Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy for Medical Student Education

Didactic Sessions

Purpose:

The health care environment requires physicians and biomedical scientists to make decisions about patient care, treatment and the funding of clinical and basic science research that maximizes the interests of the patient, maintains scientific integrity and limits bias. There is increasing emphasis on the disclosure of conflicts of interest at professional, educational and scientific meetings, as well as for faculty at the institutional level to ensure that industry relationships and monetary factors that may influence professional decision making, data collection and interpretation are understood and open.

Medical students are mentored and taught by faculty who are active participants in the processes of scientific inquiry and patient care requiring relationships and collaboration with a variety of pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers and private and public funding agencies that may influence their behavior and perceptions. It is important that students be made aware of these potential biases and conflicts of interest as they evaluate and assimilate information delivered in the educational setting.

Policy:

1. Faculty providing content delivery in any didactic session(s) (lecture, small group workshops, labs, conferences, etc.) must provide a statement of potential conflicts of interest when there is financial and/or personal benefit that may be associated with the information or content delivered in the educational session.
   - Faculty are not required to disclose professional COIs that are unrelated to the session content.
   - A COI statement is not required for those educational sessions with no relevant COI.
   - A COI statement is not required for financial or professional relationships with non-profit or government organizations or non-health care related companies.

2. A conflict of interest statement may be provided either as a slide at the beginning of the session or at the point at which material relevant to the COI is presented. If slides are not used there must be a written disclosure provided in the handout materials for the session.
   - Disclosure slides or handouts should include:
     - the name of the faculty member
     - relationships with any proprietary entities producing health care goods or services, related to the content of the educational session.
     - a brief description of the source of potential conflict including what is received (funding, a licensing agreement, etc.) and for what role or services (PI of clinical trial, inventor, etc.).

Date: March, 2010
ACCEPTABLE SAMPLE DISCLOSURES
Disclosures: Dr. Arnsten has a license agreement with Shire Pharmaceuticals for the development of guanfacine (Intuniv) for the treatment of ADHD and related disorders. She does consulting, teaching and research with Shire in relationship to this invention. Dr. Arnsten is also trying to develop chelerythrine for the treatment of bipolar disorder, PTSD, and other stress-related disorders. We are looking for a company to develop this invention.

Faculty Disclosure

Christopher H. van Dyck, MD

Dr van Dyck receives grant support from:

Dr van Dyck consults to:
BristolMyersSquibb
Acknowledgement is made on behalf of the Department that:

(Choose one as appropriate and edit)

~ There is no commercial support for this Grand Rounds.

OR

~ This Grand Rounds is supported by an educational grant from ____________ (insert name of corporate supporter) and we are grateful for their support.

Confirmation is also made that today’s lecture and faculty disclosure have been peer reviewed and:

(Choose one as appropriate and edit)

~ There are no conflicts of interest.

OR

~ Any conflicts of interest have been resolved.