

## Overview of the HRS Code of Ethics Disclosure Policy for Editor-in-Chief Summary (October 2019)

### BACKGROUND

As part of the Society's commitment to transparency and accountability and to attain the highest standards of excellence, HRS strives to maintain independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all of its activities. HRS requires all volunteers to disclose and manage personal, professional, financial and business relationships when engaged in Society activities. These include relationships with commercial interests and non-commercial interests, activities related to heart rhythm care, and apply as well to an individual's spouse/partner.

While not all relationships are prohibited or harmful, full disclosure of such relationships is required, and mechanisms are in place to identify and resolve potential or perceived conflicts of interest. The guiding principles in the Code of Ethics related to relationships with industry are predicated on avoiding potential or perceived opportunities for direct enhancement of financial status.

Link to the full code of Ethics: <https://www.hrsonline.org/Code-of-Ethics/download>.

### AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS-VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers (as defined as members of the Society's Board of Trustees, committees, subcommittees, writing groups, working groups, task forces, and Journal's Associate Editors, Section Editors, Statistical Editors, Editorial Board members, and Editors-in-Chief) must complete a disclosure form, disclosing any relationships from the preceding 12-months and update as required at the time of consideration for participation in any Society activities and at least annually.

### OVERSIGHT

The Ethics Committee will review all volunteer disclosures if a volunteer's relationship with a single company is more than \$50,000 and/or if the total disclosure amount is greater than \$100,000, excluding research and fellowship support.

### DISCLOSURE POLICY

Certain high-level and influential volunteer positions in the Society, including trustees (particularly Executive Committee members), Reimbursement and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee members, officers (particularly the President, President-Elect, and other 'presidential track' officers), and the Editors-in-Chief, carry an extraordinary fiduciary obligation to protect the integrity and credibility of the organization. Individuals who serve in such positions are special stewards of the Society's reputation and assets. They are expected to demonstrate the highest standard of professional conduct, both in their service to the Society and their personal and professional activities, which can reflect on the Society's credibility either positively or negatively, and as such their disclosures will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Persons who hold such high-level positions must avoid both actual and perceived conflicts that could harm the Society's image or undermine the scientific credibility of its statements, guidelines, public testimony, or general reputation as an ethical organization.

Affected Individuals	Section Number in the Code of Ethics	Policy
<b>High-Level and Influential Volunteer Positions- Officers</b>		
<b>President</b>	5.9	The Society's President and President-Elect shall be prohibited from receiving income from commercial entities which have the potential for conflict of interest, during the year(s) in which they hold the position.
<b>President-Elect</b>	5.9	The Society's President and President-Elect shall be prohibited from receiving income from commercial entities which have the potential for conflict of interest, during the year(s) in which they hold the position.
<b>Journal Editors</b>		
<b>Editor-in-Chief of HeartRhythm; and  Editors-in-Chief of HeartRhythm-affiliated journals</b>	5.11	<p>The Editor-in-Chief of <b>HeartRhythm</b> and Editors of <b>HeartRhythm</b>-affiliated journals shall be bound by the Society's Disclosure and Conflict of Interest policies and must disclose all relationships with financially interested companies.</p> <p>In addition, these Editors shall not receive remuneration from competing print publications or products. He or she may serve on the editorial board (but not in a more senior role) for other publications and shall not serve on advisory boards for competing organizations.</p> <p>The policies regarding income and consulting relationships as applied to the President and President-Elect of the Society as described above, shall apply equally to these Editors.</p>

### RELATIONSHIP CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

**Honoraria/Speaker Fee/Consulting Fee:** Honoraria, gifts or in-kind compensation for consulting, lecturing, speaking engagements, advisory board, or membership, legal testimony or consultation (e.g., expert witness), or other purpose.

**Speaker's Bureau:** When a company has the right to dictate or control the content of the presentation or talk, and/or the company creates the presentation material and has final approval of the content and edits, and/or you are expected to act as a company's agent or spokesperson for the purpose of disseminating company or product information.

**Stocks or Stock Options (public/non-public):** Includes any stock or stock options for a publicly/ non-publicly traded commercial interest (including start-up company).

Note: For a start-up company, the book value (or par value if book value is not available) should be used.

**Majority shareholders:** Majority shareholders of a commercial interest<sup>‡</sup> and non-commercial interest.

**Royalty Income:** The right to directly receive current or future royalties under a license or copyright.

**Officer, Trustee, Director, Committee Chair, or Any Other Fiduciary Role:** Officer, Trustee, Director, Committee Chair, or Any Other Fiduciary Role of a relevant for-profit or non-profit organization, whether or not remuneration is received for service.

**Ownership/Partnership/Principal (Commercial/Non-commercial Interest):** Status or position of Ownership/Partnership/Principal in a commercial/ non-commercial interest.

**Research Grants (PIs and Named Investigators Only):** For PIs and named investigators only, grants received from industry, foundation or government sources.

**Fellowship Support:** Fellowship Support

**Salary from Employment (Commercial Interests):** Salary from employment with a commercial interest.

**Intellectual Property Rights:** Including patent or other intellectual property in a for-profit corporation, manifested in a tangible form that can be legally protected whether or not such rights are currently commercialized via a license agreement or other means (e.g., patent, trademark, or copyright).

**Travel/Entertainment:** Disclosure of travel, entertainment, food, beverage, and education expenses as reported by industry for Open Payments.

**Other Financial Relationships:** Other relevant relationships related to heart rhythm care not described above must be disclosed.

**For Board Members Only:** Family Relationships with another member of the Board AND Business Relationships with another member of the Board.