Policy: Policy Governing Honoraria and Reimbursement of Out of Pocket Expenses for Planners, Teachers and Authors of AMA Category 1 Educational Programs Sponsored/Jointly by The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine

Date Created: 03/05
Last Updated: 09/11

Background and Introduction

The Carver College of Medicine (CCOM) at The University of Iowa is accredited nationally by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor/jointly sponsor continuing medical education (CME) activities for physicians. The Carver College of Medicine must ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all continuing education activities it sponsors or jointly sponsors.

The seven member organizations* of the ACCME unanimously approved the 2004 Updated ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure the Independence of CME Activities in September, 2004. The Standards describe practices that the ACCME considers appropriate for accredited providers to ensure that their CME activities are independent, free of commercial bias and beyond the control of persons or organizations with an economic interest in influencing the content of CME. (Please refer to the Attachment for the complete Standards.)

This policy applies to UI and non-UI speakers who present at CME events sponsored/jointly sponsored by the Carver College of Medicine. UI speakers who present at CME activities sponsored by other institutions will be expected to abide by the policies of the host institution. UI faculty who speak at non-CME approved events should consult The University of Iowa Policy Manual to determine what (if any) honoraria and conflict of interest policies apply.

* The seven member organizations of the ACCME include: American Board of Medical Specialties, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, Association for Hospital Medical Education, Association of American Medical Colleges, Council of Medical Specialty Societies, Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S., Inc.
Honoraria Policy

*ACCME Standard 3.7* states that “The provider (CCOM) must have written policies and procedures governing honoraria and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for planners, teachers and authors.” The intent of this Standard is to ensure further separation of personal financial interests and commercial support from educational content.

1. An acceptable honorarium for category 1 (CME-approved) events Sponsored by the Carver College of Medicine will include amounts up to $2000 per presentation. If this amount restricts participation by an individual speaker, the course director can request a formal appeal from the CME Division. The appeal will be reviewed in a timely fashion (within one week) by the CME faculty committee (or Peer Review Committee) and the course director will be notified immediately of the Committee’s decision.

2. Funds from commercial support may be used to cover appropriate expenses for the course director, speakers and other ‘bona fide’ employees of the educational activity, but those funds must come through the College’s CME Division and not flow directly from the commercial supporter to the individual. (*ACCME Standard 3.12  Appropriate use of commercial support.*)

3. Out-of-pocket, per diem, airfare, ground transportation, and other travel expenses for planners, teachers, speakers, instructors, and authors will be paid in compliance with University of Iowa policies governing travel reimbursement.

4. This policy will be reviewed every two – three years (from the original approval date) for appropriateness of honoraria amounts and ACCME updates.

*Approved by the Carver College of Medicine CME Committee, February 3, 2005*

*Approved by Medical Council, March 3, 2005*

*Approved by Medical Council, May 8, 2008*

*Approved by CME Committee, June 17, 2011*

*Approved with update by Medical Council, September 8, 2011*

*Honorarium maximum increased from $1500 to $2,000*