

FOUNDATION

Policy

Title:	External Funding and Relationships Policy
Committee Approval:	Executive Committee 10/2004, 6/2006, 10/2006
BOT Approved:	11/2004, 6/2006, 4/2007
Next Committee Review Date:	01/2010

Rationale: Commercial, government, foundation, and other funding and relationships can help the Foundation promote its goals and mission of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of health care. However, some financial or other arrangements might bias, or be seen to bias, the Foundation as an independent, trustworthy, and credible source of health care information, policy, and education.

Policy: The following core principles should guide financial and other relationships with outside organizations:

1. The Foundation's values, mission, and its commitment to professionalism and excellence in medicine must drive all external relationships and externally funded activities.
2. Relationships with external organizations and funders should promote the health and welfare of the public or patient care. Member benefits resulting from external arrangements should enhance professionalism and physician practice.
3. In representing the ACP Foundation and the College in external relationships, Foundation leadership and staff must adhere to the values and ethical standards of the organization and should act to promote professionalism and trust in the organization and the medical profession.
4. External funding arrangements and external relationships must be disclosed to relevant parties on a regular basis and with sufficient detail and visibility to allow concerned parties to reach independent conclusions about potential sources of influence and real or perceived conflicts of interest.
5. Specific instances in which a financial arrangement or relationship might have the potential to influence the Foundation's actual or perceived independence, credibility, and trustworthiness should undergo Foundation review to minimize or eliminate such influence.

6. The Foundation should monitor its overall reliance on commercial sources of funding and ensure that its core activities could continue if such support were diminished.

Procedure:

Senior Staff shall be responsible for reviewing and monitoring external funding and relationships in their respective areas.

An acknowledgement shall be made about all external funding arrangements. Typically, the acknowledgement will take the form of a simple clear statement such as, "Supported through an unrestricted grant from XXX."

Disclosures about external arrangements and relationships should be made with sufficient detail and visibility to allow concerned parties to reach independent conclusions about potential sources of influence and real or perceived conflicts of interest. The Foundation shall not permit any sponsor or funding provider, whether a not-for-profit or for-profit organization, to have any ownership interest, intellectual or other property rights in any report or product of a funded project.

Questions or concerns about potential or accepted arrangements should be brought to the ACP Center for Ethics and Professionalism for consideration. General consultation is also always available from the Center.

The Foundation's use of commercial support shall be assessed by the Foundation Executive Vice President on a yearly basis with a report to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees at the April business meeting prior to the approval of the budget by the Finance Committee and the Board.

This policy shall apply to external relationships and funding arrangements of all kinds.

The core principles contained in this policy were approved by the Board of Trustees. Any substantive changes should be reviewed through the Foundation Executive Committee process.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

FOUNDATION

EXTERNAL FUNDING AND RELATIONSHIPS STATEMENT Board of Trustees and Committee Members

On appointment to a Foundation position, all Board of Trustees, ACP Foundation Representatives and members of all types of committees shall be required to complete this statement and update it as necessary.

I have received and read “External Funding and Relationships Policy” of the ACP Foundation and understand and will abide by it.

NAME (Please Print)

DATE

SIGNATURE

POSITION: *(specify yes or no)*

Board of Trustee _____

ACP Representative *(specify)*: _____

Committee Member *(specify Committee)*: _____
