

CALL FOR THEMED WORKSHOP APPLICATIONS

ENMC THEMED WORKSHOPS

Introduction

In addition to the regular open workshop applications, where the topics are proposed by the workshop organisers, the ENMC also offers “Themed Workshops”. For this type of workshop, the ENMC’s stakeholders (members of the ENMC Executive and Research Committee, Associated Partners and members of the Company Forum) have identified two specific themes that are prioritised based on the needs of neuromuscular patients and related research.

The themes are topics that require the efficiency of the ENMC platform to bring together diverse stakeholders from around the world and to support the development of discussions and collaborative work. Although the themes are selected by the ENMC’s stakeholders, applicants are fully responsible for identifying theme-related knowledge gaps and the specific issues they face in their own daily practice or research. This awareness of theme-associated questions will guide applicants in defining the workshop objectives and deliverables, which in turn shape the workshop programme and the list of attendees. A well-thought-out workshop proposal and a concise description in the application are important preparatory tools for fostering constructive, effective workshop discussions and encouraging meaningful follow-up work.

Patient representatives, together with experienced researchers and clinicians from the neuromuscular field, can adopt one of the selected themes and apply for an ENMC workshop in the March review round. It is highly encouraged that individuals from different stakeholder groups form a joint organising committee to lead the workshop on the selected theme and to build a broader consortium for future collaboration.

Differences between Open and Themed call for workshop applications (see Table 1)

With an “**Open Call**,” the ENMC provides workshop funding opportunities focused on neuromuscular topics identified by the applicants or organisers themselves. Of the ENMC’s annual workshop budget, at least 90% will remain available for Open Call workshops (a total of up to 9 ‘open’ workshops can be selected each year). These Open Call workshop applications can be submitted and will be assessed by the ENMC twice a year (in March and September), according to our regular review procedures. These conditions ensure that the ENMC provides sufficient resources and opportunities to address topics that arise spontaneously from the neuromuscular field.

With a “**Themed Call**,” the ENMC provides funding opportunities for 1 or 2 themed workshops per year, focusing on two identified themes that are:

CALL FOR THEMED WORKSHOP APPLICATIONS

- preferably applicable across many neuromuscular conditions, and, if relevant, able to share experience even beyond the neuromuscular field (transversal workshops);
- topics and/or diseases that are not frequently discussed in workshops;
- groundbreaking and strategic topics that may influence the direction of the neuromuscular (NMD) community.

A theme should also meet the following basic criteria for Themed Workshops:

- **Multidisciplinary:** A heterogeneous group of participants—such as clinicians, healthcare professionals, scientists, patient and pharmaceutical representatives, technical experts, and external specialists—is required.
- **Unique:** The theme must offer added value to the neuromuscular community, ensuring no duplication of efforts and demonstrating endorsement from partner organisations (e.g., WMS, EURO-NMD, Treat-NMD).
- **Sustainable:** The topic should warrant the development of a long-term platform or consortium to build upon the outcomes of the workshop in the future.

The themes, identified by RC and EC members, Associated Partners, and members of the Company Forum, are discussed and prioritised at the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) every other year. The two highest-scoring themes are then selected by the EC for the next call for Themed Workshops. The number of selected Themed Workshops may vary depending on the number of received Open and Themed Workshop applications, and whether the Themed Workshop applications are complementary to one another.

Themed Workshop applications can be submitted and will be assessed by the ENMC only once a year (on 1st March).

A Themed Workshop application will not be compared with Open Call applications, and vice versa. The assessment of the two types of calls will be conducted separately and independently by the Research Committee.

Similarities between ENMC Open and Themed call for workshop applications

Themed Workshop applications generally follow the same Workshop Application Guidelines as the Open Call. The rationale for the chosen themes in a given year, along with the research questions that may be addressed in the Themed Workshop application, will be announced via the regular ENMC channels (LinkedIn, newsletter, etc.).

Potential applicants are requested to visit <https://www.enmc.org/workshops/how-to-apply/> to download the Workshop Application Guidelines, additional Themed Workshop guidelines and the application forms (workshop application template and participants list template).

CALL FOR THEMED WORKSHOP APPLICATIONS

Table 1: Differences between open and themed call for applications

ENMC workshop applications	Open Call	Themed call
Workshop topic	Comes spontaneously from the NMD field	Is identified by the ENMC's stakeholders (EC, RC, AP and CF) every two years
	Can be both condition-specific and NMD broad	Mainly NMD transversal topics (topics which are relevant for multiple NMD's and even for diseases outside NMD field)
Workshop applications can be submitted	Twice per year with a deadline of 1 March and 1 September	Once per year, with a deadline of 1 March
Workshop organisers	Max. 4: mostly academic and clinical representatives, but stakeholders from other disciplines are welcome to engage as workshop organisers as well. Pharma representatives however may be invited as workshop participants only.	Max. 4: multi-disciplinary team of organisers is preferred in the themed workshops, including representatives from academia, clinicians, patient representatives, health care/economic or regulatory professionals, but excluding pharma representatives.
Workshop participants	Multi-disciplinary workshop groups are encouraged including representatives from academia, clinics and patient organisations and/or individual people affected by a NMD, health care (psychology/physiotherapy/surgery etc.) and economic or regulatory professionals, pharma representatives etc.	
Max. number of participants (excl. 3 early careers and patient representatives)	20	30
Feasibility criteria	According to ENMC guidelines	According to ENMC guidelines and theme proposal
Quality assessment	By the RC	By the RC
Workshop selection	By the EC	By the EC
Annual Budget (10 workshops)	8-9 workshops	1-2 workshops (dependent on the amount of selected regular workshops)

Abbreviations: AP (Associated partners), CF (Company Forum), EC (Executive Committee), ENMC (European Neuromuscular Centre), NMD (Neuromuscular disorders), RC (Research Committee)