

# Society for Endocrinology

## **Guidelines for working with commercial companies**

### *Introduction*

The Society for Endocrinology has almost 2000 members working in a variety of fields throughout the world. The Society is pleased to work in partnership with external organisations and groups to achieve its mission and vision. However, as an independent charity it is vital the Society retains its independence. For this reason, and also to protect our commercial partners, it is essential that the Society ensures that such collaborations do not lead to undue influence, or the perception of such influence. These guidelines are therefore intended to clarify the Society's position on commercial involvement.

The Society for Endocrinology seeks to support initiatives and activities that can be shown directly or indirectly to benefit public education and research in endocrinology. The level of support will vary according to the needs of the external partner and the Society, which will consider the best use of its own resources before external commitment.

### *Basic principles*

The Society welcomes external support of activities if the criteria below are met:

- Initiatives must help the Society achieve its objectives, whilst reflecting and reinforcing its mission.
- Initiatives will not compromise the independent status of the Society.
- Initiatives must not be in competition with any other activities being progressed by the Society.
- Before commitment, the level of support from both parties will be agreed in writing, including copyright issues.
- Initiatives, where appropriate, will always consider the needs of minority groups.

### *Corporate relationships*

The kinds of partnerships will vary, but the most common will be:

- Sponsorship of Society activities
- Exhibition space at Society events
- Educational grants for Society projects
- Satellite events at Society meetings
- Gifts in kind, such as donations of equipment or loan of expert personnel

### *Practicalities*

In the interests of safeguarding both parties' reputations, there are certain practicalities to be observed when working with commercial partners.

- Under no circumstance shall the partnership project allow a commercial company to influence the Society's scientific programme content
- All partnership projects shall be clearly and openly acknowledged. The weight given to the acknowledgement and whether the commercial partner's logo shall be used are at the Society's discretion; this decision will be confirmed in writing if requested.
- Unless clearly stated in advance in writing, both parties accept that the benefits to the commercial company shall be limited to such benefits as improved access to members, raised corporate profile and so on.
- There shall be no use of the Society's logo without written permission from the Chief Executive.