

AAMC Organizational Policy for Accepting External Support

Approved by the AAMC Board of Directors

February 19, 2009

Guiding Principles for Accepting External Support

The AAMC acknowledges its role as a charitable, tax-exempt organization whose mission is to serve and lead the academic medicine community to improve the health of all. External support contributes to AAMC meeting its mission. External support currently comes to the AAMC from a number of sources and in a number of ways:

- commercial, not-for-profit, charitable, and other philanthropy
- commercial, not-for-profit, and charitable grants and support of meetings, reports, and projects
- commercial, not-for-profit, and charitable support of awards
- exhibitors
- governmental grants and contracts
- advertising from external entities, mostly commercial.

The following principles will underlie all financial (and gift in-kind) interactions between the AAMC and commercial, not-for-profit, and charitable organizations. These principles are designed to minimize real or perceived conflicts of interest with external supporters:

- The AAMC acknowledges its role in facilitating prudent interactions between its members and commercial, not-for-profit, and charitable entities.
- The AAMC will engage with all parties (external supporters, member institutions, and others) with the same level of professionalism and integrity.
- The AAMC is accountable primarily to its member institutions, and that relationship takes precedence in resolving conflict with a commercial, not-for-profit, or charitable supporter.
- The AAMC seeks external support for projects, programs, and collaborative partnerships that align with its Strategic Priorities.
- The AAMC evaluates each prospective external supporter according to mission alignment, funding interests, and related criteria before accepting that support. The AAMC maintains the right to decline external funding from any source.
- When sponsoring CME programs, the AAMC will comply strictly with the regulations of the accrediting body.
- The AAMC does not endorse commercial, not-for-profit, or charitable organizations. While the AAMC always will disclose financial support from these organizations, that does not imply endorsement.
- The AAMC reserves the right to restrict attendance at AAMC meetings.

Policy for Acceptance of Specific Types of External Support

Annual Meeting

The AAMC will not accept commercial support for its Annual Meeting outside of the Exhibit Hall. With respect to the exhibit hall, the AAMC will accept commercial, not-for-profit, educational, and other charitable exhibitors. The AAMC will use the Guiding Principles (above) as the criteria for accepting exhibitors. Other forms of commercial support (e.g. branded sponsorship or support of social functions) will not be allowed.

Meetings of Professional Development Groups and Other AAMC-Sponsored Meetings

Consistent with the Annual Meeting policy, the AAMC will permit commercial, not-for-profit, educational, and other charitable entities to purchase booth space in a designated "exhibit area/hall." Other types of commercial support (e.g. branded sponsorship or support of social functions) will not be allowed.

Sponsored Programs and Philanthropy

AAMC will seek and accept philanthropy and support for sponsored programs only from not-for-profit organizations and individuals, with no restrictions on that support beyond the general designation of the initiative (i.e., specific award, research project, or report). The AAMC will use the Guiding Principles as criteria for accepting gifts and sponsored program funding. Most foundations indicate specific funding interests and priorities, and many foundations do not accept proposals for unrestricted support. When responding to a call-for-proposals, the AAMC should provide the appropriate specificity requested by the funding source (i.e., if a foundation has an identified interest in supporting curriculum development, the AAMC would request funding for that designation).

Awards

The AAMC will accept support for awards from not-for-profit entities and individuals, using the Guiding Principles as criteria for accepting support of awards. An award may be named after a donor, at the discretion of the AAMC. If the AAMC agrees to name an award after a corporate foundation donor, the word "foundation" must be included in the title; e.g. "The Acme Foundation Award for Primary Care Teaching Curriculum." No individual or representative of the donor may be engaged in setting the criteria beyond the intended purpose of the award or in the promotion, selection, or presentation of the award recipient(s).

No policy is able to foresee all possible situations that might arise. In such a case, the Guiding Principles listed above should guide all decisions made by the AAMC in relation to external support. Above all, the AAMC will work with its members to ensure that our professional and institutional integrity is affirmed and the public trust invested in us is fully warranted.