

**UC Riverside, School of Medicine Policies and Procedures****Policy Title:** Policy on Continuing Medical Education, Including Conflicts of Interest in Commercial Support**Policy Number:** 950-04-001

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Rosemary Tyrrell, Ed.D.
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Office of Faculty Development
<b>Origination Date:</b>	July 1, 2021
<b>Date of Revision:</b>	
<b>Scope:</b>	Provision of Continuing Medical Education and Conflicts of Interest in Commercial Support

**I. Policy Summary**

The University of California, Riverside (UCR) School of Medicine does not have a Continuing Medical Education (CME) Office. Nevertheless, the school, as part of its mission, seeks to provide educational programs that improve the quality of health care and medical education in Inland Southern California. In instances when the UCR School of Medicine cannot sponsor the continuing medical education program, the medical school may partner with University-approved commercial vendors to provide the program.

**II. Definitions**

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education requires that: “A medical school has in place and follows effective policies and procedures applicable to board members, faculty members, and any other individuals who participate in decision-making affecting the medical education program to avoid the impact of conflicts of interest in the operation of the medical education program, its associated clinical facilities, and any related enterprises.” [LCME element 1.2]

**III. Policy Text****A. Provision of Continuing Medical Education**

1. The UCR School of Medicine (SOM) will contract with providers of CME that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).
2. ACCME-accredited institutions that partner with the UCR School of Medicine for CME shall be responsible for all aspects of providing the educational content, including adherence to the UCR School of Medicine’s conflict-of-interest safeguards.
3. The Office of Faculty Development will review and approve all requests from academic departments to offer CME programs.

**B. Conflicts of Interest in Commercial Support of Continuing Medical Education**

1. Commercial support for educational programs must be provided free of industry influence on the content of the educational session, clinical care,

education, or research. All educational programs provided by the UCR School of Medicine or its vendors must abide by the conflict-of-interest standards for commercial support established by the relevant national governing body, for instance, the [Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education \(ACCME\) Standards for Commercial Support](#).

2. This policy applies to all funds that commercial vendors provide for the UCR School of Medicine's educational programs including funding for meals or refreshments, speaker honoraria, and other expenses.
3. Commercial vendors may provide funds to support UCR-sponsored educational programs with the following requirements:
  - a. The vendor must provide the funds in the form of an unrestricted grant or gift, and must be provided directly to the appropriate academic department, program or division, and not to individual faculty members, staff members, students, resident physicians, or other trainees.
  - b. UCR faculty members, staff members, students, resident physicians, or other trainees shall determine the content of and select the presenters for all UCR-sponsored educational programs.
  - c. When invited to do so by a department chair or designate, a commercial vendor may provide funding for a UCR-sponsored CME program within the restrictions described above and in accordance with a fully-executed UCR purchase agreement.
  - d. No faculty or staff member of the UCR School of Medicine shall require UCR students, resident physicians, or other trainees to participate in any educational session in which industry representatives disseminate information about proffered products or services.
  - e. Any UCR School of Medicine faculty member, staff member, student, resident physician, or other trainee giving a presentation at a professional meeting must be allowed to provide a fair and balanced presentation, and to be assured that financial support provided by a commercial vendor is publicly disclosed.
4. Presenters of CME programs must fully disclose any conflicts of interest.
5. Attendees of CME programs must be solicited for feedback, explicitly including their viewpoints on any perceived biases in discussion of any company products or services.

#### **IV. Procedures**

- A.** UCR School of Medicine faculty and staff members interested in providing CME programs will contact the Office of Faculty Development prior to scheduling such educational activities.
- B.** The Office of Faculty Development will evaluate the suitability of proposed external CME providers prior to offering CME programs to UCR School of Medicine faculty members, staff members or trainees.

**V. Forms/Instructions**  
N/A

**VI. Related Information**

This policy is consistent with the [University of California Health Care Vendor Relations Policy](#) implemented by the Office of the President on March 21, 2008.

**VII. Revision History**  
N/A

Approvals:

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (10/18/2021)

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PAUL HACKMAN, J.D., L.L.M.  
CHIEF COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY OFFICER,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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DEBORAH DEAS, M.D., M.P.H  
VICE CHANCELLOR, HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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DATE