



Call for Applications to Host the XXXII ISB Congress in 2029

The International Society of Biomechanics (ISB) invites applications to host its XXXII Congress in 2029. The ISB Congress is a key event held biennially to offer insights into the latest in biomechanics and foster professional networking. Congress locations rotate globally to promote worldwide engagement in the field. For the 2029 Congress, the ISB Executive Council is seeking proposals from potential hosts. Interested parties, to serve as Hosts/Conference Chair(s), are invited to apply by **March 31, 2026**. Final decisions will be made post-review at the ISB Executive Council's next meeting, scheduled during the World Congress on Biomechanics (July 11-15, Vancouver, Canada).

About the Congress

The ISB Congress features one day of tutorials followed by four days of conference activities, including keynotes, presentations, and awards. The Congress is typically scheduled for June, July, or August of odd-numbered years, but the event's exact timing may vary based on local organizers' needs and with Council approval. The Congress should be hosted in partnership with local academic institutions. As an example of the Congress dimensions, the last congress in Stockholm saw nearly 1,600 attendees from 50+ countries, but it may surpass 2,000 attendees depending on additional factors such as location, program, costs, etc.

Host Duties

Working in partnership with the ISB Executive Council and the Society's Professional Congress Organizer (PCO), Podium Conference Specialists Ltd, the host will serve as the Conference Chair and primarily be responsible for the development and planning of the Scientific Program, including:

- Appointing a local organizing committee to collaborate with the PCO on scientific program planning, including:
 - Determining the meeting theme and sessions
 - Securing keynote speakers
 - Reviewing submissions for workshops, oral, and poster presentations
 - Developing the overall scientific program
- Securing financial and in-kind support from local/regional partners in government, academia, and industry.
- Providing suggestions and support for local social events, such as lab tours, evening socials, banquets, excursions, and student-led activities.

- Participating in regular conference planning meetings with ISB representatives and Podium.
- Identifying and confirming session moderators.

PCO Duties

Podium will provide full-service logistical support to the planning function, allowing the local host to focus primarily on the scientific program and local fund-raising. These duties include, but are not limited to:

- Undertaking site and venue visits and contracting suitable venues and accommodation options.
- Managing logistical details, including:
 - Securing and managing the relationship with official conference hotels
 - Establishing a key dates planning calendar
 - Establishing and managing the conference budget including collection of conference revenues and paying of conference expenses
 - Coordinating communications to the ISB community regarding all aspects of the conference planning cycle (i.e. submission, registration dates, et al)
 - Providing and configuring an online submission review system and coordinating the review process with the review committee(s)
 - Communicating acceptance notices to, and confirming participation of, successful submitters
 - Contracting and organizing conference suppliers (catering, audio-visual, etc.)
 - Providing and configuring an online registration system and collecting registration fees from all participants
 - Regularly communicating with conference participants on all relevant details, plans and opportunities for enhanced engagement
 - Organizing the Social Events program (i.e. Coffee breaks, meals offered with registration, banquet(s), socials, excursions, et al)
 - Identifying, confirming, training and deploying conference volunteers
- Developing and maintaining conference content on the ISB website to disseminate conference details; manage the submission of proposals for satellite meetings, pre-conference workshops, and symposia, as well as abstracts for oral and poster presentations; collect registration fees; and disseminate information related to accommodation, travel, and local tourism
- Developing a conference app to provide customized information for attendees, including the conference program and abstracts

- Manage the on-site delivery of the conference

Applications to Host

To apply to host the XXXII ISB Congress in 2029, please submit your application (**maximum 3 pages**) to the President-Elect, Brent Edwards (wbedward@ucalgary.ca) **by March 31, 2026**. The application should provide sufficient information to prove the proposed host has the capacity and experience to develop a successful conference program focused on biomechanics. *The proposals will also be considered and assessed according to diversity, equity, inclusion, representation, environmental implications and benefits for the society, the membership and the hosting institutions; so please build in discussion of these considerations within the proposal as you deem appropriate.*

The application should include the following:

Host

- Identification of the proposed conference chair(s), including a short outline of their current involvement with related work and research
- Preliminary composition of a scientific program committee, with researchers across a broad spectrum of our scientific endeavors
- Description of critical mass in the region (e.g., multiple researchers working in biomechanics established relevant international networks)
- Prior experience chairing international conferences

Venue and city

- Identification of potential venue(s), accommodating at least 1500 attendees. *Please note, Podium will undertake research on these venues to determine suitability for the conference needs.*
- List of potential nearby accommodations. *Please note, Podium will undertake research on these hotels to determine suitability for the conference needs.*

Conference details

- Proposed dates (or approximate time frame), with rationale
- Preliminary ideas for a conference theme and potential keynote speakers.
- Plans to ensure a healthy, sustainable, inclusive, and accessible meeting

Finances

- Any guaranteed financial support from local partners and agencies
- Anticipated financial support from local partners, agencies and potential supporters

If you have questions, please send them to wbedward@ucalgary.ca.