



Conflict of Interest policy

A responsible and productive alliance with pharmaceutical and other medical technology companies (“industry”) is both possible and desirable in pursuit of our organisation’s goals. However, there are areas in which conflicts of interest, or the perception of such conflicts, may arise. These areas generally involve the potential for bias in our policies, educational programmes, and research. In order to minimise this potential, we endorse the following guidelines:

General

1. IHS shall maintain complete control over its policies. To this end, no representatives of pharmaceutical or medical device companies will participate in formulating or revising these policies.
2. IHS will strive to provide a balanced impartial view of data pertaining to commercial products. IHS will not endorse specific products.
3. IHS will establish industry-sponsored programs only when they align entirely with the IHS’s missions.
4. IHS will make reasonable efforts to use multiple industry sponsors for sponsored programmes.
5. Corporate roundtables are acceptable as long as round table members do not exercise control over or otherwise dictate any aspect of IHS policy or its programmes

Educational Programmes

6. IHS shall maintain complete control over the planning, content, and delivery of its educational programmes. To this end, no representatives of pharmaceutical or medical device companies will be involved in planning or directing its public educational and scientific meetings. No IHS presentations will include any industry-sponsored promotional or marketing material, or any industry created presentation materials. The IHS will not solicit industry suggestions about topics, speakers, or content.
7. Speakers, presenters, moderators, and planning committee members at IHS educational conferences will disclose all ties with industry, including roles as consultants, investigators, sponsored speakers, shareholders, or employees. This information will be clearly stated in programme brochures, and updated by the speaker at the time of her/his presentation. IHS course directors will not assign lecture, discussant, or moderator roles to individuals with significant COI relevant to their roles.

8. All individuals in control of educational content are prohibited from taking any compensation directly from industry in connection with a CME activity. All individuals in control of educational content will not participate in seeking grants and other funding from industry

9. Promotional and marketing activities by pharmaceutical companies at IHS conferences including satellite programmes and exhibits will be clearly identified and strictly separated from educational and scientific presentations.

10. IHS will discourage the distribution of non-educational, non-clinically useful or excessive gifts to attendees at its conferences. IHS will review industry exhibits at meetings and may reject or restrict those deemed inappropriate.

11. Individuals presenting or moderating at IHS educational sessions will disclose at the time of their presentation all financial relationships with industry and explain how any of these are particularly relevant to their presentation or session.

12. Satellite symposia – i.e., industry created presentations – will be carefully selected by programme committees and will be clearly delineated from IHS sponsored programmes. Speakers and moderators at scientific or educational programs will be restricted from involvement in more than one satellite program. Speakers and moderators at educational/scientific programmes will be restricted from speaking or moderating in satellite programmes concerning the same topics.

IHS Research

13. IHS shall maintain complete control over planning, execution, and publication of IHS investigator-initiated research. IHS will decide when and where to submit results of these studies for publication.

14. Publications will only include authors who meaningfully participated in the research studies reported.

15. Industry support for published research sponsored by IHS will be clearly identified and well as all industry-related COI of each author.

Website and media

16. IHS shall maintain complete control over the content of its website, newsletter, and any other publications. No IHS media will include any industry-sponsored promotional or marketing material, or any industry created presentation materials.

17. Authors and creators of all IHS publications will disclose all ties with industry, including roles as consultants, investigators, sponsored speakers, shareholders, or employees. This information will be clearly displayed.

IHS Board of Trustees

18. Members of the IHS Board of Trustees shall not use their position for private gain. They shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private organisation or individual.

19. IHS and members of its Board of Trustees will not accept gifts from pharmaceutical or device companies, other than educational or clinically useful items of modest value, or modest meals accompanying conferences.

20. Members of the IHS Board of Trustees and IHS course directors may receive reasonable compensation from pharmaceutical or other companies for services provided (e.g., bona fide consultation with pharmaceutical and medical technology companies, lecture engagements supported by industry sponsors, or participation as investigators in industry-sponsored research studies). These relationships will be made clear on the IHS public website.

21. Members of the IHS Board of Trustees and IHS course directors may not 1) be employees of, 2) sit on the board of directors of, or 3) own shares/stock in pharmaceutical or medical device companies (other than as part of a broad investment fund), as these are considered to pose unmanageable conflicts of interest. Ownership of stock options in a company is allowed.

Grants and scholarship

22. IHS will accept grants for support of its programmes, over which it has complete control, and which do not pose unmanageable conflict of interest.

23. IHS shall maintain complete control over grants and scholarships it awards and will choose recipients in an unbiased fashion. To this end, no representatives of pharmaceutical or medical device companies will be involved at any level in awarding these grants.

References

1. *Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Policies* <https://www.accme.org/accreditation-rules/standards-for-integrity-independence-accredited-ce>
2. *Principles governing academy relationships with external sources of support - American Academy of Neurology* <https://www.aan.com/siteassets/home-page/footer/about-the-aan/principles-governing-academy-relationships-with-external-sources-of-support.pdf>
3. *Relationships & conflicts of interest policy - American Academy of Neurology* <https://www.aan.com/siteassets/home-page/footer/about-the-aan/aan-relationships--conflicts-of-interest-policy.pdf>
4. *Levin M. Practical Professional Ethics in Headache Medicine. Headache. 2020 May 30;60(9):2053-8.*

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