

**American College of Chest Physicians
Leadership Conflict-of-Interest (COI)
Policy**

(Adopted by the Board of Regents on October 29, 2010 and
Amended March 2019)

1) STRUCTURE.

Level I: Level I leaders are:

- President
- Immediate Past President President-Elect
- Secretary (CHEST's Executive Vice President)
- Editor in Chief, *CHEST* journal
- Chair of Joint Finance Oversight Committee
- Governance Committee*

Level IIA: The Level IIA leaders are:

- CHEST Foundation President
- President-Designate
- Regents-at-Large
- Chair and Vice-Chair of Council of NetWorks
- Chair and Vice-Chair of Council of Global Governors
- Joint CHEST/American Thoracic Society (ATS) Clinical Practice Committee
- Governance Committee*

Level IIB: The Level IIB leaders are:

- Chair and Vice-Chair of Guidelines Oversight Committee, Education Committee, and CHEST Scientific Program Committee
- CHEST Foundation Immediate Past President, President-Designate, President-Elect
- All members of Professional Standards Committee
- Governance Committee*

Level IIC: The Level IIC leaders are:

- Associate Editor, *CHEST* journal
- Deputy Editors, *CHEST* journal

Level III: All committee members (excluding Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Guidelines Oversight, Education, CHEST Program Committees), all NetWork Steering Committee members, all Global Governors, NetWork members who participate in CHEST-sponsored activities, all editors of *CHEST Physician*, and CHEST Foundation Board of Trustees members.

* The Governance Committee is slated from representatives among the Board of Regents and the Board of Trustees; thus, members will continue to adhere to the level assigned for their Board position of origin.

2) COI RULES BY LEADERSHIP LEVEL

Level I. Level I leaders are bound by the following COI rules during their term as Level I leaders:

- No promotional activities (see points of clarification below).
- Except for investments in mutual funds, no holdings in stocks or stock options of pharmaceutical companies or any other commercial entities (e.g., device manufacturers) that manufacture or sell products related to management of individuals with disorders addressed by CHEST. No investments in tobacco companies except for mutual funds. These restrictions apply to investments and intellectual property (e.g., patents associated with licensing, and/or financial or in-kind benefit) held by individual, their spouse, domestic or life partner, dependent children, and minors living in the same household (per IRS definition).
- Disclosure of any activities, investments, or employment of a spouse, domestic or life partner, dependent children, or minors living in the same household that may be affiliated with pharmaceutical companies or any other commercial entities (e.g., device manufacturers) that make or sell products related to management of individuals with disorders addressed by CHEST.
- No service as board member or officer of any other national or international medical or professional society (see points of clarification below).
- No service as chair of a committee or chair of any major projects (such as guidelines or consensus statements) of any other national or international medical or professional society, except for limited exceptions as authorized by the organization's decision-making body on COI. Serving as a committee member is permissible (see points of clarification below).
- Disclosure of activities as a member of any committee of any other national or international medical professional society.
- No employment, consulting, or advisory board activity for pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies, including CHEST-sponsored focus groups, except as authorized by the organization's decision-making body on COI (see points of clarification below).
- No service as Editor in Chief of a journal in the field of critical care, pulmonary, or sleep medicine.

Level IIA. Level IIA leaders are bound by the following COI rules during their term as Level IIA leaders:

- No promotional activities (see points of clarification below).
- Except for investments in mutual funds, no holdings in stocks or stock options of pharmaceutical companies or any other commercial entities (e.g., device manufacturers) that manufacture or sell products related to management of individuals with disorders

addressed by CHEST. These restrictions apply to investments and intellectual property (e.g., patents associated with licensing, and/or financial or in-kind benefit) held by individual, their spouse, domestic or life partner, dependent children, and minors living in the same household (per IRS definition).

- No service as board member or officer of any other national or international medical or professional society (see points of clarification below).
- No service as chair of a committee or chair of any major projects (such as guidelines or consensus statements) of any other national or international medical or professional society, except for limited exceptions as authorized by the organization's decision-making body on COI. Serving as a committee member is permissible (see points of clarification below).
- Disclosure of activities as a member of any committee of any other national or international medical professional society.
- No employment, consulting, or advisory board activity for pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies, including CHEST-sponsored focus groups, except as authorized by the organization's decision-making body on COI (see points of clarification below).
- No service as Editor in Chief of a journal in the field of critical care, pulmonary, or sleep medicine.

