

Policy



Policy Title: Guidelines for Interactions between the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Industry	Category: Institutional Policies and Guidelines
Accountable Dean or Director: Dean of Medical Education	
Reviewed By: Executive Oversight Committee (EOC)	Approved By:
Effective Dates: AY2022/23	Review Dates: TBD

POLICY:

The relationship between the Medical School and industry (including pharmaceutical, biotech, medical device, and hospital and research equipment and supplies industries) can be complicated. These guidelines are meant to protect the integrity of medical education and the care of future patients. They highlight the types of decisions that you, as a medical student, will face, implicitly or explicitly, for the remainder of your professional careers. As such, the guidelines encourage critical thought about the interactions between physicians in training and industry.

Scope

The students of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, while on campus, at affiliated hospitals and clinics, and during any meeting in which medical information is being transferred.

Gifts and Compensation

Meals or other types of food directly funded by industry should not be provided at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. We encourage students to critically evaluate their acceptance of food and the circumstances under which it is proffered by industry representatives during clinical training at The Mount Sinai Hospital, Mount Sinai clinics, affiliates, and off-campus training and gathering sites.

Promotional items such as pens, note pads, brochures, and other “reminder” items should not be distributed at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. We discourage you from bringing such items into the School of Medicine, so we can maintain a learning environment free of industry influence. Brochures and other industry-sponsored educational material should not be used for educational purposes.

Please refer to applicable policies such as the AMA Statement on Gifts to Physicians from Industry, and the Accrediting Council for Continuing Medical Education Standards for Commercial Support.

Gifts such as aforementioned promotional items (e.g., textbooks, tickets, entertainment) or monetary compensation of any value, should not be accepted from industry representatives both on and off the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai campus, related or unrelated to your participation in events sponsored by industry.

Sample Medications should not be distributed on the campus of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. We encourage you to critically assess the circumstances under which sample medications are used on and off-campus: who receives them, and why. You should not accept sample medication for personal use or sale.

Provision of Scholarships and Other Educational Funds

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai physicians and teaching staff should ensure that support of our students by industry, is free of any actual or perceived conflict of interest. This includes funding mechanisms such as scholarships, reimbursement of travel expenses, or other non-research funding in support of scholarship or training

Industry support must comply with all of the following:

- The School of Medicine department, program, or division selects the student.
- The funds are given directly to the department, program, or division and not to the student.
- The department, program, or division determines that the conference or training in question has educational merit.
- The student-recipient of funds is not subjected to any implicit or explicit expectation of providing something in return for any support given.

This provision may not apply to national or regional merit-based awards, which are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Support for Educational Programs

Icahn School of Medicine medical students should be familiar with the Standards for Commercial Support established by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. These standards offer useful ways to assess all forms of industry interactions, both on and off campus, and including both Icahn School of Medicine-sponsored events and other events. The standards can be found on the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) website.

A. All educational events sponsored by industry on the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai campus must comply fully with ACCME guidelines whether or not you receive formal CME credit.

B. If attendees are going to receive CME credit is, the conference should illustrate to students some of the decisions that affect the sponsorship and provision of information more generally:

