



Conflict of Interest Policy

PURPOSE

The International Myeloma Society (IMS) is a professional, scientific, and medical society established to bring together clinical and experimental scientists involved in the study of myeloma. The purpose of this society is to promote research, education, clinical studies (including diagnosis and treatment), workshops, conferences, and symposia on all aspects of multiple myeloma worldwide.

The IMS is a membership organization comprised of basic research scientists, and clinical investigators in the field along with physicians and other healthcare practitioners.

IMS is governed by a Board of Directors representing practices from around the world and encourages and promotes the study of this expanding field through its educational initiatives.

The goals of the International Myeloma Society are to facilitate improved knowledge and understanding of appropriate, personalized therapeutic strategies for assessing and caring for patients with multiple myeloma. The IMS has a fundamental interest in ensuring that its educational content is consistent with these goals.

The purpose of this Conflict of Interest Policy is to help to ensure officers, directors, members, employees, volunteers, and presenters at International Myeloma Society educational programs observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities.

Such conflicts of interest may arise out of commitments involving honoraria, consultant relationships, participation in a speakers' bureau, stock holdings or options, royalties, ownership of a company or patent, research contracts or grants, and, in some instances, being an official representative of another organization.

This policy is intended to help to ensure that IMS educational programs and initiatives are free of bias arising from conflicts of interest.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

All invited faculty must disclose any relevant financial relationships related to this activity that you or your spouse/partner have had within the past 12 months. Any conflict of interest must also be announced verbally or in writing (slide, poster, etc.) during presentation at the meeting

All shall scrupulously avoid any conflict between their own respective personal, professional, or business interests and the interest of the Society, in any and all actions taken by them in their respective capacities on behalf of the Society.

1. Faculty Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationship

Faculty must disclose any relevant financial relationships including the following types: Compensated employment, leadership position (board or advisory committee member), consulting activity, speaking engagement, expert testimony, equity ownership, research funding, patents or other intellectual property interests.

2. Faculty Disclosure of Off-Label and/or Investigational Uses

If at any time during an educational activity the speaker intends to discuss off-label/investigative (unapproved) use of a commercial product/device, this must be disclosed by that individual to the audience.

3. Faculty Additional Policies

Additional policies to which faculty must agree prior to presenting at an International Myeloma Society educational program include the following:

If a faculty member is providing recommendations involving clinical medicine, they will be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indication and contraindications in the care of patients. All scientific research referred to in support of a patient-care recommendation will conform to generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, and analysis.

The presentation of the information with which a faculty member is involved will promote quality in health care or advancements in science and will not promote a scientific proprietary business interest or a commercial interest. Content for this activity and publication, including any presentation of therapeutic options, will be well-balanced and unbiased.

If a faculty member has been trained or utilized by a commercial entity or its agent as a speaker for any commercial interest, the promotional aspects of that presentation will not be included in any way with an IMS activity or publication.

Educational Program Support

No entity providing support for IMS educational programs can select speakers who will present content at the program nor can it be involved in the development of the content for the program.

This arrangement helps to ensure there is a firewall between the funding from commercial interests and the development of the educational program and content. The International Myeloma Society's educational program committee established for each of the educational initiatives is charged with abstract review and the final selection of all content and invited faculty.

PROCEDURES TO DISCLOSE CONFLICTS

The primary obligation of any person subject to this Policy who may be involved in a conflict of interest situation is to bring it to the attention of those charged with reviewing disclosure procedures so that the potential conflict can be evaluated and addressed.

Faculty at IMS educational programs must verbally disclose relevant information regarding potential conflicts to the audience in conjunction with each activity. These disclosures will also be included in slides shown and/or written materials distributed at the activity. Having a conflict does not preclude an individual from participating as a faculty member.

Other individuals subject to this policy including officers, directors, members, employees, and volunteers must also disclose potential conflicts. This should be done on an annual basis. After disclosure of all material facts and any follow-up discussion with the Interested Person with a potential conflict of interest, a determination must be made about whether a material actual conflict exists. Where it is determined that an actual conflict of interest exists, the decision-making body will recommend an appropriate course of action to protect the interests of the Society. Such decisions include, but are not limited to: 1) the affected individual divests him/herself of the relationship causing the conflict of interest and/or; 2) recusing individuals from controlling aspects of planning and content with which they have a conflict of interest and/or; 3) using a peer-review process for planning decisions by individuals who do not have conflicts of interest related to the content and/or; 4) using a peer-review process for content (for faculty) by individuals that do not have conflicts of interest related to the content and/or; 5) ensuring clinical recommendations are evidence-based and free of commercial bias by reviewing all presentation materials in advance and addressing any required modifications immediately. All disclosures and the outcome of the deliberation about whether a conflict of interest exists will be recorded in the minutes of the appropriate deliberative meeting.