

## **Code of Practice: Relationship between IFCC and its Corporate Members**

### **Introduction:**

This document sets out a Code of Practice for the working relationship between IFCC and its Corporate Members. The document has been approved by both the IFCC Executive Board and by the IFCC Corporate Members.

The Code of Practice has been developed from the AdvaMed Code of Ethics as applied by the American Association for Clinical Chemistry.

### **International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC):**

1. The IFCC is an international scientific/medical society of clinical laboratory organizations that represent professionals, physicians, research scientists and other individuals involved with clinical chemistry and related laboratory medicine disciplines. Its volunteers hold positions in academia, hospitals, private laboratories, regulatory agencies as well as the in vitro diagnostic and pharmaceutical industries.
2. The IFCC's meetings, in addition to scientific education, provide its members and non-members with an exhibition dedicated to in vitro diagnostic testing and equipment, commercial laboratories, and original equipment manufacturers (hereafter referred to as industry).
3. IFCC has a category of membership (Corporate Members) that is open to any company that has an interest in the practice of clinical laboratory science/medicine.
4. Industry makes important contributions to medical progress through development of new devices, and industry supports the profession by funding research, educational programs and awards that might not otherwise be possible.
5. The following Code of Practice has been developed so that the IFCC agenda and educational programs will remain highly credible, of high quality, independent and free of commercial bias.

### **Code of Practice:**

1. IFCC is financially autonomous of industry (i.e., is not an arm of industry). However, IFCC does not need to be, nor should it strive to be, free of industry support. Therefore, IFCC focuses on managing any potential conflicts of interest rather than eliminating monetary support from industry.
2. Members who work in industry enjoy the full rights and privileges of IFCC membership including serving in elected positions, serving on committees, and participating as volunteers in IFCC's educational programs as planners and speakers. All IFCC volunteers are required to complete conflict of interest disclosure forms when serving the association in various leadership positions.
3. IFCC's educational programs are clearly distinguished from marketing, and educational programs are developed by IFCC volunteers and staff. Industry support of educational events is permitted if the funding entity is separated from the planning process and funding is not directed to support an individual speaker or presentation.
4. IFCC requires all speakers to disclose potential conflicts of interest before and at the time of presentation.
5. Because laboratory measurements depend on specific equipment and reagents, some types of educational programs may include references to commercial products. In those situations, the educational programs must address scientific content and avoid promotional statements.
6. Industry may develop separate industry-sponsored symposia, workshops and conferences in conjunction with IFCC meetings, but they must be clearly identified as such and a statement must be made indicating that IFCC does not endorse the content of industry programs.

7. The exhibit floor at any IFCC meeting is clearly distinguished as a marketplace. Industry can purchase booth space at IFCC meetings, but booths are not a requirement for scientific or educational sessions. Offering of educational or small gifts is permissible.
8. IFCC may share mailing lists with industry as long as members have a choice of opting out of having their email address shared with third parties.
9. Paid advertising in IFCC publications is acceptable as long as it is clearly identifiable as such.
10. IFCC does not normally accept funding from single companies to support specific scientific or clinical projects. IFCC will invite all of its Corporate Members (and occasionally other companies) to contribute shared funding to such specific projects. Examples of these projects include method standardization/harmonization and clinical practice guidelines.
11. IFCC may accept funding from single companies for educational projects as long as they are free from commercial bias and do not imply IFCC endorsement of any product. Each case will be handled on an individual basis.
12. IFCC may accept funding from industry for such things as awards, research grants, travel grants and scholarships. The recipients of such funds are selected by IFCC committees not the financial donors. Awards may not normally be named for industry supporters but the source of funding may be recognized.
13. IFCC does not endorse commercial products.

Approved by the IFCC Executive Board  
April 2013

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