



## **Academic Pediatric Association Conflict of Interest Policy**

### **About**

A conflict of interest (COI) may arise when, due to a competing outside interest, a Board member, program or project director or committee member of the APA has an opportunity to influence the Association's activity in ways that could lead to, or appear to lead to, personal or institutional gain or advantage. Every effort should be made to avoid the appearance as well as the reality of a COI. The most appropriate approach to this problem is to make known potential COIs in order to determine if they rise to the level that is of concern.

In their capacity as leaders, the members of the Board of Directors, program or project leadership or committees of the Academic Pediatric Association (APA) will at all times conduct business of the Association in the best interests of the APA. APA Board members, program or project directors and committee members will refrain from any actions in which their own personal, professional or financial interests might interfere with, or have the appearance of interfering with, their impartial and objective contribution to APA business.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to inform the members about what the APA constitutes a conflict of interest, assist the Board in identifying and disclosing actual and potential conflicts and ensuring the avoidance of conflicts of interest where necessary. If such a conflict, real or perceived, is unavoidable, the member will recuse her- or himself from the relevant APA activity. This policy may be enforced as described below.

### **Definition of a Conflict of Interest (COI)**

The APA considers financial relationships to create actual conflicts of interest when individuals have both a financial relationship with a commercial interest and the opportunity to influence APA activities. Conflicts may be difficult to recognize and address because they may involve subjective issues of organizational relationships, representative and recognition. The following areas that pose a possible COI are not necessarily inclusive but should be disclosed whether pertinent to a member:

1. Direct stock holdings in any pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or medical service company >\$10,000;
2. Compensation from ongoing consultancies;
3. Affiliations with other medical organizations as a trustee, officer, director or in a similar capacity;
4. Employment by, or status as an independent contractor to, any company in the health care industry such as pharmaceutical, biotechnologic, and medical instrument companies, or health maintenance organizations;
5. Research funding, including NIH, industry, private foundations or other granting organizations (i.e., American Heart Association, etc);

6. Membership on review panels or advisory committees;
7. Ownership interests (product royalties, licensing fees in addition to shares/stocks).

**Duty to Disclose**

On an annual basis or when a change has occurred, all Board members, program or project directors and committee members shall be provided with a copy of this policy and required to complete and sign the acknowledgment and disclosure form below. All possible conflicts should be disclosed, not just what appears to be relevant to APA activities at the time of filing the statement.

All completed forms shall be provided to and reviewed by the APA President, Immediate Past-President and the President-Elect and take appropriate action as necessary which may involve sharing potential COIs prior to Board meetings. The signed forms will be retained in the APA office for a period of 7 years and will be made available to members upon request.

**Attachment:** Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form