Procedure for disclosure of potential commercial or professional conflicts of interest by UME teachers

Approved by: Undergraduate Medical Education Executive Committee
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As clinicians and researchers, teachers in the Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) program may have a potential conflict of interest, financial or otherwise, in relation to content they may discuss in the context of teaching. As examples, teachers may have an interest related to a commercial product, a research finding, a company, or special interest group.

Procedure:

All teachers in the UME Program must disclose any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest.

1. This includes:
   - those delivering content in lectures, symposia, seminars, and PBL tutorials.
   - those preparing or determining content such as course directors, planners, and members of curriculum committees.

2. The disclosure by teachers must be included in print or on-line materials and mentioned at the beginning of each session.
   - If slides are used, the second slide should contain the disclosure information.

3. Potential conflicts of course directors or planners should be declared in the overall course description and publicly available.

4. In less formal settings such as clinical teaching at the bedside, in the operating room or procedure room, or in ambulatory settings, it is not practical to disclose potential conflicts at the outset of every encounter. However, teachers should be mindful of situations in which the impartiality of their statements could be questioned and disclose any potential conflict of interest in such cases to the students under their supervision.

5. For advice on how to approach these situations, teachers are encouraged to speak with the course director(s) of the courses in which they participate.

This procedure is consistent with the guidelines articulated in the Report of the Task Force on Relations with Industry and the Private Sector (“TRIPS,” January 2011), but also recognizes the potential for non-industry-related conflicts of interest.

It is the responsibility of course directors or other faculty members who coordinate teacher recruitment (e.g. week managers or site directors) to make this procedure known to all teachers.

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1 The TRIPS report identifies relevant conflicts of interest as including but not being limited to: partnerships, shareholdings, receipt of consultation fees, membership on advisory boards or speakers’ bureaus, and funding for research.