FULL DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES

As you know, the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support have been revised. The most significant change in this document involves the issue of disclosure and identification of any perceived or real Conflict of Interest (COI). Speaker disclosure to conference participants at the time of the conference is no longer sufficient. It is mandated that potential conflicts of interest be identified and resolved prior to finalizing the program schedule and producing the course brochure. Please have all planning committee members, conference moderators, and presenters complete a disclosure form.

As Course Director, it is your responsibility to contact the speaker(s)/planning committee member(s) who have indicated they have (had) a relevant relationship with a commercial entity to determine if a real or perceived conflict of interest/bias exists. Once a determination has been made, please complete the Conflict of Interest Form.

Managing/Resolving Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of interest becomes an issue only if the individual discloses a relationship, within the last 12 months of submitting the form, with a company that makes a product/service related to the topic on which they are presenting. The Course Director, or another independent party, should contact the individual; discuss the presentation and/or review the speaker’s presentation (slides, power point presentation, or handout) to determine if a real or perceived bias exists, keeping in mind that any clinical recommendations must be based on scientific evidence. Multiple therapies (if applicable) must be mentioned.

If bias is determined, one of the following courses of action must take place:

- The speaker may modify the presentation so that it is free of commercial bias.
- The Course Director may replace the speaker.
- The Course Director may proceed with the speaker/presentation, understanding that credit will not be awarded for the talk. (This must be noted in the brochure/flyer.)
- Presentation will be limited to discussion of data and research. Another speaker without COI will close discussion by evaluating clinical implications and/or recommendations.
- Planning committee member must be excused from the committee if bias/COI has in any way affected his/her input in the planning process.