

# The Endocrine Society's Statement on Industry Relationships

The Endocrine Society and its Hormone Foundation maintain complete independence between industry support of any and all of its programs and the content development of such programs. In the interest of transparency, the Society has developed the following principles to document its relationship to industry.

The Endocrine Society appreciates that appropriate relationships with industry offer important benefits for the field and for the public it serves. Collaborations with industry partners permit the Society to expand its programs significantly in the service of its mission of "excellence in hormone research and care of patients with endocrine disease." These relationships also facilitate fruitful communications between industry research, research occurring outside industry and endocrinology practice.

The Endocrine Society actively seeks outside financial or in-kind support for specific programs that further its fundamental goal of providing the highest quality education and professional development for endocrinologists. The Endocrine Society will accept financial or in-kind support for specific activities from pharmaceutical, device or biotech companies that adhere strictly to guidelines and regulations of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the Pharmaceutical & Research Manufacturers Association (PhRMA).

Recognizing the inherent risk of bias that accompanies the seeking and acceptance of outside funding, the Society has developed policies and procedures to ensure that, in so doing, its objectivity and credibility are not compromised in any way.

The following overarching principles govern all aspects of Society functioning:

1. Seeking of support from outside commercial entities is completely separate from the development of content of the supported activities.
2. Commercial supporters have no involvement in the content or decision-making around supported activities.
3. The Society seeks funding from multiple commercial sources for supported activities.
4. The Society discloses all sources of commercial support to participants for its educational activities.
5. For select highly sensitive activities, such as the development of clinical practice guidelines, no commercial sources of support are sought in order to avoid even the perception of conflict of interest.
6. The Society provides no endorsement of the services or products of commercial supporters.

7. Sources of commercial support do not influence the scientific, educational or public policy decisions of the Society.
8. From The Endocrine Society Bylaws:
  - a. All officers and Council members of the Society have an “affirmative duty to avoid conflicts of interest which may occur during their tenure;” and
  - b. Any Council members having a “duality of interest or possible conflict of interest on any matter shall not vote or use his or her personal influence on the matter...”
9. Society policy extends these two Bylaws requirements to all volunteers serving in its leadership.
10. A Society statement addressing conflicts of interests from outside relationships is read at the beginning of all Society Council and committee meetings.
11. All endocrinologists involved in Society activities and the senior staff must disclose any relationships with outside entities that may be relevant to their Society roles and responsibilities.
12. Disclosures are requested annually and are reviewed, made publicly known as a matter of course, and problems are resolved in a timely manner as necessary.
13. All conflicts of interest must be resolved prior to the occurrence of an activity or event for which the conflict may be relevant.
14. All Society activities are conducted in conformance with The Endocrine Society’s *Code of Ethics* and the *Ethical Aspects of Conflicts of Interest* policy document.

These safeguards are longstanding and are continually monitored and enhanced as needed, considering the constantly evolving regulatory environment in which the Society functions.

*Founded in 1916, **The Endocrine Society** is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. With over 14,000 members, the Society works to foster a greater understanding of endocrinology amongst the general public and practitioners of complementary medical disciplines and to promote the interests of all endocrinologists at the national scientific research and health policy levels of government.*

***The Hormone Foundation**, the public education affiliate of The Endocrine Society, is leading source of hormone-related health information for the public, physicians, allied health professionals and the media. Our mission is to serve as a resource for the public by promoting the prevention, treatment and cure of hormone-related conditions through outreach and education.*

*Approved by The Endocrine Society’s Council on June 8, 2009.*