

**AMERICAN BOARD OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES FOR DIRECTORS
2018**

The general public and the ophthalmic community expect and trust that work completed by the American Board of Ophthalmology (ABO) is of the highest quality and is free from any real or perceived conflict of interest (COI). The intent of this policy to govern activities of a Director that are for an entity other than the Director's primary employer(s) in the private sector (for-profit or not-for-profit) or in the public sector. If a Director believes any of his or her employment duties for a primary employer(s) create a real or perceived COI, the Director is encouraged to discuss this with the Chair of the ABO's Credentials Committee and/or the ABO's Chief Executive Officer so that COI can be appropriately disclosed and managed.

The ABO's COI policy is as follows:

1. Beginning when an individual receives a "Welcome Packet" from the ABO to become an ABO Director and continuing through his/her tenure as an ABO Director, he/she will refrain from each of the following:
 - Participating in any board review courses (including but not limited to "mock orals" in his/her department), and/or being associated or involved with any materials that might be considered as preparatory for any ABO examination or assessment. Additional detail regarding what is considered preparatory materials is contained in the ABO Conflict of Interest Policy for Examiners. Upon receipt of the "Welcome Packet," if the individual is engaged in any of the activities, the individual shall immediately cease participation. The Director will not engage in any such activities for a period of three (3) years following the end of his/her term as a Director.
 - Providing (i) medical records review or (ii) serving as an expert witness in a professional liability proceeding. If the Director believes that his/her skill set is unique or specialized with respect to potentially participating in (i) or (ii), the Director may request to participate in that activity by having it approved, in advance, by the ABO Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee may request whatever information it deems relevant from the Director prior to making its decision, which shall be final. If the Director is granted permission to participate in an activity, the Director shall not use his/her position as a Director to enhance the credibility of his/her testimony. Upon receipt of the "Welcome Packet," an individual shall disclose in writing all activities that are in process and/or active which are implicated by (i) or (ii) and provide detail requested by ABO describing the status of such matter(s).
 - Active engagement related to an event (that may or may not include remuneration) sponsored by a for-profit company that is involved in ophthalmic care, device(s), or products(s) (including but not limited to meetings, conferences, symposia, or lectures), except for an event that is ACCME-approved and sponsored through an unrestricted grant. For purposes of this section, it is not considered active engagement to be an attendee at an event if (i) the Director is not moderating and/or speaking as a presenter or panelist, or (ii) the Director receives marketing materials or give-aways (including but not limited to modest food and beverages) that is offered to all attendees generally, so long as such activity is consistent with the policies of the Director's employer.

- Serving as an officer or director or management position with any for-profit business that is involved in ophthalmic care, device(s), or product(s).
2. Agree to have any of the following activities approved, in advance, by the Credentials Committee:
 - Expert witness activities and testimony for any setting that is not a professional liability proceeding. If the Director is granted permission to participate in an activity, the Director shall not use his/her position as a Director to enhance the credibility of his/her testimony.
 - Serving as an officer or director or management position with any not-for-profit business or advisory or consulting role with any for-profit or not-for-profit business that is involved in ophthalmic care, devices(s), or product(s).
 3. Except as may be approved as provided in section 2, an ABO Director shall not accept a gift of any kind from a pharmaceutical or device company, other than (i) a grant to support research protocols that have Institutional Review Board approval, or (ii) a donation to an ABO Director's employer that is made on an unrestricted basis.
 4. [ABO Directors are encouraged to abide by the guidelines included in the Association of American Medical Colleges \(AAMC\) Industry Funding of Medical Education from June 2008.](#)
 5. ABO Directors must complete in a truthful and transparent manner ABO COI disclosure forms and consent to their publication on the ABO web site.

These Guidelines apply to all Directors.