

CORPORATE RELATIONS POLICY

AACC is committed to maintaining high quality and independent scientific and educational programming that is free of commercial bias. The IVD industry makes important contributions to medical progress through development of new tests, and industry supports the laboratory medicine profession by funding research, educational programs, and awards that might not otherwise be possible. AACC recognizes the mutual benefits to AACC, the field of laboratory medicine, and corporate entities in working together to advance science and healthcare. Therefore, it is AACC's policy to develop and provide unbiased educational programming regardless of any source of funding applied to AACC's educational efforts. To achieve this separation, AACC focuses on managing any potential conflicts of interest arising from collaborations with, or funding by, corporate sponsors.

This policy covers AACC's relationship with corporate partners and sponsors. It defines AACC's approach to and perspective on relationships with corporate entities in the in vitro diagnostics (IVD) and other medical industries. The following principles and procedures govern AACC's relationships with corporate entities:

1. Members who work in industry enjoy the full rights and privileges of AACC membership including serving in elected positions, serving on committees, and participating in AACC educational programs as planners and speakers (except for CME-granting activities). All AACC members are required to complete Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure forms annually while serving the association in various leadership positions.
2. AACC's educational programs are clearly distinguished from marketing by any commercial entity. If funded in full or in part by a commercial entity, educational programs are developed in accordance with AACC's Terms of Agreement for Commercial Support of an Educational Activity. All educational content is reviewed and presented in accordance with the standards of continuing education accrediting bodies.
3. AACC requires all speakers to disclose potential conflicts of interest before and at the time of presentation.
4. Because laboratory measurements depend on specific equipment and reagents, some types of educational programs may include references to commercial products. Such references are permissible provided the educational programs address only scientific issues and avoid any promotional statements.
5. Industry may develop separate industry-sponsored symposia, workshops, and conferences in conjunction with AACC meetings, but they must be clearly identified as such. The time and location of any such event will be at the discretion of AACC and must be separated and clearly differentiated from CE-granting programs.
6. The exhibit floor at any AACC meeting is clearly distinguished as a marketplace. Industry can purchase booth space at AACC meetings, which shall not be in the obligate path to scientific or educational sessions. Offering of educational or de minimis gifts is permissible.
7. AACC may share mailing lists with industry as long as members have a choice of opting out of

having their email address shared with third parties.

8. Paid advertising in AACC publications is acceptable as long as it is clearly identifiable as such and in accordance with AACC advertising guidelines.
9. AACC does not accept funding from commercial entities to develop clinical practice guidelines or laboratory medicine practice guidelines. AACC may choose to accept industry funding for other types of guidelines or guidance documents, to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
10. AACC accepts funding from industry for such things as awards, research grants, travel grants, and scholarships. The recipients of such funds are selected by AACC committees not the financial donors. Awards may not be named for industry supporters, but the source of funding may be recognized.
11. AACC does not endorse commercial products.

Adopted February 21, 2020

Revised from prior policy #9.1