



POLICY AND PROCEDURE
Regarding
Scheduling ABS Sponsored Events
Approved by Council June 11, 2007, revised Nov. 12, 2007

1. The American Balint Society has developed two major educational events for its members and interested other participants, Intensives and Weekends. In addition, through the efforts of the Opportunities Committee, an attempt is made to coordinate other local, national and international Balint related workshops, conferences, and lectures with the goals of giving our members opportunities to represent the ABS and to spread interest and expertise in Balint work more widely. With the success of the above endeavors has come the possibility of conflicts in timing of events and the publicity surrounding them, to the potential detriment of a coherent and coordinated use of ABS resources. This Policy and Procedures document is intended to codify our efforts in this regard, and will be a living document, subject to modification from time-to-time as our offerings and priorities as a Society may evolve.
2. To this end, a Task Force on Scheduling ABS Sponsored Events will be created, composed of the Chairs of the Intensive Committee, Weekend Committee, and Opportunities Committee. The President may appoint other interested current and former Council members. This Committee shall be Chaired by the President of the ABS, and shall at least yearly review this Policy, and suggest revisions for consideration by Council based on changing activities of the Society.
3. The Intensives have been historically the first and most ambitious activities of the American Balint Society in terms of goals, personnel, financial and organizational risk. They currently are held twice yearly, on roughly opposite ends of the country, and serve to train and credential Balint Leaders. The Intensive Planning Manual instructs the organizer to begin advertising an upcoming Intensive seven months ahead of the event. The early registration cutoff date is set 6-8 weeks ahead, and the final registration deadline is a month ahead of the event.
4. Weekends are a newer and as yet more variably formatted activity. They draw more from local and regional audiences than the Intensives and are not conceived of as training so much as experiential. There is some hope that their purpose may be extended to provide Continuing Education in Balint Groups to credentialed leaders. In order for the Weekends to be held with maximal attendance and success they are at this time considered second only to Intensives in terms of priority and protection.
5. If an Intensive and a Weekend are to be held at considerable distance from one another (i.e. opposite ends of the country) there will be mild to moderate competition for faculty and attendees. Therefore the Weekend shall be scheduled no closer than 6 weeks before and 4 weeks after the date of the Intensive.
6. If an Intensive and a Weekend are to be held in the same area of the country, the competition for faculty and attendees will be more extreme. In order to preserve the

chances of success for the Intensive offering, which requires a much greater expenditure of money, time, and effort, the ABS requires an 8-week separation between the two events.

7. There is an ever-changing variety of other events where the American Balint Society is approached or chooses to make application to run workshops or other educational ventures promoting Balint and/or the Society. In other instances individual members of the ABS are similarly approached or volunteer to present. The dates and publicizing of these educational opportunities are generally outside the control of our members. We support our colleagues who participate in such activities. To date, our participation in these events has not formally been identified with the American Balint Society, though often the participants identify themselves individually as members, officers, and/or credentialed leaders of the ABS. This practice has the support of the ABS.

8. Exceptions to these guidelines may be indicated in some cases because of the special nature of some proposed exercises or less clarity about the distance between events. In this case the Task Force will be consulted for guidance. If no consensus among the parties can be reached, the more strict guidelines outlined above will prevail.