



Conflict of Interest Resolution Policy for Abstract Presentations (Adopted 05/2022)

PURPOSE

To ensure that all research abstracts are reviewed and categorized fairly into industry-affiliated and CME research sessions, the Conflict of Interest Task Force (COITF) has developed the following policy.

POLICY

1. Investigator Disclosures
 - a. If the presenter of the abstract is an employee of an ACCME-defined ineligible company*, the abstract will be considered an industry submission.
 - b. If the presenter of the abstract is an equity owner in a privately-held ACCME-defined ineligible company, the abstract will be considered an industry submission.
 - c. For any abstract submitted, all investigators with financial relationships with an ACCME-defined ineligible company will be required to disclose the dollar amount of remuneration they receive from each of those relationships.
2. The Research Division will review all disclosures and abstracts in a blind fashion. During the evaluation process, Research Division members will assess the level of potential commercial bias for all abstracts using a rating scale of 0-10, with 0 representing no potential bias (*e.g.*, not industry funded, and investigators have no relevant conflicts of interest) and 10 representing very high probability of commercial bias (*e.g.*, industry funded, with employees or equity owners of funding company as investigators, and significant numbers of paid consultants comprising remaining investigator team). A mean score of 4 or greater will trigger further review by Research Division leadership and will likely preclude presentation from the podium and consideration for any abstract award.
3. If questions arise specific to a particular abstract submission, the COITF will provide oversight or extra review. The Education and Research Division Chairs comprise the COITF. If the chair(s) have conflicts relevant to a particular abstract under consideration, the vice chair(s) or member of the respective Division(s) will evaluate the abstract.
4. Investigator disclosures will be prepared by IPSIS staff for display with the posters. Industry-funded posters will be grouped together, and the disclosure forms will highlight that the studies were industry-funded.
5. Moderators for abstract sessions will be required to review the speaker slide decks and disclosures prior to the activity. Presentations will be removed from the activity if issues related to accuracy of disclosures, commercial bias, or scientific rigor cannot be resolved. During the activity, the moderators will present the speakers' disclosure slide and will highlight any disclosures that are relevant to their presentation.

**An ineligible company is defined as "those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients." The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be ineligible companies.*

ACCME-defined ineligible companies include, but are not limited to:

- Device manufacturers or distributors
- Manufacturers of health-related wearable products
- Pharmaceutical companies or distributors
- Compounding pharmacies that manufacture proprietary compounds
- Bio-medical startups that have begun a governmental regulatory approval process