Commercial Support and Exhibits

Commercial support is provided by a commercial interest*. It includes financial contributions which course directors use to pay all or part of the costs of a CME activity, or the donation or loan of equipment or other goods. All commercial support funds must be in the form of a grant to the accredited provider or joint provider partner; a commercial interest or exhibitor may not make direct payments to faculty, facility or other vendor on behalf of the program.

An “exhibitor” has used resources dedicated for marketing/promotion to purchase space in an exhibit hall location. You may offer to sell exhibit space to a company that has provided a grant; however this must be a separate business transaction and is not part of the grant agreement. Placement of an exhibit cannot be a condition for the provision of a grant or in-kind support.

The terms and conditions of the support must be described in a written agreement between the accredited provider (OHSU) and the commercial supporter. OHSU will provide a standard letter of agreement; any other agreement form must first be approved by CPAM. All agreements must be signed by Office of Proposal and Award Management (OPAM), commercial supporter and educational partner (if applicable) and submitted to the CPD office for final signature at least two weeks before the activity.

Letters of Agreement will not be accepted for review or signature after the two week prior deadline.

*Note: A “commercial interest” is an entity that produces, markets, re-sells or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on patients. Insurance companies and health care institutions such as nursing homes or hospitals are not included in this category. “In-kind support” includes the gift or loan of equipment or other non-cash benefit.

Logos are prohibited on any materials that are part of a CME activity; slides, abstracts and handouts, cannot contain any advertising, corporate logo, trade name or a product-group message of an ACCME-defined commercial interest. Advertisements and promotional materials cannot be displayed or distributed in the meeting room while an accredited educational activity takes place, nor immediately before or after an educational activity. This provision includes the distribution of imprinted pens, pads of paper, etc.

ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: A copy of the standards can be found on the ACCME’s website www.accme.org