

ICS Policy for Interactions with Industry/Vendors

PURPOSE

To establish ICS standards governing the relationship between ICS committee projects and for-profit commercial providers of services or supplies that support complement research, including entities that provide, develop or produce pharmaceuticals, medical devices, clinical diagnostic and/or basic/clinical research tests, clinical services or supplies, as well as intermediary organizations retained by such entities (hereinafter “industry” or “vendors”).

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides the standards by which ICS Officers/Councilors/Committee Members are expected to conduct themselves when dealing with industry on behalf of the society. Although relationships between ICS and vendors can facilitate a mutually beneficial exchange of information about products or services relevant to research and patient care, these relationships can also create the potential for conflicts of interest and abuse.

These standards are designed to protect the integrity of ICS committees and to ensure that committee members comply with all relevant federal/state laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the anti-kickback and self-referral laws, “sunshine” laws, Prescription Drug Marketing Act, Medical Device Manufacturers Conduct Law and the laws governing tax-exempt organizations.

PROCEDURE

A direct financial relationship is defined as a relationship held by an individual that receives wages, consulting fees, honoraria or other compensation (in cash, stock or in-kind), whether paid to the individual or to another entity at the direction of the individual, for the individual’s services or expertise.

- a. ICS Executive Committee members, Board of Councilors or Committee Members may not accept any form of personal gift or compensation from industry or industry representatives directly related to ICS projects or activities; this stipulation is not meant to affect the ability to accept consultancies for projects, sponsored research or other activities unrelated to their role(s) in the ICS;
- b. All industry funding for ICS projects or activities must be paid directly to the ICS;
- c. If a Committee member has personal financial interest, excluding unrelated consultancies or sponsored research activities, with the same industry entity with which the Committee is interacting on projects or activities, the individual should recuse him/herself;
- d. Committee members must fully disclose all relationships with vendors on an annual basis by filling out and signing the annual ICS Conflict of Interest form;

- e. Committee members will determine, prior to starting a project with a vendor, the separation of intellectual property (IP), ownership, confidentiality and copyright requirements;
- f. Financial support of ICS projects by industry will be disclosed to the ICS membership;
- g. Vendor support is allowed for trainees provided the following conditions are met:
 - 1. The trainee recipient is selected through a peer review process and both the trainees and proposed training are endorsed by ICS and YCI;
 - 2. The trainee is not subject to any implicit or explicit quid pro quo (i.e. no strings attached). Specifically, there should be no actual or perceived conflict of interest related to the financial support of trainees;
 - 3. The fellowship or scholarship program must be reviewed and approved by ICS Officers/Council and YCI;
 - 4. The funds for the training or scholarship must be paid to ICS to distribute for travel, stipends and housing.

These guidelines supplement the standard ICS Conflict of Interest disclosure form required by all ICS Officers and Council. This policy is not intended to address all possible situations involving financial relationships between ICS and industry entities. ICS members with questions regarding relationships are encouraged to discuss the issue with ICS Officers.

Because each member's individual circumstances are unique, exceptions to these guidelines may be considered by the ICS Officers who will make a recommendation to the ICS Council.