

Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

It is the policy of the University of Chicago Center for Continuing Medical Education to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its individually sponsored or jointly sponsored educational activities. All faculty participating in University of Chicago sponsored activities are expected to disclose any relevant financial interest or other relationship with the manufacturers of any commercial products and/or providers of commercial services discussed in an educational presentation.

The ACCME has stated that 1) honoraria received through CME providers for participation in CME activities does *not* create a conflict of interest and 2) if the university that employs a potential faculty member is the recipient of a large research grant, and the faculty member is the PI, but performs these duties as part of his or her employment, *that is not a personal conflict of interest*.

Example terminology

What was received: Salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (eg, stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit.

Role(s): Employment, management position, independent contractor (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and “other activities” (please specify).

Glossary of Terms

Commercial interest

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) defines *commercial interest* as any proprietary entity producing, marketing, re-selling, distributing, or otherwise participating in or profiting from the distribution, promotion or sale of health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients (nonprofit organizations, government organizations, and non–health-care-related companies are exempted).

Financial relationships

Financial relationships are relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (e.g., stocks, stock options, or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit. Financial benefits are usually associated with roles such as employment, management, independent contracting (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and other activities from which remuneration is received or expected. The ACCME considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.

Relevant financial relationships

The ACCME focuses on financial relationships with commercial interests in the 12-month period preceding the time that the individual is being asked to assume a role controlling or influencing content of the CME activity. The ACCME has not set a minimal dollar amount for relationships to be significant. Inherent in any amount is the incentive to maintain or increase the value of the relationship. The ACCME defines *relevant financial relationships* as financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months that create a conflict of interest.

Conflict of interest

Circumstances create a conflict of interest when an individual has an opportunity to affect CME content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship.