



# International Headache Society

## *Ethics Committee Report September 2022*

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# Outline

- Ethics Committee Aims
- New (Draft) IHS policy for managing COI
- Ethics committee sponsored course at IHC 2023
- Selecting new committee members and other future plans for EthCom

# Why should medical organizations adhere to high ethical values?

- Avoids lawsuits
- Builds public trust (we need that to fulfill IHS education goals)
- Builds public and political credibility (for advocacy goals)
- It feels right; makes members want to belong to and work for the society

# IHS Ethics Committee Aims

Identify, interpret, and manage current challenging ethical issues pertaining to headache medicine at three levels:

## 1: Headache patients and their families

To promote the welfare of people with headache disorders by publishing advice, guidance and recommendations on ethical issues relevant to research, practice and treatment of headache disorders

## 2: Headache Treatment and Research

To draft statements which will bring the relevant ethical concerns in the field of headache medicine to the attention of governments, the medical and allied professions, the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, lay and charitable organizations and any other relevant parties

## 3. IHS Membership and Organization Activities

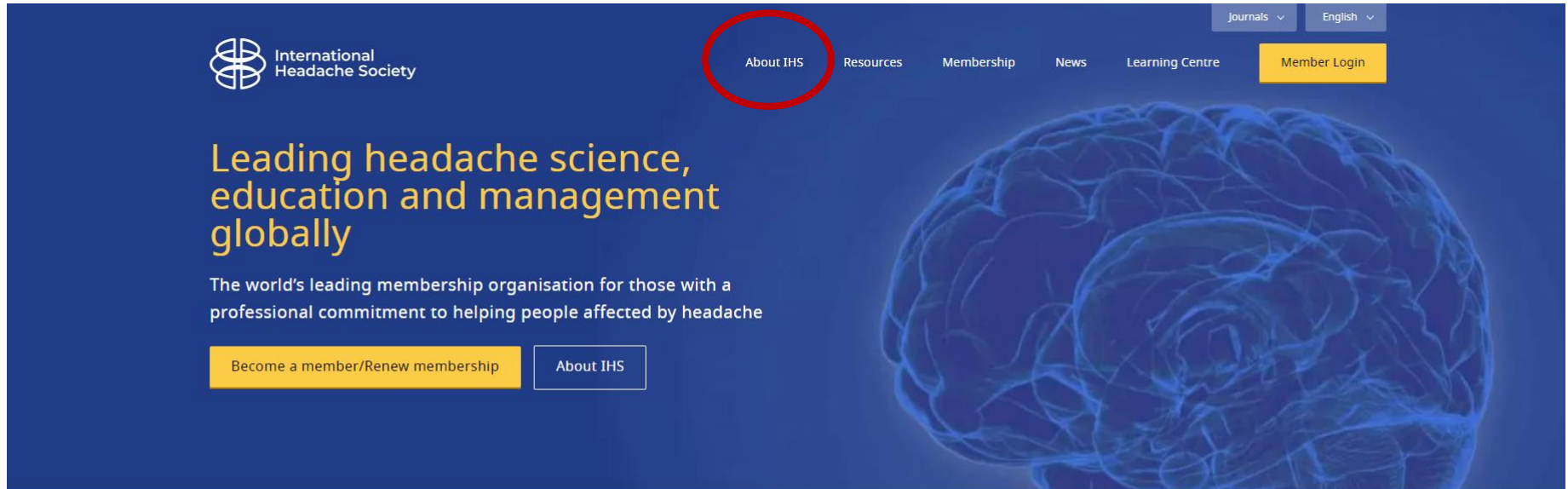
To address ethical concerns of International Headache Society members regarding IHS activities, and to initiate reviews of IHS activities that raise ethical concerns that are referred to or identified by IHS Ethics Committee

# Conflict of Interest Policy has been updated and posted on website

## *Principles:*

- COI is essentially unavoidable. It can be minimized and it can be managed to avoid unprofessional behavior (biased presentations, promotion of commercial products, withholding of information, dishonesty)
- Best approaches include prohibiting industry from controlling content of educational sessions and data presentations, and clear and specific disclosure of COI by each speaker and meeting planner.
- A responsible and productive alliance with pharmaceutical and other medical technology companies is both possible and sometimes desirable in pursuit of our organization's goals. However there are a number of 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 programs, and research. In order to minimize potential conflict of interest we endorse the following guidelines:

# Ihs-headache.org → About Us



This site promotes the Society and its activities, and is home to the Society's international journal Cephalalgia. We welcome Society members and all who work or seek information in the field of headache.

