

Case Study

Annual Conference

Sage Gateshead, Newcastle



EVENT & ASSOCIATION
MANAGEMENT

Delegant
organising  success

RDF23 was The Research and Development Forum's 2023 Annual Conference. The long-awaited annual conference was 4 years in the making due to COVID restrictions, so we were delighted to bring everyone back together after all this time and following the success of the 2019 conference. RDF19 took place in Brighton and was attended by approximately 600 delegates, 21 exhibitors, whereas 2023 saw over 850 attendees and 30 exhibitors attend.

RDF23 was a huge success with more delegates, speakers, sessions, exhibitors, sponsors and posters than ever before

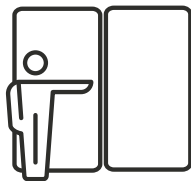
Delegant managed the entire event from venue finding to delegate bookings, exhibitor and sponsorship sales to AV, social media to graphic design, speaker liaison to printed materials, conference dinner to networking opportunities and workshops.

Event by Numbers

850+
attendees



30
exhibitors



60+
speakers



19
sponsors



5
networking events



1,321
hotel nights



Services Provided

- Full event management
- Venue branding
- Branded event material
- Interactive audience participation
- Newcastle guided tour
- 2 x Workshops
- 2 x Networking Evenings
- 2 x Conference Dinners
- Award presentations
- Social media before, during & after
- Event photography and video
- Event app



The Highlights

What makes the event so successful is the combination of attendees, presentations, workshops, the exhibition, and networking opportunities.

The event began on the Sunday afternoon with a guided tour of Newcastle, to provide delegates with an opportunity to see the sights and take in the history of the City. This led into a choice of two professional development workshops, before networking – the perfect pre-conference icebreaker.

The main conference was 2 days in duration, with a programme full of content including eminent speakers on the main stage and parallel sessions within 10 different streams focussed on specific topics. Speakers of the streams were selected from a Call for Abstracts, which saw 150 submissions, and proved to be very popular alongside the main plenary sessions. Four companies had booked to give a Demonstration Session at RDF23, and these comprised of two parts: a main 1-hour session and a bite size 30-minute session. Monday at Sage concluded with an Awards Ceremony to celebrate posters and abstracts award winners.

On the Monday evening, we welcomed 718 delegates across two 2 simultaneous Conference Dinners. The evening featured drinks receptions, superb food, and games, followed by live music. A fantastic night that brought everyone together to celebrate their hard work over the last few years.

This was the first time delivering onsite at a conference, where the Delegant team was split into two teams to run two events simultaneously at two different venues across Gateshead/Newcastle – and we did this on two occasions to a tremendous success.



Delegant

organising **D** success

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