

## Presidential Line Conflict of Interest Restrictions Summary

Rev. 8/5/19

The [ASPS / PSF Conflict of Interest \(COI\) Governing Document](#) requires the ASPS and PSF Presidents-elect to divest from any Direct Financial Relationships within one year after election or by the date his or her term as President commences, if sooner, and must remain divested until the conclusion of the member's term as ASPS or PSF Immediate Past President. Other restrictions related to industry-sponsored events are referenced below.

The CMSS Code for Interactions with Companies (Appendix B to the [COI Governing Document](#)), which ASPS adopted, defines a Direct Financial Relationship as "a relationship held by an individual that results in wages, consulting fees, honoraria, or other compensation (in cash, in stock or stock options, or in kind), whether paid to the individual or to another entity at the direction of the individual, for the individual's services or expertise. As used in this Code, the term Direct Financial Relationship does not mean stock ownership or intellectual property licensing arrangements. See Principle 1.4 for additional clarification of the meaning of Direct Financial Relationship." Page 6 of the [COI Governing Document](#) provides additional information on Direct Financial Relationships.

Although the CMSS Code for Interaction with Companies does not preclude stock or equity ownership or intellectual property licensing arrangements with commercial entities, the ASPS and PSF Conflict of Interest policy requires disclosure of such interests so that the ASPS and PSF Boards of Directors and Executive Committee may appropriately evaluate and adjust for such interests.

### Key Society Leaders and Direct Financial Relationships

The CMSS Code for Interactions **Principle 1.4** states that "No Key Society Leader, defined for purposes of this Code as the Presidential-level officers of a Society's membership organization (e.g., the President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President as applicable), the chief executive officer of a Society's membership organization, and the Editor(s)-in-Chief of Society Journal(s), may have Direct Financial Relationships with Companies during his or her term of service."

*Annotation: Each Society may set a reasonable period: one year after election or appointment for Key Society Leaders to terminate any Direct Financial Relationships. These relationships should be disclosed and managed in accordance with Principles 2.3 and 2.4.*

*Under Principle 1.4, a Key Society Leader may provide uncompensated service to Companies and accept reasonable travel reimbursement in connection with those services. A Key Society Leader may accept research support as long as grant money is paid to the institution (e.g., academic medical center) or practice where the research is conducted, not to the individual. A Key Society Leader may receive wages or other compensation from a Company in exchange for providing or overseeing the provision of health services to Company personnel. A Key Society Leader may accept reasonable compensation for serving on an independent data safety monitoring board in a Company study. A Key Society Leader may own stock or stock options in a Company. A Key Society Leader may receive royalties or similar fees relating to patents or other intellectual property. While permitted under Principle 1.4, all such relationships should nevertheless be disclosed and managed in accordance with Principles 2.3 and 2.4.*

*If a Key Society Leader receives stock or stock options from a Company as wages, consulting fees, honoraria, or other compensation (other than permitted payments as described in the prior paragraph),*

*this is considered a Direct Financial Relationship. If a Key Society Leader directs a Company honorarium or other fee to the Society, a charity, or another entity, this is considered a Direct Financial Relationship.*

*See the definition of “Direct Financial Relationship” for additional information relating to Principle 1.4. See Principles 5.2.5 and 5.4.4 for additional limitations on the relationships of Key Society Leaders.*

### **Key Society Leaders and Industry-Sponsored Events**

The CMSS Code for Interactions **Principle 5.2.5** states that “Societies will not permit Key Society Leaders (as defined above) to participate in Satellite CME Symposia and non-CME industry-sponsored events as faculty members, presenters, chairs, consultants, or in any other role besides that of an attendee who receives no honoraria or reimbursement. Exceptions would be adjudicated by the to-be-formed Conflict of Interest Committee. Key Society Leaders can participate in CME meetings that are not ASPS meetings.”

*Annotation: See Principle 1.4 for additional limitations on the relationships of Key Society Leaders.*

The CMSS Code for Interactions **Principle 5.4.4** states that “Key Society Leaders may not participate as leaders or presenters in Company promotional/marketing events held in exhibit space.”

*Annotation: Participation of Key Society Leaders in Company promotional or marketing events has the potential to create the perception that the Society endorses a particular Company or product. In order to avoid this perception, Societies should prohibit Key Society Leaders from participating as leaders or presenters and may consider extending this restriction to the entire Board of Directors.*

*See Principle 1.4 for additional limitations on the relationships of Key Society Leaders.*

### **Leadership Position with Another Organization**

The COI Governing Document restricts ASPS or PSF Presidents from serving as President of another plastic surgery organization or national medical society concurrent with their presidential term.

Article IV, Section A specifically states, “In order to help ensure that the Presidents of ASPS and PSF are primarily focused on the interests of ASPS and PSF and to minimize the potential for conflicting or dual fiduciary responsibilities, the Board of Directors of ASPS and PSF have determined that an ASPS President and a PSF President will not hold the position of president of another plastic surgery organization or another national medical society while serving as ASPS President or PSF President.”

Questions may be directed to the COI Committee Chair at [COI-Inquiry@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:COI-Inquiry@plasticsurgery.org).