



CME Activity Policies Manual

The American Society of
Dermatopathology

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Presentation Policies

The American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. As such, we are required to fulfill the ACCME and AMA criteria for our practice of continuing medical education (CME).

It is the educational mission of the ASDP to ensure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in all of its educational activities. All individuals involved in planning and implementing CME activities, including planners, faculty, speakers and presenters (henceforth referred to as speakers), and reviewers, must comply with all policies and procedures in this manual.

Definitions

CME Content

Continuing medical education consists of educational activities which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession. The content of CME is the body of knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of healthcare to the public.

Ineligible Companies

The ACCME defines ineligible companies, formerly known as commercial interest, as "those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients."

Further, the ASDP considers relationships with businesses that sell health related products to other physicians including, but not limited to, electronic medical records (EMRs), special stains, non-ASDP educational events or other molecular pathology technology and technical components of laboratory services to be ineligible companies.

Read the complete [ACCME definitions of ineligible and eligible companies](#).

Financial Relationships

Financial Relationships are relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (e.g., individual stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit. Financial benefits are usually associated with roles such as employment, management position, independent contractor (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and other activities from which remuneration is received, or expected.

All Financial Relationships with ineligible companies occurring within the 24-month period preceding the time that the individual is assuming a role controlling content

of the CME activity must be disclosed. There is no set minimal dollar amount for relationships to be significant.

Relevant Financial Relationships

Financial relationships are relevant if the following three conditions are met:

- A financial relationship, in any amount, exists between the person in control of content and an ineligible company.
- The financial relationship existed during the past 24 months.
- The content of the education is related to the products of an ineligible company with whom the person has a financial relationship.

Content Validation

ASDP must ensure that all CME activities are fair and balanced and that any clinical content presented supports safe, effective patient care. As such, all educational content must comply with the following criteria:

1. All recommendations for patient care in accredited continuing education must be based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning, while giving a fair and balanced view of diagnostic and therapeutic options.
2. All scientific research referred to, reported, or used in accredited education in support or justification of a patient care recommendation must conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
3. Although accredited continuing education is an appropriate place to discuss, debate, and explore new and evolving topics, these areas need to be clearly identified as such within the program and individual presentations. Further, engagement with these topics must not entail advocating for, or promoting, practices that are not, or not yet adequately based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning.

All individuals in a position to influence a CME activity are prohibited from advocating for unscientific approaches to diagnosis or therapy, or promote recommendations, treatment, or manners of practicing healthcare that are determined to have risks or dangers that outweigh the benefits or are known to be ineffective in the treatment of patients.

4. If the CME educational material or content includes trade names, where available, trade names from several companies should be used, not just trade names from a single company. Use of generic names will contribute to this impartiality.

Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education

ASDP has adopted the [ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education](#).

As such, ASDP is committed to providing a protected space to learn, teach, and engage in scientific discourse free from influence from organizations that may have an incentive to insert commercial bias into education. The ACCME Standards are designed to:

- Ensure that accredited continuing education serves the needs of patients and the public.
- Present learners with only accurate, balanced, scientifically justified recommendations.
- Assure healthcare professionals and teams that they can trust accredited continuing education to
- help them deliver safe, effective, cost-effective, compassionate care that is based on best practice and evidence.
- Create a clear, unbridgeable separation between accredited continuing education and marketing and sales.

CME Activity Agreement and Disclosure

In order to participate in ASDP CME activities, all individuals, including planners, faculty, speakers, moderators, and reviewers must complete the agreement and disclosure online. Individuals who refuse to complete these documents will be disqualified from participating in the CME activity.

Disclosure Review & Mitigation

Everyone potentially in a position to control or influence content of a CME activity must disclose **all** financial relationships with ineligible companies within the prior 24 months prior to assuming their roles in the CME activity.

All disclosed financial relationships are reviewed to determine which relationships are relevant. Financial relationships found to be relevant must be mitigated prior to each individual assuming their role in the CME activity.

All relevant financial relationships are disclosed to learners prior to learners' engagement in the CME activity. Disclosure must include the individual's name, the name of the ineligible company(ies), the nature of the relationship the person has with each ineligible company, and whether the relationship is ongoing or has ended. Disclosure must never include the use of a corporate logo, trade name or a product group message.

Speakers who qualify for the implementation of this activity **are required to disclose to learners verbally and visually, immediately prior to the presentation, any of the relationships mentioned above or lack thereof** (using a slide embedded in their presentation or a disclosure statement on poster presentation). Speaker relationships will also be disclosed to learners in printed and electronic materials.

