

## KEY POINTS ABOUT AGA POLICIES RELATED TO COMMERCIAL SUPPORT & DISCLOSURE

### **Governance**

Everyone in AGA leadership must comply with AGA conflict of interest policies. Presidential officers are held to even higher standards.

- From the time an individual assumes the position of Vice President and for four years thereafter (includes service as President-elect, President and Immediate Past President/Chair of AGA Governing Board) that person makes no public appearances that are directly paid for by companies in the pharmaceutical, medical device or biotech industries.
- All members in leadership positions, including the Governing Board, committees, editorial boards and task forces, must disclose financial relationships with industry. Disclosures are updated at least annually during tenure of office. A candidate for office who fails to make a disclosure or who does not resolve a conflict will be disqualified from office.

### **Continuing Medical Education**

- The AGA Institute adheres to Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education standards for commercial support as our minimum standard for all CME-related activities.
- Course directors and faculty disclose all financial relationships with industry. The AGA Institute publishes this disclosure information in course materials and displays it before a presentation starts.
- Tote bags, lanyards, pens, notebooks and publications displaying company logos are no longer distributed at educational meetings.
- All educational materials are reviewed for commercial bias, including print, online and presentation materials.
- Further steps are under consideration, including: auditing CME programs on-site for commercial bias and limiting participation of faculty involved with industry speaker's bureaus.

### **Corporate sponsorship**

- Any activity involving commercial support must have a clear, stated scientific or educational purpose consistent with the AGA Institute's mission.
- The AGA Institute will not explicitly endorse any product, brand, or company, nor will we work to advance a sponsor's interests. No promises or guarantees are made regarding the content of project materials, reports, recommendations or opinions.
- Small groups of AGA members are appointed to oversee commercially supported programs. These groups have final approval authority over the content and selection of speakers, editors and authors.
- All AGA members involved in a project complete financial disclosure forms.
- Sponsors of commercially supported programs are clearly acknowledged. Under no circumstances are specific drug products identified in any acknowledgement.

### **Guidelines**

- Prior to commencement of work on an Medical Position Statement (MPS) or Technical Review (TR), authors and co-authors of these publications disclose any commercial involvements, including the company(s) name, the nature of the work and any specific products involved. This information is disclosed with the MPS/TR.

### **Publications**

- All editors, editorialists, reviewers and publication authors disclose potential conflicts of interest.
- Disclosure statements accompany all studies published in *Gastroenterology* and *Clinical Gastroenterology & Hepatology* and all articles in *AGA Perspectives*.

- When a conflict of interest is identified, it is resolved at the editor's discretion either by not accepting the publication, article or editorial from the conflicted individual, or by including information about the conflict of interest with the published work.
- We adhere to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.