

Conflict of Interest Principles
for ASGE Publications and Educational Product
Development excluding *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* and
CME activity

Index:

Preamble	page 3-4
Recommendations and Definitions	page 5-6
Principles for Author Disclosure	page 7
Principles for Reviewer Disclosure	page 7
Principles for Editor Responsibilities	page 7-8
Examples of Wording to Accompany Publications	page 8
Disclosure form	page 9-10

Implementation of this document will be at the direction of the ASGE Governing Board and the responsibility of the Publications Committee.

Preamble:

Actual or potential conflicts of interest may impact on all participants in the process of publication and educational product development. If not identified, actual or potential conflicts may bring actual or potential harm to patients, have embarrassing consequences for the editors and reviewers of ASGE publications, authors/contributors, educational product organizers, editorial staff, relevant committees involved in the process and the Society as a whole. As a step toward avoiding this, the ASGE and its publications and those involved with developing educational products will abide by the “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals” (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Updated October 2008. Accessed 19 February 2009 <http://www.icmje.org/>). Additionally, disclosure of actual or potential conflicts is updated annually by all of the Officers, Committee members, Editors and Editorial board members. This information will be provided upon request by the ASGE headquarters.

An actual or potential conflict regarding publication occurs when a competing interest (financial, competitive or otherwise) may influence (intentionally or not) the interests of safety, veracity, or interpretation of data and results. It is recognized that many contributing authors have competing interests, and it is often not clear to readers when a competing interest affects decision-making.

Disclosure of all actual and potential conflicts allows the reader to make an informed judgment. The principles below are embodied within the Uniform Requirement and accepted Conflict of Interest (COI) practice for major journals.

If an editor of an ASGE publication or educational product has an actual or potential conflict of interest, that editor is prohibited from having any influence on, or contact with, the publication or product during the review process. Examples of these conflicts would include patent or license holders, receipt of honoraria or in-kind support, other financial interests, content under consideration from other members of the Editor's staff, or if the author is from the same institution as the responsible editor.

All authors must disclose actual or potential conflicts related to all aspects of the project or research. This includes any actual or potential competing interest related to the design, conduct, and interpretation of data. Any educational product or articles published will be accompanied by a disclosure statement.

Reviewers or those involved in developing educational products must also disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest. For example, the actual or potential conflicts may include personal, professional, research or other financial conflicts, which would be difficult to defend under scrutiny. In addition, reviewers will be asked to complete a statement for each review disclosing actual or potential conflicts or stating that none exist. The Society will review these disclosures and may at times withdraw an invitation if it is determined that an actual or potential conflict may compromise the overall quality of an educational product or the review process.

Recommendations:

The following competing interests or relationships should be disclosed for all individuals involved in the publication process or educational product development:

A. Leadership Position: Employment or service as an officer or board member for an entity having an investment, licensing, or other commercial interest in the subject matter under consideration must be disclosed.

B. Consultant/ Advisory Role: Arrangements (paid, unpaid or receiving non-monetary benefit) with an entity having an investment, licensing, or other commercial interest in the subject matter under consideration must be disclosed if performed or payments made within 2 years or anticipated to be paid in the upcoming year.

C. Stock Ownership: Any ownership interest including stock, options, and warrants (except when invested in a publicly traded fund not controlled by the covered individual) in any publicly traded or privately held company must be disclosed if the company is an entity having an investment, licensing, or other commercial interest in the subject matter under consideration.

D. Honoraria: Disclosure of honoraria for specific speeches, seminar presentations, or appearances is required when paid directly to the covered individual by an entity (or agent of the entity) having an investment, licensing, or other commercial interest in the subject matter under consideration and when provided within 2 years or anticipated to be paid within the next twelve months.

E. Research Funding: Payments associated with the conduct of the clinical research project in question must be disclosed if provided by the trial sponsor or agent of the entity.

F. Expert Testimony: Provision of expert testimony must be disclosed when the testimony relates to the subject matter under consideration.

G. Other Compensation: Trips, travel, gifts, or other in-kind payments not directly related to specific research activities must be disclosed (if not disclosed as related to research related funding) if received from an entity having an investment, licensing, or other commercial interest in the subject matter under consideration and when received within 2 years of the activity or subject matter in question or anticipated to be received within 1 year after submission. Payments totaling less than \$100 per incident are excluded from disclosure requirements.

