

Guidelines

Ethical Guidelines for the Speciality of Interventional Pain Management

I. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

The American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) is dedicated to promoting the development and practice of safe, high quality, cost-effective interventional pain management techniques. To achieve this goal, ASIPP engages in continuing medical education, research, advocacy, and publication. It is the intent of ASIPP to ensure that these activities occur with the highest level of academic rigor and intellectual integrity.

These professional functions may be supported by related industries. Collaborative relationships between interventional pain physicians and industry are essential to improve patient outcomes through research, innovation, testing, education, and advocacy. However, when contractual or other remunerative relationships exist between physicians and industry, there is a potential for creating bias. Because of the risk of real or perceived bias, transparency regarding financial interests is essential and required when participating in ASIPP-related activities.

- A. This policy is not intended to create a presumption of impropriety on the part of any member. Disclosure does not imply any actual bias.
- B. A conflict of interest is defined as a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest (such as education of health care professionals, integrity

of research, or development of clinical practice guidelines) have the potential to be unduly influenced by a secondary interest (such as financial interests)(1).

- C. Actual, potential, or apparent conflicts of interest must be disclosed.
- D. ASIPP defines financial interests as anything of monetary value, including but not limited to, salary or other payments for services (e.g., consulting fees or honoraria); equity interests (e.g., stocks, stock options, or other ownership interests); and intellectual property rights (e.g., patents, copyrights, and royalties from such rights) received within the preceding calendar year. This does not include investments in publicly available stocks such as mutual funds, unless substantial ownership of a relevant corporate entity exists.
- E. Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest are required by all participants in ASIPP activities, including those who serve in leadership positions within the Society, editors and authors on ASIPP publications, as well as speakers and presenters at ASIPP meetings.

II. ETHICAL GUIDELINES

The collaborative relationships between interventional pain physicians and industry must be structured

These guidelines are designed primarily as an educational resource for interventional pain management physicians who provide expert witness testimony in interventional pain management. Adherence to these guidelines is voluntary. These guidelines should not be considered inclusive of all considerations or exclusive of others that are reasonably directed toward obtaining the same results. In determining the propriety of any specific testimony, the physician should apply his or her own professional judgement to the specific facts presented by the individual case.

to avoid improper inducements or incentives. When entering into such arrangements, the following guidelines should be established in writing:

- A. Documentation of the need and scope of services provided.
- B. Proof that the service was provided.
- C. The nature of the remuneration should be consistent with fair market value for the work-product or services provided.
- D. Remuneration is not based on the volume or value of the business generated for the corporate or industrial entity providing payment.
- E. Financial strategies to avoid disclosure requirements, e.g., payments to a third party, spouse, corporation or foundation from which the physician receives any sort of monetary compensation or other personal benefits, are not acceptable and would be considered as incomplete disclosure.
- F. Financial arrangements that involve delayed or future compensation of any sort must be disclosed.

Certain financial arrangements might be inconsistent with holding an officer or directorship position within ASIPP. Examples include full time or principal employment by a device manufacturer or pharmaceutical company. The ASIPP Board of Directors may limit involvement of members in leadership activities if substantial potential relevant conflicts of interest exist.

III. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

An ASIPP "Conflict of Interest" form must be completed before participation in any ASIPP-sponsored activity. All payments received in the calendar year preceding the activity from any entity with an aggregate value of \$500 or more must be disclosed as a potential financial conflict of interest.

- A. Location of disclosure:
 1. Initial slide for lectures. Verbal disclosure is required by the moderator or presenter
 2. Program insert for presented papers
 3. Title page footnote for published papers
- B. Financial relationships requiring disclosure (if these occurred within preceding calendar year):
 1. Employment
 2. Honoraria, royalties, intellectual property rights
 3. Research funding, study grant
 4. Consultancies
 5. Joint ventures with related industries
 6. Equity interests

C. Leadership Roles:

1. Any leadership role (e.g., board member, officer or advisor) with another association in the field of pain management must be disclosed.

IV. INCOMPLETE DISCLOSURE

Incomplete disclosure is defined as negligence in reporting required disclosures as defined above exceeding current market value of greater than \$10,000.

The president, executive director, and the board of directors or a committee appointed by same will be responsible for reviewing disclosure forms and determining if an actual conflict of interest or incomplete disclosure has occurred requiring a response. Members with significant concerns may report perceived conflicts to the Society for review.

It is expected that questions will arise regarding compliance with this policy. Any member may seek the advice of the officers and board to aid in resolving such questions. If a member participant fails to adhere to the obligations as set forth in this policy, the governing body of the Society, after careful review, following due process and consultation with the member, may invoke sanctions including but not limited to:

- A. Replacing the individual in the program or activity
- B. Barring the member from presenting at ASIPP events
- C. Impeachment if an officer of ASIPP
- D. Suspension of editorial board activity
- E. Suspension or revocation of membership in ASIPP

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REFERENCES

1. Lo B, Field MJ; Committee on Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice; Board on Health Sciences Policy. *Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice*. Editors; Institute of Medicine. The National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2009.