The magnitude of financial relationships with commercial interests will be gauged by the classification of their financial relationships with ineligible companies into two categories: 1) Category 1-total monies received from a given commercial interest < \$10,000 over the past 24 months, 2) Category 2-total monies received from a given ineligible company > \$10,000 over the past calendar year. This information is part of standard disclosure and will be available to members of the society who review disclosures. For those presenting at ASDP events, this information should be disclosed to audience members as part of the disclosure slide or in a clearly identified section of a poster presentation.

The ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence require that **individuals who refuse to provide this information are disqualified from involvement in the planning and implementation of accredited continuing education**. This requirement applies to planning committee members, speakers or authors of CME, abstract presenters, moderators and reviewers.

The Ethics Committee is charged with the review of all disclosures to determine relevance of each relationship, and mitigation of all relevant financial relationships prior to each individual assuming a role in a CME activity based upon established guidelines and a simple majority vote by a quorum of non-conflicted committee members.

A relationship with an ineligible company is considered relevant if it meets the three conditions below and must be mitigated before the individual assumes their role in the CME activity:

- A financial relationship, in any amount, exists between the person in control of content and an ineligible company.
- The financial relationship existed during the past 24 months.
- The content of the education is related to the products of an ineligible company with whom the person has a financial relationship.

A faculty member or speaker who has a relevant financial relationship with an ineligible company cannot make *therapeutic, diagnostic or technological recommendations that relate to that ineligible company as part of their presentation.*

They can discuss theory, procedures, observations, results of research and make unrelated recommendations. Commercially related therapeutic, diagnostic or technological recommendations must come from someone without a financial conflict.

Employees and owners of ineligible companies are considered to have relevant financial relationships that cannot be mitigated, and therefore are not eligible to participate in the CME activity unless one of the following three exceptions applies:

- When the content of the CME activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
- When the content of the CME activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research

and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.

- When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.

For individuals with no relevant financial relationships the learners must be informed that no relevant relationships exist.

Commercial Promotion

Product and event-promotion material or product and event-specific advertisement of any type immediately before, during or after CME activities is prohibited. Promotional activities and material must be kept separate from CME, and cannot interfere with presentations, be displayed or distributed in the educational space immediately before, during or after a CME activity. Educational materials and lectures that are part of a CME activity, such as slides, abstracts and handouts, **cannot contain any advertising, corporate logo, trade name or product-group messages of a defined ineligible company.**

Speakers **must not** promote or sell products and services that serve their professional or financial interests in chats or discussions prior to, during or following an accredited education (virtual or in-person during accredited education, including promotion of revenue generating social media accounts and/or personal websites.

Presentation slides will be peer reviewed prior to the scheduled presentation. Slides that contain any type of commercial promotion, as described above, will be removed from the presentation slide deck without notice to the speaker.

HIPAA Compliance Attestation

All faculty members and speakers must attest that the materials presented in CME activities will not include individually identifiable health information, in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as amended.

Speakers are responsible for ensuring that any information presented regarding a client and/or patient is sufficiently edited or modified to ensure HIPAA compliance, confidentiality of the client and/or patient unless they have obtained specific permission according to applicable ethical standards, laws and regulations from any client and/or patient about whom identifying information is presented.

Presentation Remuneration

Speakers will receive no remuneration from ASDP for participation in educational activities or the rights and licenses granted to ASDP in this policy manual other than that specified in writing by the Society.

Permission for Use of Name and Likeness

Speakers shall give the American Society of Dermatopathology, its agents and representatives the right to use speakers' names and likeness in promotional and other material published in relation to the meeting.

Permission for Publication of Material

To the extent that this work is not in the public domain (e.g., by virtue of being performed by an employee of the U.S. federal government as part of their official duties), speakers agree to grant the American Society of Dermatopathology copyright permissions for publication of material provided for inclusion in the meeting program, which may be published in print, and online on the ASDP website and other official ASDP web-based platforms. The copyright consists of any and all rights allowed by the copyright laws of the United States and all foreign countries. Speakers should understand that abstracts, including their contributions, will be made available online in printable form to CME activity participants, members of ASDP, and other interested parties pursuant to policies established by the ASDP Board of Directors. Speakers should understand that ASDP will hold the copyright for the meeting program and its contents and that the copyright of the compilation of abstracts and handouts in the meeting program is not the same as the copyright of an individual item of material included in these publications. Faculty and speakers are encouraged to include copyright notices as appropriate on all materials submitted to ASDP for publication. ASDP takes no responsibility for registering a speaker's copyright and advises them to take all appropriate steps to do so.

Speakers shall authorize ASDP to sell or otherwise distribute said publications to the membership and general public. In return, ASDP shall grant speakers the right to reprint their contribution in any publication.

