



HEAD Congress is pleased to announce that the “Focus en Innoveer” program is officially Patients Included accredited.

The Patients Included charter provides conference organizers with a means of demonstrating that their events are committed to incorporating the experience of patients as experts in living with their condition while ensuring they are neither excluded nor exploited. Patients Included status is self-assessed. A conference successfully meeting all five of the charter’s clauses may accredit itself as a Patients Included event. The HEAD Congress fulfills the five Patients Included charter clauses in the following ways:

1. Patients or caregivers with experience relevant to the conference’s central theme actively participate in the design and planning of the event, including the selection of themes, topics and speakers.

- Patients, caregivers and IKONE (www.ikone.nl) have had an active participation during the design of the congress, including masterclasses and four separate workshops. Throughout the preparation of the congress, Anne-Miek Vroom has had one of the leading roles in selecting topics, speakers and the lay out of the congress. In partnering with the congress committee and other members of the HEAD assembly she helped insert a Patients Included program into the yearly congress HEAD organises.

2. Patients or caregivers with experience of the issues addressed by the event participate in its delivery, and appear in its physical audience.

- Patients and advocates were invited to participate in the program and will be leading workshops concerning the issues faced by financials in Dutch healthcare. They will add their personal experiences to the discussions in order to help improve the developments surrounding these issues in the future. In addition, they can attend workshops and master classes according to their own desires.

Participating patients and caregivers are:

Anne- Miek Vroom (IKONE director) patient expert

Elisabeth van Schaik; patient expert

Annette Stekelenburg; caregiver

Lieke Paulussen; caregiver

3. Travel and accommodation expenses for patients or caregivers participating in the advertised program are paid in full, in advance. Scholarships are provided by the conference organizers to allow patients or caregivers affected by the relevant issues to attend as delegates.

- Patients invited to speak in breakout sessions will have registration, travel and accommodation expenses paid in full, in advance.
- In addition, the congress registration fees are kept low in hopes of limiting the affect that cost may have on people's ability to attend the event.
- All attendees of the congress have, on subscribing to the event, been asked to share any or every need they have regarding their accommodation, due to physical conditions. Staff will be available to assist delegates who may need extra help at catering times or at other times during the congress. There are dedicated places in the catering and exhibition area for people to sit who may not be able to stay standing throughout the breaks.

There is a reduced registration fee for two full time patient advocates. For information on how to apply for a scholarship, please email info@headonline.nl.

4. The disability requirements of participants are accommodated. All applicable sessions, breakouts, ancillary meetings, and other program elements are open to patient delegates.
 - The accommodations of Hotel Houten provides disability accommodations for all attendees. The conference facilities are fully accessible. All applicable sessions, breakouts, and other conference events will be open to patients
 - All presentations will be made available for download once the event concludes.
5. Access for virtual participants is facilitated, with free streaming video provided online wherever possible.
 - We will use the hashtag #HEAD17 in order to facilitate access for virtual patient participants. Any materials available post conference will also be shared publicly. Active streaming of the event will be facilitated wherever possible.