

# Organization for Human Brain Mapping

## INDUSTRY SUPPORT AGREEMENT

The Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) seeks to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with industry. The OHBM shares with industry the common goal of supporting scientists' research with diverse hardware and software technologies. Industry may be willing to provide monies in support of various programs sponsored by the OHBM. While the resources provided by industry help the Organization to offer quality programs, the Organization must not compromise either its long-recognized standards of excellence in education or ethical principles developed nationally for the conduct of continuing medical education (CME). Consequently, the following agreement is intended to preserve the integrity of the Organization's educational programs in the context of a valuable relationship with industry.

In this document, "industry" refers to all pharmaceutical, equipment, and other for-profit organizations from which the Organization may accept support for its educational programs. "Sponsor" refers to the Organization as the accredited organization responsible for the educational content, quality, and execution of a program. "Supporter" refers to a commercial firm providing support for a program.

### Conditions

**Working Principles.** This agreement and accompanying procedures for implementation are intended to define ways in which commercial interests can help fund OHBM educational activities without being likely to directly or indirectly bias the activity in favor of the commercial interest. Three general principles therefore underlie this policy: 1) independence of the sponsor, through control of program planning and financing, from the commercial sponsor; 2) balance and objectivity in program content; and 3) no significant material benefits for program participants.

**1. Scientific Objectivity.** Providing unbiased and objective scientific information is the Organization's overriding interest with its educational programs. While industry support is helpful and appreciated, such support must be unconditional with regard to objectivity. Therefore, the Organization is solely responsible for the development, faculty selection, editorial control, and content of all programs. When the Organization has identified the need for a particular topic or program, it may seek information from industry about appropriate faculty for the identified need; but faculty selection should not be initiated by industry or its third party agent (such as a communications firm). A commercial supporter may be asked to help with the preparation of program-related educational materials, but these materials may not, by their content or format, advance the proprietary interest of the supporter.

**2. Means of OHBM Control.** The Organization must exercise control of the program through the intimate involvement of the Program Committee and ultimately the Council of the OHBM. The Program Committee is responsible for program development through the selection of a program chair and oversight of the chair's selection of topics and speakers.

**3. Multi-sponsorship.** Whenever feasible, the Organization seeks educational funding from a number of supporters. Occasions may arise, however, where sole support of a specific activity is appropriate. Caution will be taken in such instances that no conflict of interest exists and that any acknowledgment of the supporter is limited to the statement that it has provided an educational grant. In all cases, the Organization will fully disclose industry support of the activity.

**4. Method of Support.** The ultimate decision regarding funding arrangements for activities must be the responsibility of the Organization as the sponsor. Financial support from industry should be in the form of an educational grant made payable to the Organization for the support of programming. The terms, conditions, and purposes of such grants must be documented by a signed agreement between the industry supporter and the Organization. All support associated with a program, whether in the form of a financial grant or otherwise, must be given with the full knowledge and approval of the Organization. No other funds from a commercial source shall be paid to the director of the activity, faculty, or other staff or participants involved with the activity.

**5. Travel Reimbursement or Honoraria.** Decisions about travel reimbursement or honoraria to be paid to speakers are the responsibility of the Organization as sponsor. It is not appropriate for the supporter to determine the reimbursement or the honoraria amounts.

**6. Acknowledgment of Support.** Acknowledgement of support is at the sole discretion of the Organization. Industry support of an Organization-sponsored educational program will be acknowledged in electronic printed announcements and brochures without reference to specific products. Suggested wording: "This program is supported (in part) by an educational grant from (name of company)." The Organization shall have the opportunity to review drafts of all publicity materials before they are finalized.

**7. Subsidies from Industry to Physicians.** Subsidies from industry should not be accepted directly or indirectly to pay for the costs of travel, lodging, or other personal expenses of the physicians who are attending the conferences or meetings, nor should subsidies be accepted to compensate for the physician's time. Subsidies for hospitality should not be accepted outside of modest meals or social events that are held as part of a conference or meeting. It is appropriate for faculty at conferences or meetings to accept reasonable honoraria and to accept reimbursement for reasonable travel, lodging, and meal expenses. It is also appropriate for consultants who provide genuine services to receive reasonable compensation and to accept reimbursement for reasonable travel, lodging, and meal expenses. These payments must come from the Organization and not from an industry supporter. Token consulting or advisory arrangements cannot be used to justify the compensation of physicians for their time or their travel, lodging, and other out-of-pocket expenses.

**AGREED**

Industry Supporting Company Name (exactly as it should appear in acknowledgements):

\_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Representative Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OHBM Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_