

Education Policy on Interaction with Industry

Introduction

The Canadian Thoracic Society recognizes industry as an important partner in relation to both CTS activities and the broader health care system. Industry plays a vital role in advancing research and helping to enhance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases in Canada. It also makes financial resources available to medical societies such as the CTS, thus facilitating the development and delivery of a number of education programs.

The CTS recognizes the complexity of its relationship with industry and wishes to ensure that CTS activities remain transparent, coherent and free of influence by the industry. To that end, it has developed this policy, the “CTS Education Policy on Interaction with Industry”, which works in tandem with the CTS Conflict of Interest Policy. This policy is based in large part on the 2007 CMA Guidelines for Physicians in Interactions with Industry and primarily addresses the CTS relationship with industry, as it relates to educational projects.

1. CME (including E-CME)

- 1.1 As the medical organization developing or co-developing CME programs, the CTS retains complete control over the organization, content and choice of CME activities, as well as over the choice of faculty.
- 1.2 Although industry representatives can take part in organizing the logistics of an educational program, they will not be part of any CTS CME planning committees.
- 1.3 CME planning committees will ensure that generic names are used in addition to the trade names in the course of CME/CPD activities. All faculty will be informed of this requirement through written communications and the CTS PD Committee will monitor compliance at CTS CME events.
- 1.4 The CTS will send formal letters to faculty confirming their acceptance to take part in CTS CME programs and informing them of their responsibility to ensure their presentations (and any recommendations) are balanced, do not reflect industry bias and are evidence based. Faculty will also be informed that:
 - If specific products or services are mentioned in CME programs, there should be a balanced presentation of the prevailing body of scientific information on the product or service and of reasonable, alternative treatment options; The only caveat to this guideline is where there is only one treatment or management strategy.

- Unapproved use of products or services must be declared by faculty presenters.

Where appropriate, the CTS Professional Development Committee (or its successor) will conduct content reviews of presentations where the likelihood of commercial bias is assessed to be high.

2. Guidelines Committees

Industry representatives will not be part of guidelines development committees; they can however be members of dissemination and implementation committees.

3. Satellite Symposia

- 3.1 The term "Satellite Symposia" will be restricted to unaccredited group learning events.
- 3.2 Satellite symposia, as unaccredited group learning events, will not:
 - Occur at times that would conflict with or compete with other accredited group learning activities;
 - Be listed or included within conference brochures or schedules.
- 3.3 Information on satellite symposia may be provided on program Web sites through a hyperlink (s) to a separate page (s), provided the main site clearly identifies satellite symposia as unaccredited learning events.
- 3.4 The contracted conference organizer may promote satellite symposia by email.
- 3.5 Any accredited session that is co-developed by the CTS and industry must meet RCPSC accreditation criteria and be listed as a session within the overall program itself. The sponsorship for such a session would be acknowledged through acknowledgement of sponsorship for the overall learning event or the conference. An accredited session cannot be identified as being supported by a particular sponsor.

4. Funds Management

- 4.1 All funds obtained from industry will be received in the form of an educational grant (formerly referred to as unrestricted educational grant). Although sponsors may not influence how the funds are used, they are entitled to receive a report describing how funds have been used, after the event has been held.
- 4.2 All funds obtained from the industry will be collected and managed through the CTS Secretariat & Lung Association office. In no case can funding be provided directly to an individual or to another organization than the CTS or The Lung Association (TLA) in support of CTS / TLA activities.

- 4.3 All payments for honoraria and travel expenses associated with educational events as well as committee meetings will be administered through the CTS Secretariat & Lung Association office. Under no circumstances can faculty, committee members or staff be compensated directly by industry for travel or expenses.
- 4.4 Travel and accommodation expenses can be covered for faculty, committee members and staff but can not be covered for conference attendees or the faculty's personal guests.
- 4.5 All CTS committee meetings will be organized through the CTS Secretariat. Meeting expenses will be in keeping with spending practices and guidelines established by the CTS or TLA. Committees working on co-developed programs may be organized through the co-developer, provided the spending practices of the co-developer do not significantly diverge from with those of the CTS.
- 4.6 Hospitality and other social arrangements held at CTS educational events will be modest and will not compete in any way with planned educational activities.
- 4.7 Scholarship or other special funding to permit medical students, residents, or fellows to attend educational events may be provided, provided the selection of students, residents or fellows who will receive the funds is made either by the academic or training institution, or by the CTS.

5. Sponsor Recognition:

- 5.1 The CTS recognizes the need to acknowledge industry support. It will seek to acknowledge support without demonstrating or appearing to demonstrate preference for a particular sponsor or its products. Moreover, while acknowledging the financial contributions from industry, all of the CTS' communication products relating to educational events will be developed in such a manner as to give prominence to the educational components of the program. Industry support will have a lesser profile on program materials (regardless of media).
- 5.2 The financial support offered by sponsors will be acknowledged, commensurate with the amount contributed, through one or more forms of recognition listed on the List of Approved Forms of Sponsor Recognition.
- 5.3 With rapid changes continuously occurring in communications media, the CTS recognizes that opportunities to develop new ways of acknowledging sponsorship may arise. The Professional Development Committee or its successor may approve new ways of acknowledgement provided those ways of recognition respect the CTS Policy on Interaction with Industry. Such ways of recognition will be formally integrated into the Approved List of Forms of Sponsor Recognition when the list is reviewed as part of the tri-annual review of the CTS Policy on Interaction with Industry.

6. Promotional Displays

- 6.1 Sponsors will be reminded of their responsibility to comply with the requirements of both the PAAB and the RX&D Code of Marketing Practices while holding exhibits at educational events. It is expected that they will comply with these requirements voluntarily. The Professional Development Committee (or its successor) will monitor compliance and deal with any issues that arise on a case by case basis, after the educational event has been held.
- 6.2 Promotional displays will not be placed in areas where educational sessions are being conducted or immediately outside those areas.
- 6.3 Promotional displays will include only published materials.

7. Sponsor Communications

All communications with industry with regard to industry funding must be coordinated through the CTS/LA Funds Manager. Members of program committees who engage in communications with industry do so in collaboration with the funds manager.

8. Administration of Policy

This policy will be formally reviewed by the CTS Board at least once every three years to ensure the policy is still relevant and adequate, and that it is consistently implemented.