

### **The Mexico City Principles Section Four: Symposia and Congresses**

#### **What the APEC Principles say:**

- A. The purpose and focus of all symposia, congresses and other promotional or non-promotional, scientific or professional meetings (an “Event”) for healthcare professionals organized or sponsored by a Company should be to inform healthcare professionals about products and/or to provide scientific or educational information.
- B. Company relationships with healthcare professionals are regulated by multiple entities and intended to benefit patients and to enhance the practice of medicine. Interactions should be focused on informing healthcare professionals about products, providing scientific and educational information, and supporting medical education.
- C. Any sponsorship provided to individual healthcare professionals must not be conditional upon an obligation to prescribe, recommend, or promote any medicine.
- D. All Events should be held in an appropriate venue that is conducive to the scientific or educational objectives and the purpose of the Event or meeting. Companies should avoid using extravagant venues or resorts.
- E. Hospitality should be limited to refreshments and/or meals incidental to the main purpose of the Event and should only be provided:
  1. to participants of the Event and not their guests; and
  2. is moderate and reasonable as judged by local standards.
- F. Companies should not pay any costs associated with individuals accompanying invited healthcare professionals.

#### **What this means:**

**For Companies:** Ensure that there are appropriate policies, procedures and training for all personnel who interact with healthcare professionals, consistent with these principles;

**For Industry Associations:** Show leadership by developing and implementing ethical standards that embody these principles and require all member companies to adhere to them;

**For Healthcare Professionals:** Respect that the purpose of interacting with companies is to enhance knowledge about medicines and assist in providing the best possible patient care; and

**For Patients:** Expect that healthcare decisions are made with their well-being as the first priority, independent from any improper influence from companies.

#### **In practice, this means:**

- Events, includes symposia, congresses and other promotional, scientific or professional meetings for healthcare professionals;
- All events should be held in an appropriate venue for education based on local standards;
- Hospitality should be incidental to the purpose of the event, moderate and reasonable as judged by local standards; and,
- Limited to participants of the event and not their guest(s).