

Declaration of Interest Policy Statement July 2015

The Australian Pain Society (APS) recognises the potential for conflicts of interests to arise in relation to its mission of providing leadership in clinical practice, education, research and public advocacy for improved access to multidisciplinary pain management. In particular, the society values its relationship with public and commercial organisations involved in pain management in Australia, which with membership dues and conference delegate registrations, supports the activities of the society.

The APS acknowledges the role of its volunteer office bearers and paid staff in performing their roles and regularly discusses the potential for conflict between personal and commercial considerations and the best interests of the society. We have adopted a Declaration of Interest procedure in order to openly acknowledge potential conflicts and ensure activities of such office bearers are in keeping with the best interests of the society.

This procedure involves:

- Awareness of participating individuals of the concepts of competing or conflicting interests
- Open disclosure of potential conflicts for executive discussion
- Register of all current and previous 5 years of competing interests of office bearers collated and updated at a minimum, yearly
- Confirmation of registered conflicts at each executive meeting of the society
- Promoting removal of competing interests where appropriate prior to assuming executive roles
- Exclusion in discussion and voting regarding decisions of the executive where significant conflicts are reported, as deemed by the executive
- Ensuring the availability of a "Register of Interests" of office bearers upon request from members of the society

In addition to conflicts pertaining to individual members of the executive of the Australian Pain Society, we would like to recognise our corporate members, whose support is registered with *Medicines Australia*, in compliance with their code of conduct (Edition 18). These are:

- *Mundipharma*
- *bioCSL*
- *Pfizer*

In return for their support, the Australian Pain Society provides opinions regarding educational and research activity within the Australian context. We discourage participation of our office bearers in commercial activities or participation in advisory committees.

We also note specific untied grants currently received from *Mundipharma* and *Janssen-Cilag* to support the long standing and prestigious joint Australian Pain Society and Australian Pain Relief Association PhD scholarship program.