

The American Society for Surgery of the Hand Corporate Advisory Council Guidelines

It is the belief of the leadership of the ASSH that a relationship between medical societies representing physicians and commercial corporations is necessary and beneficial for the future of medicine. It is essential for industry to consult with physicians for their medical expertise. It is necessary for the medical professionals to rely on industry to support education in order to stay abreast of the latest technology within their chosen field.

In order to avoid any appearance of impropriety or perception that a physician's ability to independently make decisions regarding the care of the patient has been compromised, we will henceforth strictly adhere to these following guidelines ("our ten commandments"):

- ❖ Industry is strongly encouraged to support educational activities to increase knowledge and the skills necessary to improve patient care through the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH).
- ❖ Industry is strongly encouraged to provide support for research through the American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand (AFSH). The subject and content of the research will be determined by the ASSH/AFSH. Corporations will not control the content of supported research.
- ❖ The ASSH/AFSH will clearly define research programs and methods of selection of topics and researchers receiving donated funds. The AFSH will provide annual updates to donors on the use of those funds.
- ❖ Physicians will be consulted and involved in the development and design of new products as deemed necessary by the device company following a comprehensive review of the specific project requirements as well as the physicians' credentials, qualifications and expertise on the subject matter by the company.
- ❖ Consulting and design activities will be reimbursed by industry at a fair market value on a per-activity or per-time basis. No ASSH members will accept gifts, funding for companion travel, sponsorship of recreational activity, entertainment or sports events.
- ❖ ASSH Members and industry will be parties to explicit contracts regarding the scope of service and reimbursement for service.
- ❖ ASSH members will not demand or accept unreasonable reimbursement for travel, meals and lodging, for being involved in an educational activity.
- ❖ All funding to support education and research will be controlled by the ASSH and the AFSH
- ❖ Companies will not influence the control of educational or research activities.
- ❖ All relationships will be disclosed and readily available to the public.

The Corporate Advisory Council of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand will be an ongoing dynamic body dedicated to ensure the ASSH mission of improving patient care through the enhancement of education and research and the development of new technology.