



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Overview to the Indiana University School of Medicine Industry Relations Policy

The Conflict of Interest (COI) committee was first convened in February 2014. Members were chosen by the Dean and Executive Associate Deans, and represented a diverse array of faculty from several departments. After multiple meetings, review of the previous Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) Industry Relations policy and discussions over many months, the committee created a draft COI policy in May, 2014. Initial feedback first occurred at a School Executive Committee (SEC) meeting on June 2, 2014. After that, the draft COI policy was circulated to all faculty through an internal IUSM-hosted website, and an open comments period commenced for 45 days on June 10, 2014. In addition, town hall meetings were held, both live and virtually, as an additional method of collecting faculty feedback. The Open Comment period ended July 25, 2014, and the committee reviewed each of the 85 written comments individually, in addition to take-home points outlined from minutes taken from the live and virtual Town Hall meetings.

After reviewing and discussing the comments, the committee made additional changes to the document. Several domains garnered more feedback and comments than other domains, and the committee members focused on addressing these areas to provide clarifying language for the final policy. During the feedback process, the committee learned about other possible scenarios which might be considered as suitable content within a COI policy, and explored them specifically. The chair of the IUSM COI committee had personal discussions with several writers of the Pew document and the IOM report, to help provide understanding for the reasoning for recommendations about certain content areas.

References were added to demonstrate the evidence-based scientific rigor that went into creation of the document, in order that faculty understand the background and context for specific portions of this policy. Other feedback from faculty demonstrated that definitions for many of the terms used in the document needed to be included in the final draft. For example, some faculty interpreted "Speaker's Bureaus" differently from others, so the committee felt it crucial to include a full set of definitions for many of the terms used in the policy document.

This document, voted on through two separate committees, the Faculty Steering Committee in October, 2014, and the IUSM SEC in November, 2014, was finalized on the date of the SEC meeting, November 3, 2014. The committee is cognizant of the fact that future iterations and changes will need to be made.

The information contained within this policy is effective January 1, 2015. However, in order for faculty who may not currently be meeting the requirements of one or more specific domains, a grace period will be in effect until July 1, 2015, at which time full compliance will be required. Department chairs are

asked to review the information between November 3, 2014 and July 1, 2015 with the affected faculty, in order to provide adequate time for faculty to clarify, address and rectify any necessary situations.

Included also is an “Executive Summary” for the policy. Any questions about the policy, including interpretations of the policy, should be addressed to the following specific email address: ircoi@iu.edu. The Industry Relations Conflict of Interest Committee will continue to meet and review questions and comments about the policy.

Alexander M. Djuricich, MD, Chair, IUSM Industry Relations Conflict of Interest Committee
Flora Hammond, MD
Murray Korc, MD
Homer L. Twigg III, MD
Joseph Scodro, JD
Kurt Snyder, JD
L. Daniel Wurtz, MD
Julie L. Welch, MD
Mervyn C. Yoder, MD

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