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EANM Code of Conduct for the Acceptance of Sponsoring in Association Activities

1. Purpose and scope

This Code of Conduct establishes the principles, boundaries, and procedures governing the acceptance, management, and acknowledgment of sponsorship within all activities of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM).

Its purpose is to:

- Safeguard the integrity, independence, and credibility of EANM as a scientific and professional society.
- Ensure that financial or in-kind contributions from industry do **not** influence scientific content, training standards, guidelines, or strategic decision-making.
- Maintain full compliance with European regulations, ethical standards, and best practices for professional medical societies.

The principles, boundaries, and procedures governing the personal acceptance, management, and acknowledgment of sponsorship received by volunteers serving the association and caring out all activities of the EANM are monitored by an internal, independent panel according to the EANM Statutes §17: the EANM Ethics Council. The EANM Ethics Council's mission includes:

- Developing comprehensive guiding principles, rules of procedures, and standard operating procedures to make sure that EANM manages secondary interests transparently and objectively.
- Identifying and addressing potential conflict of interest relating to commercial entities or other interest groups that might influence decisions within the framework of EANM.

2. Fundamental principles

All sponsorship accepted by EANM must comply with the following principles:

2.1. Independence

EANM retains full control over:

- Scientific content
- Educational programmes
- Guidelines and publications
- Committee and Council work and strategic decisions

No sponsor may influence, shape, or approve any scientific or educational content.

2.2. Transparency

All sponsorship agreements must be:

- Disclosed internally to relevant governance bodies
- Documented in written form

- Transparent to participants and stakeholders

2.3. Equity and fair access

Opportunities for sponsoring must be made available in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner to all eligible companies.

2.4. Non-endorsement

Acceptance of sponsorship may not be interpreted as EANM endorsing:

- Specific products
- Diagnostic or therapeutic procedures
- Commercial strategies

2.5. No conflict of interest

EANM activities and decisions must remain free from actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

3. Strict exclusion of industry involvement in core scientific activities

To preserve scientific independence, industry involvement is strictly forbidden in the following areas:

3.1. Basic training in nuclear medicine

No direct or indirect industry involvement is permitted in:

- Curriculum development
- Teaching activities
- Educational materials
- Examinations or assessments

3.2. EANM guidelines and scientific publications

Industry is excluded from:

- Evidence review
- Expert panel discussions and consensus processes
- Authorship or co-authorship
- Content development
- Editorial oversight
- Funding of publication processes (except through independent, arm's-length educational grants administered without influence

4. Permissible sponsorship areas

Industry support may be accepted only for activities where independence is preserved. These include:

4.1. Congress and events

- EANM Annual Congress (e.g., exhibition, satellite symposia, advertising according to the EANM Sponsorship Catalogue and following the EFPIA and EACCME regulations)
- Workshops, webinars, and non-basic training educational events, provided content is fully controlled by EANM

4.2. Unrestricted educational grants

Permitted only when:

- EANM retains full discretion over use
- No influence over content or faculty
- Clear contractual wording prevents influence

4.3. Research support

Industry may support research via:

- Independent research grants
- Transparent agreements
- Full compliance with EU regulations and ethical standards

4.4. Infrastructure and operations

Support may be accepted for:

- Digital platforms
- Event logistics
- Non-scientific operational costs provided sponsor does not have influence over scientific or training content.

5. Prohibited sponsorship practices

The following are not allowed:

- Sponsorship that influences or attempts to influence scientific content.
- Funding tied to specific products or clinical recommendations.
- Sponsorship requiring EANM endorsement, promotion, or market positioning.
- Agreements granting access to confidential or personal data.
- Funding of basic training, guideline processes, or scientific publications.

6. Due diligence and approval process

6.1. Initial screening

All sponsorship proposals undergo assessment for:

- Ethical compliance
- Independence risks
- Conflicts of interest
- Alignment with EANM values

6.2. Approval levels

- Small-scale or operational sponsorships: Approved by EANM Executive Office leadership and relevant Council.
- Strategic or high-value sponsorships: Require explicit approval from the EANM Board.

6.3. Written agreements

Each accepted sponsorship must include:

- A clear description of deliverables
- Clauses confirming independence of scientific content
- Rules for acknowledgment of sponsors
- Conflict-of-interest safeguards

7. Conflict of interest management

7.1. Disclosure

All individuals involved in EANM permanent internal group or in ongoing guidelines and publications must disclose:

- Research grants, Contracts (restricted or unrestricted)
- Consulting, Honoraria
- Meeting attendance
- Patents, Copyrights, Retail Licenses, Shares, Stock Options, Holdings
- Indirect Interests, current or past (within the last 36 months).

The EANM Ethics Council is tasked with ensuring that the nuclear medicine professionals holding offices or mandates within EANM are free from any conflict of interest that could compromise their commitment to the organisation's mission. This is checked annually with an individual declaration of conflict of interest, reviewed by the EANM Ethics Council.

7.2. Restrictions

Individuals with conflicts may be excluded from:

- Guideline development
- Basic training content creation
- Scientific committee decisions

8. Communication

8.1. Acknowledgment rules

Sponsors may be acknowledged:

- In event materials
- On the EANM website
- In programme brochures

Acknowledgment must be factual, neutral, and free from promotional language.

8.2. No Branding in scientific content

Sponsor logos may not appear:

- On scientific slides
- Within guideline documents
- Within training materials
- In peer-reviewed publications

9. Monitoring and enforcement

The EANM Board and Councils oversee compliance. Violations may result in:

- Termination of sponsorship agreements
- Exclusion of companies from future opportunities
- Internal disciplinary action

10. Review and updates

This Code of Conduct is reviewed every four years by the EANM Ethics Council or whenever:

- EU regulations change
- Ethical requirements evolve
- New association structures or activities are introduced