Level IIB. Level IIB leaders are bound by the following COI rules during their term as Level IIB leaders:

- No promotional activities (see points of clarification below).
- Except for investments in mutual funds, no holdings in stocks or stock options of pharmaceutical companies or any other commercial entities (e.g., device manufacturers) that manufacture or sell products related to management of individuals with disorders addressed by CHEST.
- No investments in stocks of tobacco companies except for mutual funds.
- No service as board member or officer of any other **competing** national or international medical or professional society (see points of clarification below).
- No service as chair of a committee or chair of any major projects (such as guidelines or consensus statements) of any other national or international medical or professional society, except for limited exceptions as authorized by the organization's decision-making body on COI. Serving as a committee member is permissible (see points of clarification below).
- Disclosure of activities as a member of any committee of any other national or international medical professional society.
- No service as Editor in Chief of a journal in the field of critical care, pulmonary, or sleep medicine.

LEVEL IIC. Level IIC leaders are bound by the following COI rules during

their term as Level IIC leaders:

- No promotional activities (see points of clarification below).
- Except for investments in mutual funds, no holdings in stocks or stock options of pharmaceutical companies or any other commercial entities (e.g., device manufacturers) that manufacture or sell products related to management of individuals with disorders addressed by CHEST. These restrictions apply to investments and intellectual property (e.g., patents associated with licensing, and/or financial or in-kind benefit) held by individual, their spouse, domestic or life partner, dependent children, and minors living in the same household (per IRS definition).
- No service as board member or officer of any other national or international medical or professional society (see points of clarification below).
- Service as a member or chair of a committee or chair of any major projects (such as guidelines or consensus statements) of any other national or international medical or professional society **is permissible**. However, Deputy and Associate Editors should maintain confidentiality regarding journal information and refer questions to the Editor in Chief.
- Disclosure of activities as a member of any committee of any other national or international medical professional society.
- No employment, consulting, or advisory board activity for pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies, including CHEST-sponsored focus groups, except as authorized by the organization's decision-making body on COI (see points of clarification below).
- No service as Editor in Chief of a journal in the field of critical care, pulmonary, or sleep medicine.

Level III. Level III leaders must disclose COIs and recuse themselves from discussions, as and when appropriate. Any person who works on a CHEST-sponsored activity must confirm or submit a current COI disclosure form before, and sometimes, during, the activity. Level III leaders are not subject to disassociation rules.

Other Matters

- A. Effective date of implementation of these COI rules: February 1, 2011.
- B. Notification of the adopted policy will be sent to all members.
- C. Any questions or clarifications concerning a conflict are initially addressed by respective committee or other CHEST entity. However, if no immediate resolution is forthcoming, clarification is required, or continued concerns exist, the matter will be submitted to the Professional Standards Committee for a determination.
- D. If the member disagrees with the determination of the Professional Standards Committee, the member may appeal the decision to a COI Appeals Committee consisting of the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee (serves as Chair), two Regents-at-Large

appointed by the President, and the Regent-at-Large serving as Liaison to the Professional Standards Committee. A super majority (3/4) is required to reach a decision, which will be binding.

- E. A new COI disclosure form for all CHEST leaders and staff will be developed and available online.
- F. Committees should start every meeting (both remotely and in-person) by asking whether anyone has any new COI to disclose, including a COI related to a matter on the meeting agenda.

Points of Clarification

- A. Promotional activities are defined as those marketing or promotional activities that promote, market, or increase sales or consumption of a specific drug, device, technology, or technique or that are intended to enhance the image, well-being, stature, or popularity of a commercial entity pertinent to chest medicine. Promotional activities may or may not be remunerated. Examples include, but are not limited to, serving as a spokesperson or on a speaker's bureau for a pharmaceutical company or medical device company, using a commercial entity's audiovisual materials, or public endorsements of products. Promotional activities do not include research activities.
- B. The restrictions on service for other professional medical societies intend to avoid risk or perception of conflicting loyalties that could impair CHEST and its best interests, and apply to national and international entities only. They do not limit a leader's participation in local and state medical and professional societies or in hospital management. Level IIB leaders may serve in office for another society providing that it is not an organization with which CHEST would compete for members, annual meeting attendance, or products.
- C. The restriction on work for pharmaceutical and medical device companies might limit a leader's participation as a content expert for a company. Leaders who believe that their work for a company would not create an actual or perceived conflict of interest may seek formal authorization for an exception.

Within the context of the restriction on serving as a board member for a national or international medical or professional society, "board" is considered to have a fiduciary responsibility. Committees with the name "board" that do not have fiduciary responsibility would not be considered as a conflict of interest.

Appeals

Any questions or clarifications concerning a conflict are initially addressed by respective committee or other CHEST entity. However, if no immediate resolution is forthcoming, clarification is required, or continued concerns exist, the matter will be submitted to the Professional Standards Committee for a determination.

If the member disagrees with the determination of the Professional Standards Committee, the member may appeal the decision to a COI

Appeals Committee consisting of the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee (serves as Chair), two Regents-at-Large appointed by the President, and the Regent-at-Large serving as Liaison to the Professional Standards Committee. A super majority (3/4) is required to reach a decision, which will be binding.