Nota Bena: Persons Related to Authors/Reviewers/Editors Etc. (Preamble, Page 3, Para 1):

For any person listed above and thus considered a "covered individual," other persons related to them shall also be considered a "covered individual" if they have a relationship as spouse, dependent child, or adult child employed by the sponsor, or any other relationship involving the actual or potential sharing of income or assets. A covered individual may also include members of staff under the direct supervision of authors, reviewers, and editors.

1. Principles for Authors' Disclosure

a. Summary disclosure will accompany each article or educational product where appropriate. Efforts will be made to publish disclosure statements when the statements can be reasonably accommodated within the publication or product. Failure to provide appropriate disclosure will result in non-publication and other appropriate actions. Allegations of inappropriate disclosure will be investigated.

b. When authors reveal no conflicts of interest, this will also be published where appropriate.

c. Authors with questions should contact the appropriate committee chair prior to working on a project.

See disclosure form for types of relationships to consider.

2. Principles for Participants in Educational Product Development and Reviewers' Disclosure

a. Each acceptance of assignment should include acknowledgment of actual or potential conflicts.

b. Reviewers with questions and participants on educational product development should contact the appropriate committee chair and/or Society staff prior to accepting assignment.

See disclosure form for types of relationships to consider.

3. Principles for Editors or Committee Chair Responsibilities and Disclosure

a. Submit Annual Disclosure to the Society. Update when significant changes occur.

- b. Review all disclosures and statements.

- c. Ultimately responsible for the entire content of the publication or educational product (excluding *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* and CME activity) with adherence to the Uniform Requirements (<http://www.icmje.org/> accessed 19 February 2009).

See disclosure form for types of relationships to consider.

Examples of Wording to Accompany Publications:

For no relevant disclosures:

“The author(s) report that there are no disclosures relevant to this publication.”

For disclosures of actual or potential conflict:

“The following authors (reviewers or editors) have disclosed actual or potential conflicts: DD (patent), EE (patent, honoraria, stock ownership).”

ASGE Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form for Authors, Reviewers and Editors

This disclosure form pertains to content development (e.g., articles and products) not covered by *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* or CME activity conflict of interest statements.

A Conflict of Interest does not preclude serving as an author, reviewer or editor. However, all disclosures will be reviewed by the appropriate chair and/or ad-hoc COI review board to determine if there are any unacceptable conflicts of interest.

Completed form(s) must be faxed to ASGE headquarters (630/573-0691).

1. Briefly describe the content or project in which you are participating (i.e. *Clinical Update*, non-CME educational products, etc.)

2. Please indicate your role pertaining to this content or project:

Author Reviewer Editor Other, please explain: _____

3. Attestation of Accountability

Do you take full responsibility for the accuracy of the content, review, or edits you are submitting?

Yes **No**, please describe: _____

4. Institutional Conflicts of Interest

Are you aware that your academic institutions or employers have any financial interest in or a financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in this article or product?

Yes, please describe: _____

No

5. Financial Conflicts of Interest

a. Actual or potential conflicts related to this project or content

If you have had any of the relationships listed below with an entity that has a financial interest in the subject matter discussed in the article or product content, please explain the relationship. When answering this question, please consider relationships within the past 2 years through the present and one year into the future.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| • Employment | • Honoraria |
| • Consultancies/Advisory role (monetary or non-monetary) | • Expert testimony |
| • Stock ownership or options (other than mutual funds) | • Grants received |
| • Royalties | • Grants pending |
| • Provision of equipment and supplies | • Patents received |
| • Other (including in-kind, such as travel, lodging, etc.) | • Patents pending |

If any of these relationships exist, please complete the information below.

I am disclosing the following relationships pertaining to this content or project. Continue with disclosures on backside of page, if necessary.

Name of Company: _____

Nature of Relationship: _____

Name of Company: _____

Nature of Relationship: _____

Name of Company: _____

Nature of Relationship: _____

Name of Company: _____

Nature of Relationship: _____

I have no actual or potential conflict of interests in relation to this content or project.

b. Other potential conflicts

In the content development stage, authors, reviewers and editors are often unaware of which companies will eventually provide sponsorship for the end product. For this reason, we also ask that you identify any actual or potential conflicts that are unrelated to the current subject matter. Please consider relationships within the past 2 years through the present and one year into the future. Continue with disclosures on backside of page, if necessary.

Name of Company: _____

Nature of Relationship: _____

Name of Company: _____

Nature of Relationship: _____

Name of Company: _____

Nature of Relationship: _____

I have no other actual or potential conflict of interests to report.

Name: _____

Signature

Date

All questions related to Conflicts of Interest should be directed to Richard Wong, MD.