



Ask an Expert Moderator Instructions

What is an Ask an Expert session and how does it work?

This **45-minute, interactive session** takes place in the Exhibit Hall and centers on **case discussion, expert analysis, and audience Q&A**. Each session features **1–2 moderators who serve as the experts**, answering questions and discussing cases brought forward by attendees.

Because the session is audience-driven, moderators should also prepare **several backup cases or discussion topics** to use if audience participation is limited.

Moderators: 1–2 expert moderators; no additional faculty.

Session Length: 45 minutes.

Handout: No handout is required.

Your Role as Moderator

As moderator and subject matter expert, you are responsible for **guiding the conversation, providing expert analysis, and engaging the audience** in meaningful discussion around real-world clinical cases and questions.

Before the Annual Meeting

- Become familiar with the session topic and intended areas of discussion.
- If there are two moderators, connect in advance to discuss how you will share responsibility for guiding the conversation and responding to cases.
- Prepare **several backup cases or clinical scenarios** in case attendees do not immediately have cases or questions to discuss.
- Prepare a few questions or discussion prompts that can help start or restart the conversation when needed.
- Review planned content for balance, bias, and commercialism.
- Be prepared to keep discussion focused and moving within the allotted **45 minutes**.

No Handout Required

A handout is **not required** for Ask an Expert sessions.

Instead, preparation should focus on creating an engaging discussion and having backup cases and discussion topics ready if needed.

During Your Session

The moderator(s) lead the conversation and create an approachable environment where attendees feel comfortable asking questions and presenting cases.

1. Introduce the Session

Welcome attendees, introduce yourself and your area of expertise, and briefly explain that the session is designed around audience cases, questions, and discussion.

2. Invite Audience Cases & Questions

Encourage attendees to share cases or clinical questions they would like to discuss.

3. Provide Expert Analysis

Discuss the case, ask clarifying questions when needed, and share your approach, considerations, and relevant evidence or experience.

4. Encourage Discussion

Engage attendees in the conversation and explore different treatment approaches or perspectives when appropriate.

5. Keep the Conversation Moving

Manage each discussion so multiple cases and questions can be addressed during the session.

6. Use Backup Cases When Needed

If audience participation is limited, introduce one of your prepared cases or questions to generate discussion.

7. Close the Session

Highlight key takeaways from the discussion and conclude within the allotted **45 minutes**.

Maintaining Balance & Managing Disclosures

As moderator and expert, you are responsible for helping ensure the discussion remains **fair, balanced, educational, and free of commercial bias**.

Because attendees may introduce unplanned cases or questions, be especially mindful of maintaining balanced discussion.

- Avoid promotion of a specific company's product, device, or treatment.

- When discussing products, techniques, or treatment options, acknowledge appropriate alternatives.
- Clearly distinguish personal expert opinion from established evidence when appropriate.
- Clearly identify emerging or new content that is not yet supported by established evidence.
- Redirect discussion if it becomes overly promotional or moves away from the educational purpose of the session.

Moderator disclosures will be displayed at the start of the session. If a disclosure does not display properly, direct attendees to the disclosure information available through AAOS Annual Meeting resources.

Day-of Reminders

- Arrive early and be prepared to begin the discussion on time.
- If there are two moderators, briefly review how you will share the discussion before the session begins.
- Have your **backup cases and discussion questions ready**.
- Remind attendees that they are encouraged to bring cases and questions forward.
- Create an approachable environment that encourages audience participation.
- Keep individual cases focused so multiple attendees have an opportunity to participate.
- Share differing approaches or perspectives when appropriate.
- Keep the discussion educational and evidence-based.
- Monitor the time and conclude within **45 minutes**.

Questions?

For questions regarding your Ask an Expert session, please contact the AAOS Education team.

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