

<b>Policy Title:</b> Vendor Interaction Policy	<b>Policy Number:</b> SOMGME-013
<b>Original Date:</b> 18-02-2024	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 26-05-2027

## I. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the relationship between Graduate Medical Education (GME) trainees in different Lebanese American University (LAU) GME programs and the pharmaceutical industry. This policy aims to ensure that such relationships are conducted ethically and transparently, and do not compromise the integrity of graduate medical education.

## II. Policy Scope

The policy applies to residents and fellows in all GME programs.

## III. Principles and Definitions

- A. **Beneficial Alliance:** The GME acknowledges that a responsible and beneficial alliance—defined as a relationship that contributes positively to the goals of graduate medical education while adhering to ethical standard between trainees and the pharmaceutical industry can be beneficial to the goals of graduate medical education.
- B. **Ethical Conduct:** All interactions between LAU GME trainees and the pharmaceutical industry must be conducted in an ethical manner, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and institutional policies.
- C. **Transparency:** Any financial or other relationships between GME trainees at LAU and the pharmaceutical industry must be transparent and disclosed to relevant stakeholders, including other residents, faculty, and the GME committee (GMEC).
- D. **Conflict of Interest:** Measures must be in place to identify, disclose, and manage any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from relationships between LAU GME trainees and the pharmaceutical industry.

## IV. Policy Statement

- A. **Gifts and Benefits:** Residents, faculty, and staff associated with GME programs at LAU should not accept money, gifts, meals, or other benefits of value from the pharmaceutical industry that could influence clinical practice or decision-making.

- B. **Educational Activities:** Educational activities supported by the pharmaceutical industry should be independent, evidence-based, and free from commercial bias (defined as any influence that a pharmaceutical company's interests may have on the content, presentation, or delivery of educational activities, leading to a skewed representation of information in favor of the company's products or services). Attendance of residents of departmental marketing activities by pharmaceutical companies and their representatives must be approved by the residency program director and the GME office. Marketing activities are prohibited in all clinical areas. Scholarships provided from a vendor must be directed to a central academic fund within the academic department or the GME Office and should not designate an individual trainee as recipient. The Program Director and the Designated Institutional Officer (DIO) or designee, must approve the conference and certify that it is of substantial value to the trainees' education.
- C. **Faculty Oversight:** A faculty member will review and/or be present during all presentations given to residents by pharmaceutical companies and their representatives.
- D. **Consulting Arrangements:** Consulting arrangements between trainees and the pharmaceutical industry are not allowed.
- E. **Patient Enrollment Incentives:** Residents may not receive, for personal benefit, "incentives" to enroll patients in pharmaceutical company-sponsored trials. All relationships concerning the acquisition of patients for drug trials shall occur as contractual agreements between institutions.
- F. **Research and Scholarly Activities:** Research collaborations between residency programs at LAU and the pharmaceutical industry should be conducted in accordance with applicable research ethics guidelines and institutional policies.
- G. **Training Requirements:** Regular training sessions on this policy will be conducted for all GME trainees and faculty to enhance understanding and adherence to the guidelines set forth.

#### V. **Steps for Managing Potential Conflicts of Interest**

Trainees who find themselves in a situation that may pose a conflict of interest should take the following steps:

- A. **Identify the Conflict:** Recognize any potential conflict of interest, including personal relationships, financial interests, or external obligations that may influence professional judgment.
- B. **Disclose the Conflict:** Report the potential conflict to the residency program director and the GME office as soon as possible.
- C. **Seek Guidance:** Consult with faculty or designated ethics officers for advice on how to navigate the situation while maintaining compliance with this policy.
- D. **Follow Established Procedures:** Adhere to any recommendations or procedures provided by the program director or GME office to manage the conflict appropriately.

## VI. Compliance and Oversight

- A. Compliance with this policy will be overseen by the GME and relevant institutional authorities.
- B. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to termination of the relationship between the residency program and the pharmaceutical industry.

Approved by	Date
GMEC	26-06-2024
Interim Review	26-05-2024