

OGSM Guidelines - Collaboration with Pharmaceutical Organizations

Preamble

The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia often collaborates with various other parties including pharmaceutical organizations. While these activities are wide and varied, the society is of the firm belief that these activities serve the best interests of its members. However, a changing landscape now demands greater governance on both sides. Pharmaceutical organizations have new stringent codes to adhere to, while the society must put in place guidance that safeguards the society from being manipulated as well as enhances transparency.

1. Pharmaceutical industry organized events (including CME/CPD events)

These events are wide and varied but may include:

- a. CME lectures (usually associated with lunch or dinner)
- b. One-day CME events
- c. Multi-day CME events
- d. Product launches (usually associated with a CME lecture)

The society is often requested to 'collaborate' in various capacities. To avoid confusion, henceforth:

- a. All such activities will be '**supported by**' OGSM and it should be clearly stated that the activity is 'organized by' the said pharmaceutical organization
- b. All OGSM members must be invited if the said event is a multi-day event but if it is only a CME lecture, then perhaps only members within the state will be invited. This decision can be made after discussion with the organizers
- c. The invitation cards will be sent out by the society but charges are applicable for both mailing as well as administration (as stated in previous guidelines)
- d. The logos of both OGSM as well as the pharmaceutical organizers must appear on the front cover of the invitation card with their roles (organized by / supported by) clearly labeled
- e. The final decision whether to collaborate or not will lie with council
- f. A final version of the invitation card must be made available for council viewing not less than 21 days from the said event
- g. All fees due to the society must be paid in full before the said event

2. Sponsorship for members to attend conferences

Although rather uncommon, pharmaceutical organizations may on occasion, make available to the society, funds for one (or more) members to attend conferences (locally or abroad). If the society is approached directly with the funds, the society must ensure that all members are made aware of the availability of this funding and provided with equal opportunity to be considered for funding. Further guidance on eligibility and selection criteria is provided elsewhere.

For the avoidance of confusion, this situation is different from pharmaceutical organizations directly offering sponsorship to members with no involvement of the society.

This guidance with regards to sponsorship to attend conferences does not apply to pharmaceutical sponsorship obtained to attend the OGSM annual scientific congress as the sponsorship mechanism is more complex and often tied to a package.

3. Sponsorship for the society to create 'clinical guidelines'

Occasionally, pharmaceutical organizations may make available funds to assist in producing clinical guidelines. The following guidance will apply:

- a. All funding will be credited into the OGSM account for disbursement
- b. While the sponsors may suggest names of possible members of the 'guideline committee', the final decision will lie with council
- c. All society members must be made aware of the guideline committee and be given equal opportunity to participate should they so desire. The sitting council will determine the criteria to be utilized in deciding committee membership.
- d. While the sponsor may suggest how the funds may be utilized, the final decision will lie with council
- e. At the onset, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed between the society and the sponsor to ensure that the 'end points' of the exercise are well defined.
- f. A full financial report must be made available at the end of the project with full details of relevant expenditure
- g. The intellectual rights of these clinical guidelines will be the property of the society
- h. The clinical guidelines will acknowledge the fact that an 'education grant' was obtained from a sponsor and the sponsor shall be named
- i. No pharmaceutical organization (neither the sponsor nor any other organization) will be allowed to utilize the existence of this clinical guideline or its association with the society for advertising purposes

4. Sponsorship for the society to 'promote awareness'

Occasionally, pharmaceutical organizations may make available funds for the society to undertake 'public awareness' or 'physician awareness' programs. This may include funds to design and manage websites or to carry out public forums.

The following guidance will apply:

- a. All funding will be credited into the OGSM account for disbursement
- b. While the sponsor may suggest how the funds may be utilized, the final decision will lie with council
- c. At the onset, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed between the society and the sponsor to ensure that the 'end points' of the exercise are well defined, including the expected duration of sponsorship
- d. The council will identify relevant society members to be responsible in designing and managing the website (or event) whichever the situation may be
- e. The society will be solely responsible for determining the contents, updating of these contents and its further management
- f. A full financial report must be made available at the end of the project with full details of relevant expenditure
- j. The intellectual rights of the website contents will be the property of the society
- k. The website will acknowledge the fact that an 'education grant' was obtained from a sponsor and the sponsor shall be named
- l. No pharmaceutical organization (neither the sponsor nor any other organization) will be allowed to utilize the existence of this website or its association with the society for advertising purposes

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