

## **Housing Warning**

When SCCM secures sleeping rooms for the Critical Care Congress (commonly referred to as a “room block”), we research the hotel properties to make certain that attendees and exhibitors will be adequately accommodated. The room block is established to ensure that rooms meet SCCM standards and are offered at a discounted price. SCCM has been informed that attendees and exhibitors are often contacted via e-mail, fax or phone with offers for lower priced housing for the Critical Care Congress. The intent is to convince you that the offer is made on behalf of SCCM, or that the soliciting company is a viable alternative to reservations through SCCM’s official Housing site. This is not true. Housing for the 2018 Critical Care Congress is being handled exclusively through Orchid Events.

## **How the Scam Works**

Room poaching is a practice carried out by third-party companies that act as travel agencies, wholesalers or tour companies to solicit attendees and exhibitors for room reservations. The poachers might inform you that the hotel room block is “sold out,” and that if you do not book with them immediately, you may not secure a room for Congress. Additional deceptive tactics include distributing forms or promotional materials that appear to be issued by SCCM. Often, the SCCM logo is illegally used on their materials.

By booking attendee rooms, room poachers may make it difficult for SCCM to meet its room block commitments, exposing the Society to penalties and increased room rates for future meetings. Room poachers often don’t deliver on promises to customers, who arrive at the hotels only to find that their reservations are nonexistent or the hotels are not conveniently located to the meeting facility. Sometimes the rooms have been cancelled and hefty cancellation fees have been placed on the customer’s credit card.

## **What You Can Do To Help**

Don’t be misled! If you are contacted by *anyone* other than Orchid Events regarding a room for the 2018 Critical Care Congress, please get as much information as you can (including caller’s name, email, phone number and company name) Please alert SCCM as soon as possible by emailing the information to ([sccm@orchid.events](mailto:sccm@orchid.events)) and SCCM staff ([pdallstream@sccm.org](mailto:pdallstream@sccm.org)).

Thank you for your help in curtailing this deceptive practice!