

Wonca Europe Guidelines on External Sponsorship **Accepted by the Council of Wonca Europe in Paris October 2007**

Sponsoring Guidelines in general

The aim of these Sponsoring Guidelines is to regulate the relationship between industrial companies and Wonca Europe to safeguard the integrity, credibility and independence of the Wonca family doctors and their professional bodies. They assure the public that the professional advice given by family doctors and their organizations is led only by their professional skills and knowledge and not by any pecuniary relations with organizations with other goals.

The Wonca Europe Sponsoring guidelines take into consideration that the family doctors of most European countries have worked out and follow national sponsoring guidelines, according to national ethic committees. Considering the wide range of viewpoints on the use of external sponsors throughout Europe these guidelines are confined to important principal rules.

The Wonca Europe Sponsoring guidelines apply to all member and network organizations organizing national and international conferences, meetings, events and publications including web pages on behalf of Wonca Europe and/or using the name and logo of Wonca. They are valid for the cooperation with all Sponsoring organizations like e.g. pharmaceutical companies, publishers, financial institutions and the wide range of other enterprises. They apply to all forms of Sponsoring from the provision of finance to the provision of conference facilities and speakers.

Member organizations remain free to ban all sponsorship from meetings, events and publications that they themselves organise.

Principles on external sponsorship

1. Financial rewards or incentives must always be through the organizer, who will ensure an equitable use of the sponsorship according to these guidelines.
2. Any sponsorship must not be conditional upon an obligation to prescribe, recommend or promote any pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical product.
3. Sponsors must not be permitted to determine the scientific content of meetings that they support.
4. Sponsors are not allowed to make a promotional presentation as part of the scientific programme.
5. Speakers, publications and posters must have a declaration stating the financial support for the concerned study and possible conflicts of interest.
6. Satellite symposia should be limited to an appropriate number. They must be held outside of the ordinary scientific program to avoid interference with the scientific content of the conference. The abstracts and speakers must be accepted by the scientific committee of the conference.
7. Sponsorship from some organizations may not be acceptable if the organization promotes products which are incompatible with health e.g. tobacco, alcohol or firearms. No material will be acceptable if it conveys ethnic, religious, gender or age bias, prejudice or slurs.

Wonca Europe Council Meeting Paris 2007

13th Wonca Europe Conference

8. The Executive Board of Wonca Europe can produce a list of companies which are in conflict with medical ethics and the aims of Wonca Europe and from which it is not willing to accept sponsorship.
9. The Executive Board of Wonca Europe can control Sponsoring organizations, products and product areas and can enter its concerns to the organizing committee, when it finds violation of the rules of these Sponsoring guidelines.
10. The Executive Board of Wonca Europe can control the content of publicity material and can intervene to reject it, if it is against these guidelines.
11. The Executive Board of Wonca Europe will discuss each decision with the organizers in order to not jeopardize the organizing national society's financial stability.
12. Contracts with sponsors should be open for anyone who wants to look into it.

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