

ATS POLICY ON FUNDRAISING

SECTION ONE: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) is a professional medical society with the mission of improving health worldwide by advancing research, clinical care, and public health in respiratory disease, critical illness, and sleep disorders.

The ATS is accredited with commendation (all available criteria) by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and a [non-member signatory](#) to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies' (CMSS) Code for Interactions with Companies¹.

This policy is not intended to apply to the ATS Foundation, Inc., which is a separate 501c3 organization with its own policies and procedures.

The guiding principles for this policy are:

1. All interactions between ATS and industry will be conducted in a transparent, fair and ethical manner.
2. Corporate sponsorship or collaboration with the ATS does not imply endorsement by the Society.
3. The ACCME *Standards for Commercial Support*² govern all corporate relationships related to continuing medical education.
4. The Council of Medical Specialty Societies *Code for Interactions with Companies*³ guides interactions with companies, particularly regarding activities other than continuing medical education.
5. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) "*Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals*"⁴ shall guide all journal advertising.

TYPES OF ADVERTISING: - Generally acceptable for consideration include pharmaceutical products; medical-equipment products and services; medical software; practice-management products and services (including office equipment and supplies, medical billing systems, and medical software products); and medical websites, as well as research-related products. Additionally, calls for patients to participate in clinical trials, or clinical-trial matching services if the trial is registered in Clinical Trials.gov and conducted by a recognized company, academic institution, or reputable Clinical Research Organization (CRO). All types of advertising not described above will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

¹ CMSS Code for Interactions with Companies - <https://cmss.org/code-signers-pdf/>. Accessed 1-15-19.

² ACCME Standards for Commercial Support – <https://www.accme.org/accreditation-rules/standards-for-commercial-support>. Accessed 1/15/19.

³ Ibid, Footnote 1.

⁴ International Committee of Medical Journal Editors "Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals", 2018 Update. http://www.icmje.org/news-and-editorials/updated_recommendations_dec2018.html. Accessed 1/31/2019.

6. Consistent with the *ATS Policy Governing Relationships Between the Tobacco Industry, ATS Members, and Non-Members Who Participate in ATS Activities*⁵, the ATS does not accept any funding of any kind that is tobacco-industry related. Funding by companies involved with non-tobacco nicotine delivery systems (e.g., e-cigarettes and other vaping devices) or cannabis may also be prohibited or restricted, according to ATS policies in existence at the time of funding.
7. Collaboration between industry, academia, patients and regulatory bodies furthers the ATS mission and creates a “scientific community of excellence”⁶ that facilitates and honors advancement in science in patient care, regardless of its genesis.
8. To minimize risk to the ATS and its members in this heavily regulated and monitored environment, all requests for funding from industry will be reviewed internally, developed and submitted by staff members of the Corporate Alliances and Business Development Team, who have been trained in protocol and process. Under no circumstances are requests of any kind to be submitted by members of the Society on the Society’s behalf.

SECTION TWO: APPROVED METHODS OF FUNDRAISING – BOTH CONFERENCE AND NON-CONFERENCE

1. Educational Grants

The ATS actively seeks grant opportunities from industry to support its educational mission. These projects, whether CME/MOC certified or not, are by definition independent of company input or influence. Such programs may include but are not limited to regional courses, assembly projects that are non-document related, educational activities or patient education activities.

This includes projects that are supportive of guideline dissemination or implementation medicine. In this instance, no effort to seek funding for such projects will begin until after the guideline is published.

All grants requests to industry will be developed and submitted by staff members of the Corporate Alliances and Business Development Team, who have been trained in protocol and process. Under no circumstances are grants to be submitted by members of the Society on the Society’s behalf.

2. In-Kind Support

When conducting educational programs, the ATS may request non-monetary support of an activity or series from companies. The ACCME Standards for Commercial Support² define “In-Kind Support” as non-monetary commercial support received for an activity which includes:

- Durable equipment
- Facilities/Space
- Disposable supplies (Non-biological)
- Animal parts or tissue
- Human parts or tissue

⁵ American Thoracic Society Policy Governing Relationships Between the Tobacco Industry, ATS Members, and Non-Members Who Participate in ATS Activities - <http://www.thoracic.org/about/governance/ethics-and-coi/resources/ats-tobacco-policy.pdf>. Accessed 1/16/2019.

⁶ Reiss et al. AJRCCM 2012

- Other non-monetary support

Such non-cash support represents a real cost to companies that provide In-Kind Support. Attribution of support will be provided according to the governing codes, including the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support. Such requests will come directly from the ATS Education Department.

3. Charitable Grants

The ATS actively seeks grant opportunities from industry to support the mission and activities of the ATS.

All grants requests to industry will be developed and submitted by staff members of the Corporate Alliances and Business Development Team, who have been trained in protocol and process. Under no circumstances are grants to be submitted by members of the Society on the Society's behalf.

SECTION THREE: APPROVED METHODS OF FUNDRAISING – NON-CONFERENCE ONLY

1. ATS Corporate Member Program

Approved by the ATS Board of Directors in November 2009 and updated in April 2011, the ATS Corporate Membership program is a vehicle for collaboration between the ATS and its industry partners, in the mutual goal of improving patient care and education in the pulmonary, critical care, and sleep fields. The program serves as a means for transparent discussion between the ATS and the corporate community about issues and trends that may affect medicine, the advancement of science or patient care and drug discovery and development in the fields of pulmonary, critical care, or sleep medicine. Multiple sponsorship levels allow for broad engagement from companies of all sizes.