Speakers must affirm that their contributions contain no matter that is defamatory or is otherwise unlawful or invades individual privacy, or infringes on any proprietary right or statutory copyright, and are original work or that they have obtained permission at their own expense from the copyright holder for publication and will, upon request, submit documentation showing permission for use, to ASDP at the time of submission of the materials to be distributed.

To the extent that CME activity participants have access to public social media platforms at their fingertips, by participating in ASDP CME activities, speakers acknowledge and hold harmless ASDP and its representatives, for presentation content shared in external social platforms.

Indemnification

Speakers shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the ASDP, its agents and representatives, from and against any and all claims, expenses (including responsible attorney fees), and liability whatsoever arising directly or indirectly, out of a breach of this agreement their actions

or inactions at, or participation in, the educational activity. Speakers must acknowledge that ASDP undertakes no obligation to hold the educational activity, their session, or to record, broadcast or otherwise publish the presentation or handouts. If the presentation or CME activity is cancelled, ASDP will not be liable for any expenses, costs or damages speakers incur in connection with the educational activity.

Statement of Ethical Standard

All work presented at ASDP CME activities must conform to applicable governmental regulations and discipline-appropriate professional ethical standards. Responsibility for meeting these requirements rests with those who submit abstracts and those who make presentations at the CME activity.

Human and animal research studies may require approval by an institutional research committee that has been established to protect the welfare of human or animal subjects. Presentation of findings from approved research studies is consistent with the ethical standard for ASDP CME activities.

Data collection as part of clinical services or for program evaluation purposes generally does not require approval by an institutional research committee. However, analysis and presentation of such data outside the program setting may qualify as research (i.e., an effort to produce general knowledge) and require approval by an institutional committee. Those who submit abstracts or present CME content at ASDP CME activities based on data from these sources are encouraged to consult with a representative of the applicable institutional committee to determine if approval is needed.

Presentations that report on a particular person (e.g., a clinical case) require written permission from that person to allow public disclosure for educational purposes, and typically involve alteration or withholding of information that might directly or indirectly reveal identity and breach confidentiality. Those who submit abstracts or present CME content at ASDP CME activities based on clinical cases are encouraged to consult with a representative of the applicable institutional review board (IRB) to determine if permission is needed.

The ASDP Ethics Committee is appointed to answer questions and provide consultation regarding the Ethics Standard. Speakers are invited to contact the committee chair via email at info@asdp.org.

Meeting Registration

All speakers, session chairs and meeting attendees are required to pay the regular and published registration fee for the meeting according to ASDP policy and fee schedule. Registration and fee schedule apply even when the speaker attends the meeting for a short time only to present his/her paper or participate in a panel discussion.

Educational Opportunities Table

ASDP speakers and members are invited to promote acceptable educational products and events during the Annual Meeting via flyers placed in a designated space for perusal by and distribution to meeting attendees. Acceptable educational products and events include books authored by ASDP members, dermatopathology courses run by ASDP members, dermatopathology-related electronic app developed by ASDP members and journals edited by ASDP members. Catalogs of book titles available from a single publisher and training sessions for new software for pathology report sign-out are unacceptable and will not be permitted. To be eligible, flyers must be approved by the ASDP Ethics Committee prior to participation.

To participate:

- Flyers must be no larger than one standard 8.5"x11" page in size (flat or folded).
- Flyer drafts must be submitted by email to Leah Smith at lsmith@asdp.org by July 31.
- Flyers must comply with the following criteria:
- Products must have a primarily educational focus, not commercial.
- Flyers must be submitted by ASDP speakers and/or members and not affiliated commercial entities.
- Each approved flyer will be assigned an authorization code that should be placed in small font in one corner of the flyer. Flyers without valid authorization codes will be removed.
- Up to 100 copies may be placed on the designated Educational Opportunities Table by the speaker or speaker's agent at any time during the meeting.
- Flyers will be screened throughout the meeting and removed if deemed non-compliant.
- Flyers remaining on the table at the end of the annual meeting will be discarded.

Presentation Guidelines

The Meeting Room Setup*

The meeting room will be equipped with:

1. One laptop computer at podium for slide advance.
2. An LCD projector.
3. 1-2 screens for PowerPoint® presentations.
4. 1-2 comfort monitors on or near stage.
5. Podium w/ mic and wireless lavalier mic.
6. One laser pointer or computer mouse.
7. Speaker timer at or near podium.
8. Two aisle mics for audience questions.

- **Unless instructed otherwise by ASDP, all presentations must be submitted in the Speaker Ready Room at least 24 hours prior to presentation.**
- **Speakers will not be permitted to connect their own laptops to the LCD projector.**
- **Speakers will not be permitted to connect flash drives to the computer at the podium.**

**This meeting room setup is only applicable to large didactic sessions, not Interactive Microscopy sessions, nor Dermatopathology Seminars.*

Speaker Presentations

It is very important that speakers keep within the allotted time. Participants who exceed the time allotment will be curtailed.

