

Policy: Vendor Interaction	Effective Date: 02 /18/ 2024
Policy Number:	Policy Version: V1
Scope: All GME Applicants & trainees	Next Review Date: TBA

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

1. **Beneficial Alliance:** The GME acknowledges that a responsible and productive alliance between trainees and the pharmaceutical industry can be beneficial to the goals of graduate medical education.
2. **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.
3. **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).
4. **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

1. **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.
2. **Educational Activities:** Educational activities supported by the pharmaceutical industry should be independent, evidence-based, and free from commercial bias. 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.

3. Faculty Oversight: A faculty member will review and/or be present during all presentations given to residents by pharmaceutical companies and their representatives.
4. Consulting Arrangements: Consulting arrangements between trainees and the pharmaceutical industry are not allowed.
5. 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.
6. 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.

V. Compliance and Oversight

1. Compliance with this policy will be overseen by the GME and relevant institutional authorities.
2. 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.