

## ASGE CONFLICT OF INTEREST OVERVIEW

The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and its scientific journals, *GIE* and *VideoGIE*, continuously review and strengthen processes for disclosure and management of actual and perceived conflicts of interest. Any COI caused by financial, intellectual, or competing professional interests relevant to scientific publications, society volunteers, clinical practice guidelines (CPG), other review documents, and clinical or non-clinical educational activities are collected, managed where needed, and made available to the public.

## ASGE'S DEFINITION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ASGE defines a conflict of interest (COI) as involvement in a business, partnership, consulting position, professional society, or a rewarding arrangement that could influence the deliberations or actions of the individual involved with ASGE and/or its designated activities or publications within three years of the start date of serving in a role for ASGE, during the term of service, and/or at the time of submission for a publication and, if known, any upcoming conflicts.

## WHO SHOULD DISCLOSE?

ASGE requires all subject matter experts, committee members and staff planners who are in a position to control any aspect of content to disclose all relevant financial relationships with companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. These companies are termed "ineligible companies." Financial relationships in any amount are considered a potential conflict of interest and requires ASGE to follow a peer-review and mitigation process accordingly. Additional details are provided as a guide in ASGE's policy, section IV "Relationships requiring disclosure." As ASGE and its publications follow the same COI policy, it is expected that the following groups throughout ASGE and/or publications disclose potential conflicts of interest: 1. ASGE Governing Board members; 2. ASGE Foundation Trustees; 3. Committee or Task Force Chairs; 4. Committee or Task Force Members; 5. Special Interest Groups (SIG); 6. Education faculty or Planning member; 7. Education enduring product authors or planning members; 8. Authors and reviewers of *GIE* and *VideoGIE* manuscripts; 9. *GIE* and *VideoGIE* editorial and review boards; 9. Clinical Practice Guideline authors and reviewers; 10. ASGE Society Publication Technology Reviews and Other Related Documents authors and reviewers; and 11. ASGE Staff.

## SUMMARY OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE PROCESS

All conflicts of interest are to be listed from the past 36 months and updated using ASGE's online Planstone system. The Planstone login is <https://asge.planion.com/Z?D48449035>. If there are no conflicts of interest, it must be stated that there are none, again indicating this in Planstone. ASGE requests that all individuals review and confirm that all items match what is currently listed in Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Open Payment at time of submission (<https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/>). ASGE promotes, "When in doubt, disclose." Potential conflicts should be reported if they occur during a three-year period prior to the date of assuming an ASGE role and, if known, any upcoming conflicts or during one's term should also be reported. For publications, disclosure is to be made at the time of submission to *GIE* and/or *VideoGIE*. Any disclosures or the declaration of no disclosures will appear in print and online. If an individual fails to disclose a conflict of interest that is subsequently discovered and deemed relevant, ASGE may take disciplinary action. When

POLICY FOR MANAGING DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN ASGE, *GIE*, *VideoGIE*, *iGIE*, CPG and CME.

necessary, potential conflicts of interest will be forwarded for review by the appropriate committee chairperson, Secretary, or President. In general, the following mechanisms are used to mitigate potential conflicts of interest prior to the individuals assuming their roles: 1. Disclosure of conflicts prior to relevant decisions, presentations, activities, or discussions; 2. Recusal from the discussion and decision-making process; 3. Inclusion in the discussion but recusal from the decision-making process; or 4. Removal of the individual from the decision-making body or activity. In those situations where an individual discloses that they're an owner or employee of ineligible companies, mitigation can only include one of the following: (a) When the content of the project/activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company; or (b) When the content of the project/activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations; or (c) When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.