Speakers should sit near the front of the meeting room or on the stage at the head table – this will be at the discretion of each session director. The session director will introduce each speaker when it is time for his/her presentation. Speakers should be ready to begin their presentation as soon as they are introduced.

Guidelines for Presentations Using Microsoft PowerPoint®

PC & Macintosh Platform Support

The computers supplied in the Speaker Ready Room (SRR) will be both Windows and MAC to support all speakers' formatting needs including PowerPoint®, Keynote and PDF. We also support Google Slides and Prezi; however, speakers will need to download a local copy to submit. Internet accessed Google Slides and Prezi presentations are not supported. Speakers must bring their Google Slides or Prezi presentations to the SRR at least 24 hours in advance. Microsoft PowerPoint® is preferred.

The standard wide format screens are now being implemented in all courses and sessions. Speakers should ensure that their presentation is in 16:9 widescreen format. Presentations in 4:3 format will project with black bars on the sides.

For speakers planning to include movie media files in PowerPoint®, the proper formats are: .WMV, .MOV, .MP4, .AVI (although some types of AVI files will not work). In the case of music files, please use .WAV only.

To ensure that fonts will display correctly, remember to embed any special fonts (PC capability only) in the presentation.

Speakers must submit one copy of their presentation in advance and bring at least one copy of the presentation to the meeting on a USB flash media stick. It is also advisable to upload presentation and media files (movies, sound clips, pictures) and special fonts (if applicable) to an online cloud storage solution such as Dropbox or Google Drive as another form of precautionary backup.

PowerPoint® Presentation Checklist

- Presentation must include a disclosure slide. If speakers have relevant financial relationships, the disclosure slide must include the name of the ineligible company (no logo), the nature of the relationship with each ineligible company, and whether the relationship is ongoing or has ended. Speakers who do not have relevant financial relationships may state “*I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose*” on their disclosure slide.

- The ‘Presented By A Speaker (Full Screen)’ presentation format is selected.
- Presentation is in a widescreen format. This is usually defined by 16:9, or 16x10 (MAC format). Presentations using 4:3 format can be changed to 16:9 format. However, this may cause formatting changes that will need to be adjusted accordingly.
- A font size of at least 24 points is utilized for body text and 36-40 points for headings.
- Presentation contains only standard fonts. For cross-platform compatibility, the use of Arial, Helvetica, and Symbol fonts is advised. Some other fonts may not transfer properly from speaker's computer to the system used for presentation. If using Windows based PowerPoint® speakers may “embed” fonts upon saving.
- Use either, white or light color font against dark background or dark color font with light background for optimal legibility.
- The maximum number of lines in text slides is no more than 6 or 7.
- Images placed in PowerPoint® slides should be resized to approximately 800 x 600 pixels and saved as JPG or BMP files. Images should be inserted in the slide using INSERT/PICTURE/From FILE command. (A presentation of 20 slides containing 15 image slides will typically be 1-2 MB in size).
- If the presentation contains video or audio, all needed files must be in the same folder as the presentation. (If these files are not present, they will be unavailable during your presentation).
- Proofread and spell check.
- Back up the presentation and associated files (video clips, audio files) on a USB flash disk and confirm that the presentation runs properly from the backup on a totally different computer than the one with the presentation installed.

Poster Presentation Checklist

- Poster presentation must include a disclosure statement. If speakers have relevant financial relationships, the disclosure statement must include the name of the ineligible company (no logo), the nature of the relationship with each ineligible company, and whether the relationship is ongoing or has ended. Speakers who do not have relevant financial relationships may state “*I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose*” in their disclosure statement.
- Poster display area for each poster presentation is 3'10" (1.16 m) high and 3'10" (1.16m) long.
- Display area surface is fiberboard contained in a 2" (5.1cm) aluminum frame and supported on “A” or inverted “T” frame legs.
- Poster must be mounted to the poster display area by the use of ordinary thumbtacks or pushpins. **Do not** mount your poster on a heavy board because it will be difficult to keep

Poster Design

The following recommendations may prove beneficial in developing poster presentations. They are suggestions only, and are not intended to replace ideas presenters may already have. Rather, they are offered as a guide in the creation of the poster display.

Poster presentation should contain succinct headings that organize and logically display the information. The poster should focus on:

- Objective or Hypothesis
- Methods
- Results or Outcomes
- Disclosure Statement

A sample arrangement of a poster display is illustrated below.

Example Poster Layout

