

Hospital for Special Surgery Institutional Relationships

One of the goals of Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) is to advance the science of orthopedic surgery, rheumatology, and related disciplines for the benefit of patients. From time to time, outside companies in the biomedical industry partner with HSS and its physicians in their work on scientific advances by providing funding for research, education and the development of medical devices or biologics.

In conjunction with such support, HSS has established a comprehensive set of policies to limit the potential for conflicts of interest that may arise from financial relationships with outside companies. It also requires each HSS physician to disclose funding support that he receives from outside companies in the physician's overview section on the HSS website.

The following are some examples of outside funding relationships and the HSS policies in place that are designed to limit the potential for conflict:

ROYALTY PAYMENTS: *For medical products invented or designed at HSS and licensed to outside companies for use in patients:* HSS policy prohibits HSS from receiving any royalties for the use of such products at HSS. This policy is intended to ensure that use of such products at HSS is based on patient care needs only, and not on any royalties that HSS may earn from the products purchased for use at HSS.

EDUCATION – ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: *For Professional Education and Academic Training Programs at HSS:* HSS has policies in place that meet the standards of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), which includes limiting the risk of bias by prohibiting any company from directly approaching medical students, residents and fellows for trainees, and as being the sole sponsor of an Education or Academic Training Program, unless the HSS GME Council or the Professional Education Advisory Committee has reviewed the content of the program and determined that it is free of bias. HSS policy also requires disclosure of program sponsorship and of any relationship that program presenters (e.g., faculty) and planning committee members might have with commercial interests. If it is determined that faculty and planning committee members who will be discussing products or services have a conflict of interest, then appropriate steps are taken to manage and/or resolve that conflict of interest.

RESEARCH: *For Outside Company Sponsorship of Research at HSS:* HSS refrains from participating in research sponsored by a company in which HSS has an interest that might create a potential conflict, unless the research is reviewed and receives the approval of the Conflict of Interest Committee – Research. As a condition of approving such research, the Conflicts of Interest Committee - Research puts into place procedures to manage and monitor the Conflict of Interest to eliminate any bias, direct or indirect, that may arise from research and to disclose such interests to HSS patients who may be enrolled in the research.