1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
The RPA recognizes that commercial (industry) members of the nephrology community play an important role in optimizing the outcomes of our patients. Appropriate and ethical lines of communication should be facilitated among members of the renal community. The RPA Corporate Patrons Program is intended to augment alliances between stakeholder industries and the RPA. Contributions from Corporate Patrons support the mission of the RPA and may not be used to promote the company’s products, directly or indirectly.

2. PARTICIPATION
Any business with a desire to partner with the RPA to enhance patient outcomes by improving the clinical environment for nephrology practice may be offered an opportunity to participate in the RPA corporate patrons Program.

3. TIERS OF PARTICIPATION
Four levels of participation in the Corporate Patrons Program have been defined. Contributions are for a 12-month period. The privileges of each level are:

**Bronze -- $10,000 Contribution**
- One subscription to the association’s print newsletter, the *RPA News* (circulation 4,000)
- Recognition of participation in one issue of the *RPA News* (March)
- Recognition at RPA annual meeting
- Recognition and a link on the RPA web site: [www.renalmd.org](http://www.renalmd.org)
- Access to restricted member content on the RPA web site
- A 10% discount on an exhibit booth at the RPA annual meeting
- Opportunity to host a satellite symposium at the RPA annual meeting (additional contribution is required for this event)

**Silver -- $25,000 Contribution**
All Bronze level privileges, plus:
- Recognition of participation in two issues of the *RPA News* (March, Nov.) throughout the year that the company participates as a Corporate Patron
- A 25% discount on an exhibit booth at the RPA annual meeting
- Attendance by one company representative at the Educational/Advisory Meeting with the Corporate Patrons Committee held during the annual meeting
- Bi-annual meetings with RPA’s Executive Director and Director of Public Policy

**Gold -- $50,000 Contribution**
All Silver level privileges, plus:
- An additional meeting with the Corporate Patrons Committee, other than at the annual RPA meeting. The meeting will be scheduled during the year in which your company participates as an RPA Corporate Patron. This advisory meeting will be limited to 60 minutes and will be scheduled in conjunction with one of the RPA Board of Directors meetings. Scheduling of this meeting will require prior notice, and a maximum of two patron sessions will be scheduled at any one Board of Directors meeting.
- Recognition in all issues of the *RPA News.*
- Assignment of a personal liaison from the RPA Board of Directors.
- Attendance by up to three company representatives at the Educational/Advisory Meeting with the Corporate Patrons Committee during the annual meeting
- A 50% discount on an exhibit booth at the RPA annual meeting.
- Quarterly meetings with RPA’s Executive Director and Director of Public Policy
- Ongoing dialogue with RPA leadership through the Corporate Patrons Committee (see #5 below)

**Platinum--$100,000 Contribution or above**
All Gold level privileges, plus:
- A one-day meeting between several RPA leaders and staff at patron’s corporate offices to engage in a
strategic dialogue on issues top of mind for the company and association along with external environmental factors affecting nephrology.

- A two-hour meeting with the RPA Board of Directors. Scheduling of this meeting requires prior notice.
- Attendance by up to five company representatives at the Educational/Advisory Meeting with the Corporate Patrons Committee held during the annual meeting
- Opportunity for founding/exclusive sponsorship of RPA program(s)
- Monthly meetings/conference calls between corporate representatives and RPA Executive Director and Public Policy Staff
- Waived fees for two corporate staff for all RPA meetings, programs and publications
- A complementary exhibit booth at the RPA annual meeting

4. SCOPE OF DONATIONS
The maximum level permitted annually for financial participation for any single Corporate Patron cannot exceed 4% of the annual operating budget of the RPA for the previous year. This does not apply to RPA donors that contribute restricted funds on a project-specific basis. Project contributions may be unlimited and do not count toward the 4% maximum contribution level for general support of the association.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL ACCESS
The Corporate Patrons Committee reviews, monitors and facilitates official communication between the Corporate Patrons and the RPA Board of Directors. The Chair of the Corporate Patrons Committee is a member of or affiliated with the RPA Board. The committee convenes as needed.

6. DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS
The RPA will disclose meaningful relationships with Corporate Patrons as it deems appropriate.

7. OBJECTIVITY AND BALANCE
The RPA shall make every effort to ensure that discussions of issues regarding the Corporate Patrons’ products and/or services (or competing products/services) are objectively presented with a balanced discussion of prevailing information.

8. LIMITATION ON DATA
If relevant and to the extent possible, the Corporate Patron will ensure a meaningful disclosure of data and potential conflicts of interest, e.g. ongoing research, interim analyses, preliminary data, unsupported opinion, etc.

9. OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEBATE
Corporate Patrons will ensure meaningful opportunities for questioning or scientific debate.

10. CONTRIBUTIONS
Contributions may be made payable and mailed to RPA.

RPA… Leading Nephrologists to the Future.
The Advocate for Excellence in Nephrology Practice!
Visit our Corporate Patrons page on the RPA web site: www.renalmd.org
RPA; 1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 220; Rockville, MD 20852
Ph: 301-468-3515; Fax: 301-468-3511; Email: rpa@renalmd.org