As a charity, the purpose of IHS is to advance headache science, education, and management, and promote headache awareness worldwide.

# Articles and Policies

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## About IHS

[Meet the President](#)[IHS Board of Trustees](#)[Standing Committees](#)[Special Interest Groups](#)[Honorary Life Members](#)[Affiliate Member Societies](#)[International Headache Academy  
\(IHAAD\)](#)[Articles and Policies](#)[Annual General Meeting/Annual  
Accounts](#)[IHS Global Patient Advocacy Coalition  
\(IHS G-PAC\)](#)

## We are the International Headache Society

IHS is an international professional organisation working with others for the benefit of people affected by headache disorders. As a charity, the purpose of IHS is to advance headache science, education, and management, and promote headache awareness worldwide.

### Our values

#### 1. Commitment to Excellence

IHS strives for excellence in its activities, and will set challenging but achievable goals.

#### 2. Respect for Expertise

IHS values expertise and the full range of skills and disciplines that are needed for the realisation of its objectives.

#### 3. Respect for Science

IHS recognises that good healthcare is based on evidence, and that the origins of evidence lie in responsible research and scientific method.

#### 4. Commitment to Independence from Inappropriate Influence

# IHS COI policy



## About IHS

[Meet the President](#)

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[Articles and Policies](#)

[Annual General Meeting/Annual Accounts](#)

[IHS Global Patient Advocacy Coalition \(IHS-GPAC\)](#)

## Articles and Policies

### Articles

IHS is governed by its Articles of Association and accompanying Bylaws.

[IHS Articles of Association](#)

[Download](#)

The accompanying Bylaws document is available to IHS members on request. Please [email the IHS Administration Team](#).

### Policies

IHS develops management policies

[IHS Data Privacy Statement](#)

[IHS Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

[IHS Risk Management Policy](#)

## Policies

IHS develops management policies according to UK company law and UK Charity Commission guidelines.

[IHS Data Privacy Statement](#)

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[IHS Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

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[IHS Risk Management Policy](#)

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# IHS Conflict of Interest Policy

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

# IHS Conflict of Interest Policy

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.

# IHS Conflict of Interest Policy

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.

# IHS Conflict of Interest Policy

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 Conflict of Interest Policy

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.

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.

# IHS Conflict of Interest Policy

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.

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.

# IHS Conflict of Interest Policy

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.

# IHS Conflict of Interest Policy

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.



# Industry presentations at IHC –

- There are 3 levels of presentations at IHCs:
  - 1) investigator-initiated research
  - 2) industry-sponsored research
  - 3) industry symposia (Industry satellites).
- Which ones are allowed for IHC speakers and leaders?
- OK to present research as long as full disclosure of funding is made
- Satellites: Previously, for IHS board members, meeting planners, and IHC lecturers speaking at industry events, The EthCom recommend a maximum of one industry presentation at IHC. For this to be meaningful however, speakers at IHC sessions **MUST** disclose these industry talks properly, not just a disclosure listing. A disclosure slide has been recommended. There will be consequences for any violations.

# IHC 2021 Course on Ethics

## ***Ethical Issues in Headache Medicine (Day 1 18:45-20:15)***

### Moderator and Introduction (10')

Speaker: Allan Purdy, Canada

### Professional Ethics for Headache Medicine Practitioners (20')

Speaker: Mo Levin, United States

### Research and Publication Ethics in Headache Medicine (20')

Speaker: Tom Ward, United States

### Ethical Issues involving DEI in Headache Medicine (20')

Speaker: Cynthia Armand, United States (Anne MacGregor, UK, cancelled)

### Q&A (20')

[Ethics Committee proposes a practical HA Medicine Ethics course at next IHC](#)

# IHC 2023 Ethics Program - proposal

- Director – Mo Levin with 1-2 more speakers to be determined
- Length – 75-120 min
- Topics to be covered might include:
  - Practical ethical concerns for HA medicine specialists including COI, prescribing costly medication, using non-evidence-based treatment, informing about adverse effects of treatments
  - Issues of equity – biases in diagnoses and treatment
  - Industry influence in research
  - Physician burnout

# Future plans

- Dr Mo Levin remains as interim chair until replacement can be found.
- Mo and IHS president will collaborate to choose new Ethics committee members
- Plans for a position statement concerning research and publication ethics to be submitted to Cephalalgia. This will address in a balanced way authorship issues, research conflicts of interest and several other important issues.
- *Thanks to the IHS Board of Trustees, IHS Advisory Council and Members!*