo visibility
- Inclusion in the Congress report and proceedings acknowledgement

Bronze Partner Gh¢ 55,000-99,000 (USD 5,000- 9,000)

- Exhibition space
- Website and programme recognition
- 2 complimentary registrations
- Virtual congress logo placement
- Social media recognition
- Access to sponsor networking breakfast/coffee breaks
- Mention in post-congress impact report

Supporter / In-Kind – Negotiable

- Recognition for contributions

We would also be honoured to explore a tailored partnership package aligned with your strategic priorities outside these tiered packages

Warm regards,
Prof Dzifa Dey



Chairperson
AFLAR 2027 Congress Host Committee



Next Steps



Contact us.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how a partnership with your organisation can be mutually rewarding. We are available at your convenience to present the full sponsorship prospectus, answer any questions, and explore a package that aligns with your strategic goals.

We sincerely believe that your organisation's support will make a meaningful difference not only for the success of this Congress, but for patients across Africa who deserve better access to rheumatology care. We look forward to welcoming you as a valued partner.



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