AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT
POLICY STATEMENT
(Updated March 25, 2014)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURE

Disclosure
It is required that all Academy officers; members of the Academy Board of Directors; members of the Academy committees, and task forces; consultants; faculty; employees; and others acting on behalf of the Academy will openly disclose any real and potential conflicts of interest. Candidates for the Academy positions will be informed of and asked to comply with the Academy conflict of interest policy and procedures before they are hired, appointed, or placed on ballots.

Conflict of Interest and CME
As an accredited provider of continuing medical education by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the American Academy of Pain Management (Academy) must ensure fair balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its sponsored educational activities. All individuals in the position to control content, including faculty, writers, editors, reviewers, moderators and activity planners, must disclose the names of commercial interests and the nature of the relevant financial relationship that the individual or individual’s spouse/partner has, or has had, within the past 12 months. For this purpose the Academy considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner. The ACCME defines a “commercial interest” as any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services, used on, or consumed by, patients. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests. The ACCME defines “relevant” financial relationships as financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months that create a conflict of interest. Any conflict(s) of interest (COI) that exist(s) as a result of a financial relationship must be resolved prior to the activity.

Any individual who refuses to disclose such relevant financial relationships will be disqualified from being a planning committee member, faculty, or an author of CME, and cannot have control of, or responsibility for, the development, management, presentation, or evaluation of the CME activity.

When a COI is identified by an individual in control of content, the Academy has implemented mechanisms to identify and resolve all COIs. The Academy will do one or all of the following to ensure that the COI does not affect the content or integrity of the program:
• Have the program presentation and/or slides peer-reviewed by an individual without any COIs. If needed, multiple levels of peer-review will be performed.
• Have another faculty member replace the individual with a COI.
• Have the individual present on a different topic that does not have a COI.
• Change the program focus so that the topic is not a conflict.

It is the Academy’s policy to ensure that any/all relevant financial relationships are disclosed to participants prior to the start of any CME activity by listing the disclosed information on front matter, presentation slides, handouts, program books, or syllabi. The Academy also asks participants to evaluate the CME programs based on his/her perceived commercial bias.

**Acting on Behalf of the Academy**
All Academy officers, members of the Board of Directors, and others acting on behalf of the Academy must avoid being influenced by any conflict of interest when acting on behalf of the Academy. This obligation includes an obligation to preserve the confidentiality of all information concerning the Academy that is not publicly known or disseminated. No one acting on behalf of the Academy should use privileged Academy information to benefit personally or to gain advantage in opportunities competing with Academy interests.