In addition, ATS Corporate Membership is an opportunity for companies to be an active and visible part of the ATS community. Corporate Members at all levels receive membership in the society for a pre-determined number of employees, as well as exposure and visibility benefits at the ATS International Conference and in key ATS media throughout the year. Benefits of Corporate Membership will be reassessed each year by the Corporate Alliances team based on current environment and benchmarks against other societies.

2. ATS Journals Advertising

The ATS accepts both print and digital brand, disease awareness and corporate advertising in its four journals, and digital advertising in the eTOC E-mail Alerts and Publish Ahead of Print Alerts All advertisements are subject to approval by the ATS, which reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement at any time. The pricing and policies around journal advertising are the responsibility of the ATS Chief of Journals.

The ATS publishes supplements (generally a compilation of articles based on presentations at national meetings) as additional journal issues. All manuscripts are peer-reviewed. Supplements are usually funded by industry, but the ATS does not endorse the information or recommendations in

any of its publications, including the supplements. Letters of agreement are signed between the meeting organizers and the ATS. The ATS works directly with the authors on their manuscripts but does not communicate directly with any of the corporate sponsors/supporters.

3. ATS Publication Advertising

ATS NEWS - The ATS accepts digital brand, disease awareness, and corporate advertising in its monthly newsletter, ATS NEWS. The pricing and policies around ATS NEWS advertising are the responsibility of the ATS Chief of Marketing and Communications.

SPONSORED RESOURCE CENTER – The ATS accepts ads linked to digital educational resources in the Sponsored Resource Center, which are shared with members through a monthly e-mail campaign.

4. Collaborative Funding Agreements

Collaborative Funding Agreements are developed on a case-by-case basis for projects that are closely aligned with the ATS mission and the ATS strategic framework. Materials generated from these projects go through the collaborating company's medical and legal review processes, however, final decisions on content are made by the ATS.

As these projects are developed together, they carry both the ATS logo and the collaborating company's logo. Materials from such projects are typically distributed by both organizations.

While materials developed from Collaborative Funding Agreements may be distributed and/or discussed in non-accredited programming, this is not designed as a conference programming opportunity.

SECTION FOUR: APPROVED METHODS OF FUNDRAISING – ATS CONFERENCE ONLY

1. Exhibits and Sponsorships at ATS IC

The ATS Staff and Leadership are committed to providing an environment that fosters discussion of products or services with thousands of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep researchers and clinicians who will attend the ATS International Conference.

The annual Exhibit Prospectus, along with its Rules and Regulations⁷, will be reviewed annually by the ATS Exhibits Team to ensure compliance with city-specific regulations as well as industry standards and benchmarks. The ATS should always strive to meet or exceed published standards and guidelines, including but not limited to the IAEE Standards for a Certified Exhibition Program⁸.

⁷ ATS 2019 Exhibit Rules and Regulations - <http://conference.thoracic.org/exhibitors/resources/2019/exhibitors-rules-regulations.pdf>. Accessed 1/24/19

⁸ International Association of Exhibitions and Events – IAEE Certified Exhibition Standards. <https://www.iaee.com/recognition/certified-exhibition-program/>. Accessed 1/24/19.

Products and services must be related to the research or practice of pulmonary, critical care or sleep medicine and companies must be in good financial standing with the ATS. Specifically, the ATS reserves the right to refuse space to any company who has failed to fulfill its financial obligations to the ATS, adhere to ATS policies, and/or whose products or services, in the judgment of the ATS Exhibit Staff do not meet the educational, scientific or practice needs of our members and attendees.

2. Abstract Scholarships

The ATS accepts grant support for abstract scholarships on a case-by-case basis. Abstract scholarships can be focused in a specific area, restricted to a geographical area, or generally available to the highest rated abstract in a particular assembly. Typically, a multi-year agreement is put into place by the Corporate Alliances Department.

Scholarship selection is managed by the ATS Assemblies Department and is completely independent of the supporting organization, whether industry or non-profit organization.

SECTION FIVE: INAPPROPRIATE METHODS OF FUNDRAISING

1. ATS Official Guidelines and Statements

As decided by the ATS Board of Directors action (June 2001), ATS will not accept corporate support for development and publication of official statements, clinical practice guidelines, or workshop reports of the ATS.

2. Official Endorsement by the ATS

The American Thoracic Society does not endorse specific products, technologies, or companies and does not suggest that one is superior over another.

3. Fundraising by Members or Leaders on Behalf of the ATS

Appropriate interactions with pharmaceutical, device and biotech companies are extremely complex as well as heavily monitored and regulated. To protect the ATS and its members from risk, Members or leaders who are approached by a company that is interested in providing support of any kind should follow this process:

- Thank the person for their interest in the ATS
- Share that all support needs to go through the ATS Staff
- Forward the contact with a brief introduction to the ATS Chief of Corporate Alliances and Business Development.

SECTION SIX: TRANSPARENCY OF FUNDING

As a signatory of the CMSS Code, the ATS has committed to transparency of funding. Annual disclosure of all corporate support will be made on the ATS Website.

Companies should always receive appropriate attribution of all support, consistent with the CMSS Code for Interactions with Companies. Logo attribution will be provided when permissible by all governing codes referenced in this policy.