

## Cross-organizational leadership

There are four nationally recognized professional organizations whose mission is to foster the academic, research, clinical and political interests of gastroenterologists and hepatologists. These organizations each have a unique, but not mutually exclusive focus, which by its very nature is somewhat competitive for resources within the gastroenterology field. There is, however, a limited pool of interested and competent members willing to help with the day-to-day operations of these societies. Competition for these members often results in overlap and can lead to questions of potential conflict of interest. Each of the societies has dealt with the potential conflict in a variety of ways. This statement seeks to derive consensus among the societies to provide a unified statement regarding overlap of leadership.

Individuals willing to accept a leadership role in one society must recognize that it is an inherent conflict of interest to hold a leadership position in a second society. It would be expected that anyone who accepts a leadership position in any society would relinquish any other leadership position held in one of the other three societies. Leadership positions include, but are not limited to, any elected office, appointments to a governing body or board, chair positions on committees and appointments as trustees, governors or other positions of influence on the direction and mission of the society.

Individuals serving on a committee within any of the four societies will be required to provide and update continuously a conflict of interest statement that outlines the potential for conflict (that is, if any changes occur, the statement be immediately updated). There is no exclusivity for members of committees and overlap can occur, provided the members agree to uphold the committee chair's expectations and demands for embargo on any information generated within the committee's work.