

# **AACP Organizational Policy on Accepting Corporate Support**

**November 23, 2009 Draft**

## **Introduction**

In late April 2009, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a report on conflicts of interest that covers many aspects of research, education, and practice as well as institutional financial relationships. The IOM called for national professional organizations to create policies for the disclosure of financial relationships with industry, here after called corporate entities. The IOM committee found that CME (and we can extrapolate that this applies to CPE as well) “has become far too reliant on industry funding” and that this funding “tends to promote a narrow focus on products,” not “a broader education on strategies for managing health conditions and other important issues, such as communication and prevention.” It concluded “that the current system of funding is unacceptable and should not continue.” However, it must be noted that since the committee did not recommend a specific path to reform, it is incumbent on each professional organization to develop its own policies.

The AACP believes that its relationships with corporate entities must be carefully structured or not entered into at all to avoid compromising its integrity and reputation and adversely affecting its members and the students they educate. Although corporate support has contributed to AACP’s mission in a variety of ways over the years the organization believes that in light of the prevailing evidence now is the appropriate time to adopt a formal policy to guide the acceptance of corporate support.

The following policy statements, will underlie all financial (and gift in-kind) interactions between The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and corporate entities. These policies are designed to minimize and in some cases manage real or perceived conflicts of interest with corporate supporters:

1. AACP will engage with corporate entities, including vendors, with the same level of professionalism and integrity that it extends to members and others in the health and education professions.
2. AACP will rigorously evaluate potential corporate partners’ mission alignment, funding interests, and other relevant criteria before accepting any corporate support to assure that there is no undue influence on the learning opportunities of Association members including faculty, staff, administrators, and student pharmacists or the outcomes of patients they care for.
3. AACP will only accept financial support from a corporate entity if the proposed activity, awards program, event or program, or collaborative partnership which is to be supported is under AACP’s control.

- Support for awards from corporate entities will be accepted based on established criteria for acceptance. An award may be named after a donor, at the discretion of the AACCP Board of Directors.
  - General support for its national meetings, summits, workshops or seminars that is not linked to any specific presentation or program session will continue to be accepted based on established criteria.
  - Funding to support a corporate exhibit program will continue to be accepted with the provision that only professional informational gifts, books, reprints of articles, with a monetary value less than \$100, will be available to meeting registrants.
4. AACCP will not accept corporate support for educational programming (CPE or non-CPE) at its national meetings, summits, workshops or seminars or for any activity related to governance, strategic planning, policy development, or advocacy. Funding for educational programming, whether such support is provided directly or indirectly through subsidiary agencies, will no longer be solicited or accepted as of January 1, 2011.
5. AACCP does not endorse corporate entities nor the products they produce and takes appropriate action to minimize commercial influence.