

4.14 Conflict of Interest

HMS students must abide by the HMS conflict of interest policies (<http://www.hms.harvard.edu/integrity/conf.html>) in all activities, including research toward a degree or research or projects that are part of a 5-year plan. In particular, the project cannot be affected adversely by any contractual or other financial obligations of the principal investigator or mentor. Students should check with their Academic Society when planning such activities to make sure they are in compliance with HMS policy.

Policy on Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest Related to the Pharmaceutical Industry and Undergraduate Medical Education

As stated in the Harvard Medical School Faculty Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Commitment, collaborations with industry have resulted in “bringing new resources to the support of science and facilitating the translation of knowledge from the laboratory to the bedside.” As the HMS Policy also states, however, these relationships can create conflicts, and the “[p]ublic trust in the enterprise of academic medicine and the legitimacy of its powerful role in society require a constant amenability to public scrutiny.” Conflicts of interest in medical education are becoming of increasing concern to our students, our faculty members, and to the public.

Therefore, faculty and students must disclose any financial interests they may have in a pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical instrument company, or other business which owns or has a contractual relationship to the subject matter being reported or discussed in a presentation, lecture, tutorial, paper, or other teaching exercise or assignment. For example, faculty who have received research support or who have consulted for a pharmaceutical company and whose lecture to students includes a discussion of drugs developed by that company should disclose the association in advance either in the lecture syllabus and/or in an introductory slide; the manner of disclosure will be at the discretion of the course director.

Faculty members and students who have any questions about what to disclose can contact Gretchen Brodnicki, Dean for Faculty and Research Integrity (gretchen_brodnicki@hms.harvard.edu or 617-432-2496).

Policy on Access of Pharmaceutical Representatives to HMS Campus

Pharmaceutical company sales and marketing representatives are not permitted to visit or interact with medical and dental students on the HMS campus, and pharmaceutical company sponsorship of any student events is prohibited. Medical and dental students may not accept any gifts from pharmaceutical companies, and pharmaceutical companies may not provide meals or refreshments for any student function.