

Guidelines for Selecting Exhibitors for the AADPRT Annual Meeting

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Background

AADPRT must ensure that conflict of interest between exhibitors' interests and attendees' educational needs are minimized. Those exhibitors whose services align with the AADPRT mission of promoting excellence in education and training of future psychiatrists will be prioritized. Furthermore, those exhibitors and their sponsors who promote pharmaceutical products will be excluded. These guidelines describe the process of conscientiously identifying a pool of exhibitors for the Annual Meeting.

Process

Before the Annual Meeting. The Development Committee and Executive Office will be jointly responsible for identifying and vetting exhibitors for the Annual Meeting, using the Conflict of Interest Policy below. Funds collected from exhibitors will be pooled with other revenues and not earmarked for specific educational activities or fellowships.

During the Annual Meeting. The space for exhibitors will be kept as separate as possible from space for educational presentations, such that attendees may choose to ignore the former. Exhibitors will not be allowed to offer gifts or food, other than those of minimal value such as unbranded pens, lanyards, candy, etc. to attendees. AADPRT will not endorse any particular product or service. No company logos should appear on any materials AADPRT distributes to attendees.

After the Annual Meeting. As part of the survey of attendees of the Annual Meeting, the Development Committee will solicit feedback regarding the appropriateness of the exhibitor space.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Potential exhibitors will be evaluated for the potential to influence clinical, professional and educational practices. Exhibitors who have received recent unfavorable news coverage due to unethical behaviors will be excluded from consideration. Exhibitors will be stratified as follows:

- 1. Exhibits that could influence patient care**
 - a. clinical device manufacturers
 - b. other proprietary clinical interventions
 - c. publishers with one product (or suite of products) targeted at a specific diagnosis or intervention
- 2. Exhibits that could influence the training of residents**
 - a. educational technologies, e.g., audience response systems, on-line evaluation or curriculum systems, Epocrates, etc.

- b. educational services endorsing a specific topic or methodology, e.g., Tarrytown
 - c. professional medical associations or organizations with a specific clinical or educational interest, e.g., subspecialty society, GWISH
- 3. Exhibits that could influence faculty professional development and/or service:**
- a. liability insurance companies
 - b. physician recruiters
 - c. educational entities (e.g. Macy Foundation etc)
 - d. student loan programs
- 4. Exhibits with minimal or no conflict of interest**
- a. publishers with a wide variety of titles (many diagnoses, many types of interventions)
 - b. professional medical associations representing broad constituencies, e.g., APA, AMA

The Development Committee will review exhibitors in categories 1 through 3 on a case-by-case basis to ensure their appropriateness. Exhibitors in category 4 will be allowed without specific review, unless objections are raised by attendees.

The Development Committee and Executive Office will attempt to solicit multiple vendors within the same category of products or services. The members of the Development Committee will not have any financial ties to the exhibitors.

Separation Between Marketing and Educational Activities

The process of determining the content of the Annual Meeting, of determining selection criteria for the Fellowships, and of selecting Fellows will be distinct from the process involved in selecting exhibitors. Specifically, the Development Committee will be responsible for selecting exhibitors and ensuring that the Conflict of Interest Policy is followed, whereas the Program Committee and Fellowship Committees will determine program content and fellowship criteria and awardees.

References

Rothman DJ et al, "Professional medical associations and their relationship with industry: a proposal for controlling conflict of interest." *JAMA* 2009; 301 (13): 1367-72.