Privacy policy

How we collect, use and protect personal information across the MedSciCommsNet website, newsletter and community activities.

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1. Who we are and how to contact us

MedSciCommsNet is the Medical Science and Communications Network, managed by Dr Steven Walker and Dr Tim Hardman. In this notice, "we", "us" and "our" mean the network and its management team responsible for the activities described here.

We act as the data controller for the personal information we use to run our website, newsletter and network activities: this means we decide why and how that information is used. Other organisations may be controllers for their own services, as explained in section 6.

Website: www.medscicommsnet.org
Privacy enquiries and requests: info@medscicommsnet.org
Please put "Privacy request" in your email subject so we can direct it to the appropriate person.

2. Information we collect

Contact and professional details. Your name, email address, organisation, role and other information you choose to give us when subscribing, enquiring, registering for activities or contributing content.

Subscriptions and correspondence. Your communication preferences, consent or subscription records, unsubscribe requests, messages and our replies.

Events and contributions. Registration and attendance details, booking references, feedback, and information you submit for a newsletter, event, opportunity or public listing. Booking platforms may handle payment information under their own notices.

Technical and engagement information. IP address, browser and device information, pages visited, security logs and cookie preferences. Our email platform may record delivery, opens and link clicks where those features are enabled and lawfully used.

Please avoid sending patient-identifiable information, confidential clinical details or other sensitive personal data through general enquiries or public submissions. Our activities are intended for a professional audience and are not directed at children.

3. Cookies and email measurement

Wix and embedded services may use cookies and similar technologies for website operation, security, preferences and, where enabled, analytics. Optional cookies or device access require consent unless a legal exemption applies. Use any cookie controls displayed on the site and your browser settings to manage them. Blocking some cookies can affect functionality. Mailchimp may use tracking pixels and tracked links to report email opens and clicks where enabled. You can block remote images in your email software, unsubscribe or contact us about your preferences.

How we use information

4. Purposes and lawful bases

UK data protection law requires a lawful basis for each use of personal information. The basis depends on the activity and your relationship with us.

Activity and information used	Lawful basis and purpose
Send the newsletter and updates you request; manage subscriptions and preferences.	Consent for requested subscriptions and where marketing rules require it. You can withdraw consent at any time.
Answer enquiries; communicate with contributors, speakers and community members.	Legitimate interests in responding to requests, maintaining professional relationships and running the network.
Organise events, manage registrations and provide attendance information.	Contract where necessary to fulfil a booking or take steps you request; legitimate interests for event administration. Separate consent where required.
Review and publish contributions or opportunities that you ask us to share.	Legitimate interests in providing relevant community information, or consent where required. We use the details needed for that publication.
Operate, secure and improve the website and communications.	Legitimate interests in reliable services, preventing misuse and understanding performance; consent where required for optional tracking.
Keep compliance records and respond to lawful requests or disputes.	Legal obligations where applicable; legitimate interests in demonstrating compliance, respecting opt-outs and establishing or defending claims.

5. Your subscription and information sources

You can unsubscribe using the link in a newsletter or email info@medscicommsnet.org. **You have an absolute right to object to the use of your personal information for direct marketing.** Unsubscribing does not prevent essential messages about an existing booking or an enquiry you have made.

We obtain information directly from you, from services you use to register or subscribe, and from people who submit professional content to us. If a contribution includes someone else's details, the contributor should have permission to share them. Public professional information, such as a speaker biography or advertised opportunity, may come from the relevant organisation or published source. We explain the source when contacting you where required.

You can browse without subscribing. Providing information is generally voluntary, but we may be unable to answer an enquiry, deliver the newsletter or arrange a booking without the details needed for that service. Joining an event or contacting us does not by itself give unlimited consent to marketing.

Sharing and storage

6. Who receives personal information

Access is limited to the people and providers who need information to administer the network and deliver the activity concerned. These may include:

Network administrators and event collaborators: for enquiries, newsletter production, registrations, speaker arrangements and community administration.

Technology providers: Wix for website hosting and website functions; Mailchimp for newsletter distribution and subscription management; email, IT and support providers; and Eventbrite or Zoom when used for the event you choose.

Professional advisers and authorities: where necessary for advice, legal duties, fraud prevention or legal claims.

Service providers processing information on our behalf must use it for the agreed service under appropriate data protection terms. Some platforms also act as independent controllers for their own operations. Their notices explain those uses. Following a link to LinkedIn, Udemy, a sponsor or another external website brings you within that service's own privacy arrangements.

We do not sell subscriber lists. A sponsor does not receive your personal details simply because its material appears in the newsletter. Any separate sharing for a sponsor's own marketing requires an appropriate lawful basis and consent where required. Information you ask us to publish, including a contribution or opportunity, may be visible publicly and retained in downloaded or archived editions.

7. Processing outside the UK

Our service providers operate internationally. Personal information may be stored or accessed outside the UK, including in the United States and, through Wix and its providers, Israel and other countries. For a restricted international transfer, the applicable protection must be in place: for example, UK adequacy regulations or approved contractual safeguards such as the UK International Data Transfer Agreement or UK Addendum, with any additional measures required. Contact us for details of the safeguards relevant to your information or to request a copy, subject to necessary redactions.

8. How long we keep information

We retain information for the purpose it serves, using these criteria: subscriber details while a subscription remains active; minimal opt-out and consent records for as long as needed to respect preferences and demonstrate compliance; enquiry and event records while needed for administration, follow-up, complaints or claims; and accounting records for applicable statutory periods. Technical records are kept only as needed for security, diagnostics and service management. Public contributions may remain in newsletter or event archives. We review information and delete or anonymise it when no longer needed, subject to legal requirements.

Your rights and choices

9. Your data protection rights

Depending on the circumstances and the lawful basis used, you may ask us to:

Provide access to your personal information and explain how it is used.

Correct information that is inaccurate or incomplete.

Erase or restrict information where the legal conditions for deletion or restriction are met.

Provide a portable copy of information you supplied, where automated processing is based on consent or a contract.

Stop particular processing based on legitimate interests if you object on grounds relating to your situation. We will consider whether we have overriding lawful reasons to continue.

Withdraw consent at any time where we rely on it. Withdrawal does not affect processing that was lawful before you withdrew it.

Direct marketing: you can object at any time, without giving a reason. We will stop using your information for that purpose. We may keep a minimal suppression record to prevent further unwanted messages.

Send requests to info@medscicommsnet.org. We may need proportionate information to confirm your identity. Requests are normally free and answered within one calendar month, subject to the extensions and other rules allowed by law. If we cannot fulfil a request, we will explain why and how you can challenge the response.

10. Security and automated decisions

We use proportionate organisational and technical measures to protect personal information, restrict access to those who need it, and use reputable service providers. No internet service is completely secure. If a personal data breach requires notification under applicable law, we will notify the regulator and affected people as required. We do not use your information to make solely automated decisions that have legal or similarly significant effects on you.

11. Concerns, complaints and updates

Please contact info@medscicommsnet.org if you have a concern or need this notice in another format. You can also complain to the UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at any time: ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint. You do not have to contact us first.

We review this notice when our activities or the applicable rules change. The current version is available from the website footer, with its update date. We will give further information about any materially different use of personal information where required.

Related information

Wix privacy notice | Mailchimp privacy notice
Mailchimp international transfers | ICO privacy information guidance