

# INDUSTRY RELATIONS MESSAGE

Continuing medical education is one of the most important and well-regarded member services provided by the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). The Annual Meeting is the AAN's premier continuing medical education event. It is internationally recognized in the neurologic community for the quality of its education and scientific programs as well as many networking opportunities.

The AAN benefits from its partnership with corporate sponsors who provide financial support for a variety of Annual Meeting events and programs. The AAN recognizes members' concerns regarding industry involvement in the Annual Meeting and the potential for commercial bias, overt, or otherwise. The AAN annually reviews and revises its guidelines that govern industry participation to ensure that they are appropriate, comprehensive, and unambiguous. The AAN's zero-tolerance policy for any real or perceived commercial bias in AAN education or scientific programs is the fundamental and unwavering principle that guides its interactions with industry. The AAN guidelines state:

***It is the AAN's policy to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest between the AAN and industry.***

The AAN's Annual Meeting policies and processes are based on, and closely follow, guidelines established by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, American Medical Association, and US Food and Drug Administration.

Programs at the Annual Meeting are developed and implemented solely by the AAN's Education Committee, Science Committee, their respective subcommittees, and AAN staff. Industry has absolutely no role in selecting program topics, faculty and directors, or planning program content. Industry influence or promotion on slides or computer-based presentations is prohibited, and any use of product brand names should be avoided. All speakers must personally disclose, in writing, any actual or perceived relationships with industry, regardless of whether these relate to a specific presentation or not. These disclosures are published in *Neurology*<sup>®</sup> and AAN Annual Meeting publications. Industry and presenters are required to sign letters of agreement explicitly stating that they understand and will adhere to the AAN guidelines. The AAN Foundation sponsors a Corporate Roundtable, comprised of representatives from both the AAN and its industry partners, which promotes awareness of, and compliance with, the AAN's policies governing industry participation in the Annual Meeting and other activities.

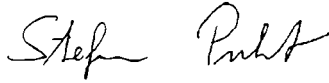
The great majority of the AAN's industry partners and presenters abide by the AAN guidelines, but occasional infractions do occur. Although most of these are minor, the AAN's zero-tolerance policy specifies sanctions for those who violate its guidelines. In addition, the AAN has revised all education and scientific evaluation forms

to provide attendees with an opportunity to report any perceived commercial bias. Although the Meeting Management Committee deals with infractions and perceptions of bias in a rigorous and impartial manner, the Committee frequently seeks input on these issues from the AAN's Ethics, Law, and Humanities Committee.

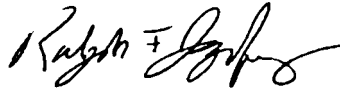
The AAN values its partnership with industry. However, the AAN cannot and will not compromise the independence and credibility of its programs through its relationships with corporate sponsors. Appropriate guidelines and input from attendees are essential components of managing these relationships so that the AAN maintains its integrity as an organization and the confidence of the medical profession. Questions related to these issues may be addressed to Timothy A. Pedley, MD, FAAN, Chairman, Meeting Management Committee.



Timothy A. Pedley, MD, FAAN  
Chairman, Meeting Management Committee



Stefan M. Pulst, MD, FAAN  
Chair, Science Committee  
Chair, Scientific Program Subcommittee



Ralph F. Józefowicz, MD, FAAN  
Chair, Education Committee  
Chair, Annual Meeting Subcommittee