

## DISCLOSURE POLICY

*Reviewed and Approved by the Board of Directors, November 6, 2010*

Pursuant to the Code of Ethics for the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) and the Standards for Commercial Support of Continuing Medical Education of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the AAAAI requires disclosure of financial and organizational relationships from the following types of individuals:

1. Leaders (officers, Board members, JACI editors, committee chairs/members, and staff);
2. Faculty for scientific meetings and conferences (planning committee members, moderators, and speakers);
3. Participants (at business/committee meetings or other member forums, including involvement in public discourse at scientific meetings and conferences); and
4. Authors of official AAAAI documents.

Disclosure by **Leaders** must be made in writing via the [Online Disclosure System](#). A completed form must be completed prior to the commencement of a Leader's term of office. Such disclosure must be updated whenever circumstances require or once per calendar year, whichever is sooner.

Disclosure by **Faculty** must be made in writing via the [Online Disclosure System](#). A completed form must be completed prior to the beginning of the Faculty member's involvement in planning or, if a speaker or abstract presenter, before his/her presentation at an AAAAI-sponsored educational activity. Such disclosure must be updated whenever circumstances require or once per calendar year, whichever is sooner. Further, faculty must disclose to the AAAAI in advance any support they receive or plan to receive in the formulation and development of their presentation. Such support must be approved in advance by the AAAAI.

Faculty who are also speakers must also disclose verbally and visually at the beginning of each presentation. This should be done by the use of a slide or slides containing the information on the disclosure form. Speakers are also required to disclose to participants discussion of investigational products or investigational uses of products included in their presentations.

Disclosure by **Participants** must be made verbally at the time a Participant begins speaking at each business/committee meeting or other member forum they attend. Participants are required to disclose their job title and employer, and any other interest of theirs that would be judged by a majority of their peers to be more than casual and/or likely to impact their ability to exercise independent judgment in addressing the issue being discussed.

Disclosure by **Authors** must be made in writing via the [Online Disclosure System](#). A form must be completed prior to the author beginning work on an AAAAI position statement.

All competing relationships should be disclosed. This information will be reviewed to identify conflicts of interest and to guide the resolution of those conflicts. For Leaders, reviews will be completed by an appropriate AAAAI committee or executive body. For Faculty, reviews will be completed by the Continuing Medical Education Committee or the Annual Meeting Program Committee, depending on the activity in which the faculty member will potentially be involved. For Authors, reviews will be completed by the Practice Diagnostics and Therapeutics Committee.

Persons whose personal financial gain from Commercial Interests represents a significant portion of their total income may not be appropriate AAAAI leaders, faculty or authors. In general, a relationship is likely to be deemed inappropriate if it is beyond what a general AAAAI member or the general public would consider proper.

### **Commercial Interest**

A commercial interest is defined as any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. A medical practice is not considered to be a Commercial Interest

If the individual's employer fits the definition of a **commercial interest**, the individual should describe the scope of his or her work responsibilities (such as administration of specific programs or the topic of research activities). If the individual's employer receives remuneration from a commercial interest for the individual's activities, this relationship should also be disclosed. Failure to knowingly disclose potential conflicts is a violation of the AAAAI's Code of Ethics and such infringements will be dealt with as detailed in section III.B of the Code of Ethics.

### **Competing Relationships**

Examples of competing relationships include:

1. Financial relationship with a commercial interest (e.g. received salary, income, gifts, or other assets for performing clinical trials, speaking, and consulting/advising)
2. Financial relationship with any organization that provides commercial support to AAAAI-sponsored educational activities
3. Research (e.g. grants from NIH, Pharma-sponsored investigator initiated research or other sources of research support).
4. Legal consultation services or expert witness testimony.
5. Organizational affiliations, including both volunteer and paid positions held with organizations other than the AAAAI that may create or be perceived as a conflict of interest.

In all cases, an individual's disclosure will be reviewed in the context of the activity in which s/he will potentially be participating. If a conflict of interest is identified, the reviewers will be asked to identify an appropriate mechanism for resolving the conflict. This could potentially include asking the individual to alter the relationship which creates the conflict, or removing the individual from involvement in the activity. The results of each review will be communicated to the individual and the organization planning the activity to facilitate the resolution of the conflict. The individual will be expected to disclose to the appropriate audience any relationships that were found to be, or to present the potential for, conflicts of interest by the reviewer.

AAAAI members will be expected to update their disclosure information by April 30 of each year, based on the previous calendar year's activities, or when a substantive change in circumstances occurs that would require a revision in the information disclosed.

**Financial information obtained from the [Online Disclosure System](#) is confidential and will only be used by the AAAAI for the purpose of determining potential conflicts and biases in their membership. In some situations the AAAAI will make public the names of its leaders, faculty, and authors and their relevant disclosure information (for example, disclosures in the annual meeting program). The AAAAI will not release any financial information in these situations unless required to by law.**