



# IUSM CME Policy

## Commercial Support

In accordance with [ACCME's Standards for Commercial Support](#), this policy is designed to ensure that relationships with commercial entities remain within acceptable professional boundaries and that commercial support in no way influences or biases the content of the CME activities. This policy applies to all forms of physician education certified for CME by IUSM.

### Assuring Independence

- In order to maintain independence during the planning and implementation of CME activities all decisions are made free of the control of a commercial interest. This includes:
  - identification of CME needs
  - determination of educational objectives
  - selection and presentation of content
  - selection of planning team members and other persons in a position to control the content of the CME activity
  - selection of educational methods, and
  - evaluation of the activity
- The independence of joint sponsors must be verified to ensure that neither they nor their parent organization are considered a “commercial interest” as defined by ACCME.
- All parties signing the Letter of Agreement (LOA) with a commercial supporter must agree to comply with the [ACCME Standards for Commercial Support](#).
- All faculty, meeting, and marketing logistics are to be handled by IUSM CME staff or their designee(s). Representatives from a commercial interest cannot provide meeting planning or faculty coordination functions.
- Information related to the identity of learners at CME activities is considered to be the confidential property of IUSM CME. Learners’ information will only be released to third parties when learners have signed a document authorizing this release of information.
- At the discretion of IUSM CME, anonymous evaluation summaries of the supported activity may be shared with industry representatives.

### Appropriate Use of Commercial Support

- IUSM CME makes all decisions regarding the disposition and disbursement of the commercial support funds and in-kind support received for CME activities.

- IUSM CME shall not be required by a commercial interest to accept advice or services concerning teachers, authors, or participants or other education matters, including activity content and format, from a commercial interest as conditions of contributing funds or services.
- All commercial support associated with a CME activity must be given with the full knowledge and approval of IUSM CME. No additional funds or in-kind support will be provided to the planning committee members, teachers, or authors beyond those defined in the budget.
- Commercial support may be used to pay for travel, lodging, honoraria or personal expenses for employees and volunteers of IUSM CME, joint sponsor, or educational partner. However, commercial support cannot be used to pay for travel, lodging or personal expenses for non-teacher or non-author participants.
- All educational grant amounts will be based on an itemized and estimated budget prepared in advance and shared with the commercial supporter.
- The total dollar amount will be reflected in the LOA. The name of the commercial supporter must be clearly stated in each LOA.
- The LOA shall define the terms, purposes, and conditions of the grant and shall be signed by the commercial interest, IUSM, and any other provider or educational partner involved in the planning and implementation of the CME activity. The originating source of the funds shall be considered the commercial interest for purposes of signing the agreement and acknowledgment.
- IUSM CME has a written policy governing [honoraria and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses](#) for planners, teachers and authors. All funds to be paid to planners, teachers, authors, or joint sponsors shall be stipulated in the LOA.
- IUSM CME acknowledges the receipt of educational grants from commercial interests and makes this information known to learners prior to the execution of a CME activity.
- All commercial support expenditures must be documented and, upon request, provided to the commercial supporter.

## Definitions

- *Commercial Support*  
Commercial Support is financial or in-kind contributions given by a commercial interest, which is used to pay all or part of the costs of a CME activity. Examples of costs associated with CME activities include speaker honoraria or travel expenses, meeting space, meals, and so forth.
- *Commercial Interest*  
The ACCME defines a commercial interest as any proprietary entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients with the exemption of non-profit or government organizations and non-health care related companies.