

ALD 2011
Guidelines for Commercial Support & Conflict of Interest
Academy of Laser Dentistry's 18th Annual Conference
March 3-5, 2011, San Diego, California

The Academy of Laser Dentistry, in planning continuing dental education (CDE) programming for the Academy's annual conference, will adhere to the following policies:

1. Program topic selection will be based on perceived needs for professional information and not for the purpose of endorsing specific commercial products, materials, drugs, treatments or services.
2. Funds received from commercial sources in support of any educational programs shall be unrestricted and the scientific sessions committee shall retain exclusive rights regarding the selection of presenters, instructional materials, program content and format, etc.
3. Any and all commercial support received shall be acknowledged in program announcements, brochures and the on-site program book.
4. Commercial support, if received, shall be limited to:
 - a. the payment of reasonable honoraria
 - b. reimbursement of presenters' out-of-pocket expenses
 - c. the payment of the cost of modest meals or social events held as part of an educational activity.
5. Presenters shall be instructed to avoid recommending any specific product by its trade name and to use generic terms whenever possible. The following guidelines will be enforced:
 - a. It is appropriate and expected to indicate the specific instrument(s) used (including manufacturer and model name) ONCE in the "Materials and Methods" section of the clinical or scientific presentation.
 - b. In the interests of full disclosure, it is appropriate and expected to acknowledge ONCE during the presentation the sources of any support received in carrying out the study.
 - c. If a particular clinical technique or methodology has been developed by or named after an individual (such as the presenter), it is appropriate and expected to indicate that ONCE during the presentation.
6. Speakers will be required to disclose any potential bias to commercial supporters of any activity related to the Academy of Laser Dentistry conference.

The Scientific Sessions committee shall:

1. Be responsible for the content, quality and scientific integrity of all CDE activities.
2. Assure that presentations give a balanced view of all therapeutic options.
3. Assure that commercial exhibits do not influence planning or interfere with the presentation of CDE activities.
4. Be responsible for making ultimate decisions regarding funding arrangements for CDE activities.
5. Assure that commercially supported social events at CDE activities do not compete with or take precedence over the educational events.
6. Have a policy on conflict of interest and assure that all CDE activities conform to this policy.

Academy of Laser Dentistry

Disclosure Policy Regarding Dual Commitment and Conflict of Interest

Definitions

The expression “dual commitment” describes the dilemma faced by persons (or persons’ institutions) when their responsibility to remain unbiased may be compromised, or perceived to be compromised, by a simultaneous commitment to commercial or other interests related to the subject of a specific educational activity or scientific endeavor. “Conflict of Interest” refers to a degree of dual commitment that may be strong enough to produce questions or reservations regarding potential loss of objectivity.

Policy

It is the policy of the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) that persons who submit or review manuscripts or materials for publication or presentation disclose any proprietary, financial, professional, or other personal interests that may influence or be perceived to influence positions presented in, or the review of, the manuscript or presentation. This policy is intended to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in educational activities and scientific endeavors. ALD acknowledges that the potential for conflicts of interest can occur for financial and other reasons, such as personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion. This disclosure requirement includes relationships with biomedical device manufacturers or distributors, pharmaceutical companies, or others whose products or services may be considered to be related to the subject matter of the educational activity or scientific endeavor. The intent of requiring disclosure is not to prevent an author with dual commitments from submitting a manuscript or presentation. Disclosure is requested so that the readers may reasonably formulate their own judgments regarding the article or presentation in the light of full disclosure of related information.

Operating Principles Governing Disclosure of Dual Commitment and Potential Conflict of Interest

1. Dual commitments governed by the ALD’s Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy include **but are not limited to:**
 - consultancies (paid or unpaid)
 - ownership of companies, stock options, stock ownership, equity
 - current or pending ownership of patents, patent licensing agreements, royalties, copyrights
 - financial interest (honoraria for lectureships or other teaching activities, stipends)
 - special customer preferences (material donations, clinical materials, special discounts, special gifts)
 - governance (corporate responsibility, corporate allegiances such as service on governing boards)
 - research contracts, grants, or other support for investigation
 - paid expert testimony
 - by virtue of present or past employment of immediate family or relatives.
2. **ALD requires disclosure of dual commitments.** In determining the significance and extent of a dual commitment, ALD considers the following:
 - scope of the commitment or relationship
 - frequency and timing – whether past, recent, occasional, or long-standing
 - number – a single, exclusive relationship vs. multiple, competing relationships.
3. If a dual commitment is related to material contained in the submission, it must be disclosed to the readers, regardless of scope, frequency, timing, or number.

4. Failure to disclose may be determined to be a violation of ALD's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct. Penalties for failure to disclose will be considered at the discretion of the ALD.

Disclosure of Unlabeled and/or Investigational Product Usage or Noncompliance with Manufacturer's Directions for Use

The Academy of Laser Dentistry requires all authors and presenters to disclose (1) whether any product or device discussed in their manuscript or presentation is unlabeled for the use discussed or is investigational, or (2) whether any procedure described does not follow manufacturer's directions for use.

Definitions

Unlabeled: Any use of a product or device for purposes other than those specifically stated by the manufacturer and approved or cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Investigational: Any product or device that has not yet received approval or clearance for general use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Manufacturer's Directions for Use: Directions specified by a product or device manufacturer with respect to such factors as clinical indications for use; patient selection and management; proper diagnosis and treatment planning; proper device parameter settings (e.g., laser wavelength, delivery system, emission mode, fluence, power, energy, pulse rate, duration of exposure); useful shelf life, expiration date; technique, sequence, quantity, range, intensity, and other characteristics; postoperative instructions and follow-up care; management of complications; precautions and contraindications; record keeping and reporting.