1. All decisions concerning educational needs, objectives, content, methods, evaluation, and speaker are made without commercial interest. (ACCME Standard 1.1)
2. A commercial interest is not assuming the role of a non-accredited partner in a joint sponsorship. (ACCME Standard 1.2)
3. All persons in a position to control the content of an educational activity have disclosed all relevant financial relationships to the CME provider. A relevant financial relationship is one in which an individual (or spouse or partner) has a commercial interest that benefits the individual in any financial amount. This financial benefit could have occurred any time within the past 12 months. Failure to disclose these relationships will result in disqualification of the individual from participation in the CME activity or its planning or evaluation. (ACCME Standard 1.1, 1.2)
4. The lecturer explicitly describes all their related financial relationships to the audience at the beginning of the educational activity. If an individual has no relevant financial relationship, the learners should be informed that no relevant financial relationship exists. (ACCME Standard 6.1, 6.2)
5. The lecturer clarifies and resolves all conflicts of interest prior to delivering the educational activity to learners. (ACCME Standard 2.3)
6. We establish written policies and procedures that govern honoraria and reimbursement of out of pocket expenses for planners, teachers, and authors. (ACCME Standard 3.7)
7. We prohibit product-promotion material or product-specific advertisements of any type during CME activities. Presenters avoid juxtaposing editorial and advertising material on the same products or subjects. Keep all live (staffed exhibits, presentation) or enduring (printed or electronic advertisements) promotional activities separate from CME. (ACCME Standard 4.2)
8. We do not use a commercial interest to provide a CME activity to learners, e.g., distribution of self-study CME activities or arranging for electronic access to CME activities. (ACCME Standard 4.5)
9. The content of format of a CME activity or its related materials must promote improvements or quality in health care and not a specific proprietary business interest of a commercial interest. (ACCME Standard 5.1)
10. Attendees in the audience are not compensated or otherwise materially rewarded for attendance, including payment of travel expenses, lodging, honoraria, or personal expenses. (ACCME Standard 3.12)
11. In addition to the standards above, funds contributed to the Medical School to pay for a specific educational activity should be provided to a department, program, or section and not to individual faculty.

C. Off the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Campus—Clinical and scientific meetings sponsored by professional societies often derive a portion of their support from industry. Such support may result in inappropriate influence by industry on the content of the meeting or on its

attendees. Industry sponsorship usually adopts one of two possible forms, with different standards applying to each:

1. Partial sponsorship of a meeting otherwise run by a professional society—We encourage Icahn School of Medicine medical students to participate in the meetings of professional societies for educational purposes, and as an opportunity to showcase their own research. You should be aware, however, of the potential conflicts of interest at work in such meetings, and should be scrupulous in determining whether and how to attend and participate.

2. Full sponsorship of a meeting run by industry (including commercial education services)—We encourage you to pay particular attention to the content and organization of such meetings and lectures.

3. We encourage our students to assess the following points when determining the academic value of any conference, lecture, or meeting:

a) Is financial support by industry fully disclosed at the meeting by the sponsor, and what is the extent of that support?

b) Is the meeting or lecture content, including slides and written materials, determined by the speaker(s) alone?

c) Does each speaker provide a balanced assessment of therapeutic options, and promote objective scientific and educational activities and discourse?

d) Are attendees in the audience being compensated or otherwise materially rewarded for attendance through payment of travel expenses or the provision of food or gifts?

e) Are gifts of any type being distributed to attendees before, during, or after the meeting or lecture?

f) Has each lecturer explicitly described any conflicts of interest, and have they resolved these conflicts?

Disclosure of Relationships with Industry

All Icahn School of Medicine faculty and lecturers must fully disclose any relevant past, present, or future relationships with industry at the beginning of each lecture to students.

Faculty with supervisory responsibilities for students should take great care to ensure that the faculty member's actual or potential conflicts of interest do not affect or appear to affect the supervision and education of the student.

Training of Students Regarding Conflicts of Interest

All students will receive training regarding actual and potential conflicts of interest in interactions with industry at all levels of education and professional practice.

Site Access by Sales and Marketing Representatives

A. Sales and marketing representatives are not allowed anywhere that education or clinical care are delivered on the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai campus unless they are providing an in-service training on devices and other equipment, and then only by appointment. This includes commercial education services such as publishers and board review programs.

B. Appointments may be made on a per-visit basis at the discretion of a faculty member, their division or department, or designated medical school personnel issuing the invitation and with the approval of medical school administration.

C. Sales and marketing representatives will receive a copy of these guidelines before their presentation, and will sign a statement to the effect that they have received and understand these guidelines. The representatives will then receive a badge clearly identifying themselves.

D. Marketing tools and other “reminder” materials will be removed entirely from any space used by sales and marketing representatives after their appointment on campus.

E. Industry representatives will not approach medical students unsolicited at any point during their stay on the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai campus.

Due to patient confidentiality concerns, while on campus and off, medical students are not permitted to answer questions related to their patients or patient care, or facilitate access to any portion of medical records.