



## **ASGE CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY**

The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) requires all individuals who have the opportunity to affect the content of an educational activity to disclose any financial relationships with a commercial supporter. Disclosures are made in written form prior to the start of the educational activity and communicated to the learner. Any conflicts of interest will be resolved prior to the start of the activity through the ASGE Conflict of Interest Resolution Policy.

ASGE supports education and research in gastrointestinal endoscopy and believes that close collaborations between the society, academia and industry will ultimately benefit those suffering from digestive disorders. However, some of these collaborations may result in a potential conflict of interest, particularly if teaching and financial interests overlap.

Therefore, as a first step in an overall process to identify potential conflicts of interest any member of a faculty, planning committee, review group, etc. participating in a CME activity must disclose and resolve any potential conflicts of interest prior to the activity. ASGE will require all participants to complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form and an Attestation form during the planning stages of the activity. Each participant that has the opportunity to affect the content of the CME material and a financial interest with a commercial supporter will be required to disclose this information and fill out and sign the Attestation form. Any conflicts that arise must be resolved prior to further development of the activity

It is not possible to define all circumstances in which a conflict of interest may arise. A conflict of interest can be assumed to exist when an individual participating in a CME activity (and/or the individual's spouse or partner) is involved financially with a commercial supporter.

A financial relationship may exist if the participating individual or spouse/partner:

- i. Benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, serves as an officer, consultant, advisory/review committee member, or agent of a commercial organization;
- ii. Owns stocks, stock options or other ownerships interest in a commercial organization;
- iii. Has received compensation during the prior twelve months or has contracted to receive compensation during the next twelve months from a commercial organization.

It is no longer acceptable to choose not to disclose potential conflicts of interest. Those refusing to disclose relationships will not be allowed to continue to participate in the CME activity. However, having conflicts of interests does not automatically disqualify you from participation in the CME activity. All conflicts of interests will be assessed using the ASGE Conflict of Interest Resolution Policy.



## ASGE CONFLICT OF INTEREST RESOLUTION POLICY

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual has both a financial relationship with a commercial interest and the opportunity to affect the content of the CME about the products or services of that commercial interest.

The potential for increasing the value of the financial relationship with the commercial interest creates an incentive to influence the content of the CME, thus, inserting commercial bias in the CME activity. The interest of the people controlling CME must always be aligned with the best interests of the public.

In order for the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) to identify any potential conflicts of interest, ASGE will require each individual to complete a both a CME Disclosure Form and an Attestation Form during the planning stages of the activity. If a review of the disclosure and attestation form determines that potential conflicts of interest exist, ASGE may implement one of a number of strategies that will safeguard against any potential biases in the activity. A strategy may affect the individual's role assignment and/or require external validation. The following are mechanisms to resolve potential conflicts of interest:

1. Select another individual to control the content in question – if an individual assigned to a topic has a conflict of interest, this topic can be assigned to someone else without a conflict.
2. Limit the content in question to exclude recommendations – if an individual assigned to a topic has a conflict of interest, the topic content can include only published research and not recommendations or conclusions.
3. Peer review process – individuals assigned to review the content of an activity can resolve conflicts of interest by making certain that the content is aligned with what is in the best interests of the public.
4. Reference the best available evidence – the content of the activity can reference the best available evidence and identify conclusions that support this evidence.
5. Alter financial relationships – sever financial ties with a commercial interest eliminating an incentive to include bias in the CME content.

To avoid any potential conflicts of interest, each individual will be required to present an evidence – based, scientific-only, unbiased presentation. Any recommendations included in the presentation must be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for indication and contraindications in the care of patients.

Unfortunately, if a conflict of interest cannot be resolved, the individual will not be allowed to participate in the CME activity.

### Activity Evaluation

All Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Attestation Forms are required to be returned to the ASGE administration offices during the planning stages of the CME activity. If a review of both forms reveals that a potential conflict of interest may exist, one of the resolution policies will be implemented as above. All written or on-line content must be approved by the CME Programs Committee before distribution.

All live ASGE activities are closely monitored. If a faculty person presents content that is substantially different from what was reviewed in advance and/or appears to be commercially biased, the CME Programs Committee will follow-up with that individual as well as the activity directors to correct the problem for future activities if possible. If commercial bias is determined by the CME Programs Committee to be egregious and/or continuous, that faculty person will not be invited to participate in future activities.