

**American College of Neuropsychopharmacology**  
**Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy**  
**REVISED July, 2017**

The ACNP Conflict of Interest Policy, revised and ratified by Council in 1990, specifies that a violation has occurred if any action is taken which might result in or creates the appearance of:

- a. giving preferential treatment to any organization or person;
- b. using one's office for personal gain;
- c. losing complete impartiality or independence; or
- d. affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

**I. Members Required to Disclose** - All members of ACNP Council, members of the Ethics, Liaison, Membership and Program committees, any members participating in advocacy initiatives and all Editors (to include associate editors, deputy editors, series editors, volume editors, website editors or any other paid editor) of ACNP Publications will be required to disclose any financial relationship that might create a conflict of interest (COI) on the ACNP COI Disclosure Statement. Disclosures should be made for immediate family members as well as the Council member, committee member, or editor.

- a. The Executive Office will provide copies of disclosure statements for Council, the Ethics, Membership and Program committee members and any members participating in advocacy initiatives as follows:
  - i. For committee members and members participating in advocacy initiatives, a copy of the disclosure statements will be provided to the relevant committee Chair, the ACNP Secretary (or Council liaison), and the Executive Director (or staff liaison).
  - ii. For Council members copies of the disclosure statements will be provided to the President, ACNP Secretary, and the Executive Director.
  - iii. Before each meeting of these respective bodies the people identified above who have copies of the Disclosure Statements should review them and assume responsibility for ensuring that during the meeting any discussions and/or votes have been preceded with recusals of members with potential conflicts. In any specific instance, the member identified as having a potential conflict of interest may rebut the presumption of conflict, but the decision regarding that member's participation in the discussion or the vote will be decided by the remaining members of the committee or Council.
- b. The Publications Committee Chair will use the information provided in the COI Disclosure to make judgments about potential conflicts of interest and to assess whether the number and extent of potential conflicts significantly compromises the individual's ability to perform the tasks required of an editor of an ACNP publication.
  - i. While the COI Disclosure Statements for editors will normally be reviewed only by the Chair of the Publications Committee, selected lists may be shared with other members of the Publications Committee and members of ACNP Council if deemed necessary by the Publications Committee chair.
  - ii. In its annual report to ACNP Council the Publications Committee will include a statement regarding the management of potential conflicts of interest and a summary of any actions taken during the year to address apparent or reported violations of this policy.
  - iii. An accusation that an Editor or Associate Editor has violated the conflict of interest policy shall be referred to the ACNP Ethics Committee for consideration and investigation. The Ethics Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Publications Committee and Council for action.
  - iv. An Editor or Associate Editor found guilty of violating the conflict of interest policy is subject to sanction, including forfeiture of the editorship.

All COI Disclosure Statements will be retained for reference in the ACNP Executive Office.

- II. ***Definition of Financial Relationship*** - Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria for promotional speakers' bureau, ownership interest (e.g. stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit. Financial benefits are usually associated with roles such as employment, management position, independent contractor (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and other activities from which remuneration is received, or expected. ACCME (Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education) considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner. Contracted research includes research funding where the institution gets the grant and manages the fund and the person is the principal or named investigator on the grant. There is no minimum dollar amount for relationships.
- III. ***Definition of Commercial Interest*** - A commercial interest is any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. Providers of clinical service directly to patients are not commercial interests – unless the provider of clinical service is owned, or controlled, by a commercial interest. The following are **not** commercial interests:
- 501-C Non-profit organizations that do not advocate for commercial interests
  - Government organizations
  - Non-health care related companies
  - Liability insurance providers
  - Health insurance providers
  - Group medical practices
  - For-profit hospitals
  - For-profit rehabilitation centers
  - For-profit nursing homes
  - Blood banks
  - Diagnostic laboratories