

HAI Europe Association's "No Thank You" Charter



This Charter is intended as a supplement to the Declaration of Possible Conflicts of Interests made by HAI Europe members each year. While the Declaration is retrospective, the Charter is forward-looking and provides members with an opportunity to express their commitment to say "No thank you" to activities and relationships that may give rise to conflict of interest situations.

Signatories to this Charter are concerned about research, education and advocacy activities aimed at increasing access to medicines and improving their rational use. They firmly believe that these activities should take place in the **interests of public health** and should be disentangled from seemingly similar research, education and advocacy activities, but which are driven by **commercial interests**. They recognise that:

- health research, education and advocacy activities can be subject to commercial influences that are inconsistent with the interests of public health;
- research, education and advocacy activities can be subject to commercial influences that undermine the independence of organisations engaged in these activities and of the individuals involved in those organisations;
- a well known indirect lobbying strategy of pharmaceutical corporations is the cultivation of collaborative alliances with advocacy organisations and the befriending of individuals who are influential in the policy process;
- the potential for conflicts of interest can arise when two or more interests affect a person and/or organisation;
- individuals and organisations are not always conscious that they are in a conflicts of interest situation;
- conflicts of interests do not just arise in respect of personal financial interests, but can also arise in respect of benefits such as personal and organisational research funding and consultancy opportunities;
- conflicts of interest situations can result not only in research, education and advocacy organisations and the individuals involved in those organisations acting in ways that are contrary to the interests of public health, but also in them failing to act (e.g. an unwillingness to criticise unethical pharmaceutical industry practices);
- while contributing significantly to transparency, conflict of interest disclosure offers a weak means of minimising commercial bias.

In signing this Charter, signatories agree to:

refuse to accept funding or any benefits in kind from private pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device corporations or allied industries, and their subsidiary charities, for research, education or advocacy activities;

refuse to be a direct participant in any activities that give rise to conflicts of interest situations.

Name and address

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Date.....

Signature.....

Please tick this box () and return this form to HAI Europe if you are willing to have your name included on a list of signees of the "No Thank You" Charter that will be published on the HAI Europe website.

NO THANK YOU CHARTER

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