



# The College *on* Problems of Drug Dependence

## Donations Policy

### Purpose of Policy

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Inc. (CPDD) is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission includes the development and advancement of research on addiction as well as the development of the careers of its members. CPDD has a long history of working with for-profit organizations to further the science of addiction research, including testing of therapeutic drugs such as novel analgesics. CPDD has supported conferences to bridge the activities of academic researchers, for-profit companies, and regulatory agencies, and part of its Mission Statement includes the following: “Through associations with academia, government agencies and private industry, CPDD is able to promote scientific discoveries in addictive diseases as well as to inform legislators about their implications for public policy, benefits to society and the need for continued advancement of science and education on addictive diseases.”

The following Donations Policy was created in order to:

- 1) define ties between CPDD and for-profit organizations providing financial support for the organization,
- 2) articulate the measures that have been taken by the College to minimize either real or perceived conflicts of interest (COIs), and
- 3) describe the processes by which these measures are operationalized and applied in the College’s day-to-day functioning.

A separate policy governs the processes by which the College handles donations from individuals and not-for-profit organizations. This policy specifically addresses donations from for-profit corporations.

### Implications

Since its inception, CPDD has recognized the value of establishing relationships with for-profit organizations in order to promote scientific discoveries in the etiology and treatment of addictive diseases and to serve as a bridge and good-faith broker between government agencies, academia, non-profit organizations, and for-profit companies. CPDD is sensitive to real or perceived COI’s between the College and all potential donors. The following firewalls were put in place in order to minimize potential COI’s:

[For profit companies that apply for membership in the College \(Corporate status\):](#)

1. Companies can apply to CPDD for membership (Corporate status), as set out in the Membership guidelines. Companies must summarize their original research in the addiction area and they must demonstrate their interest in and commitment to the mission of the College.

#### Grants and/or donations from for-profit companies:

2. Grants and/or donations from companies must be unencumbered of obligation to the sponsor, support scientific or educational purposes, be based on objective criteria, and must not represent payment for influence or favorable treatment.
3. Acceptance of a grant or contribution in excess of \$500 must be approved by the CPDD Executive Committee. Grants or contributions in excess of \$2000 must be approved by the CPDD Board of Directors.
4. Grants are only accepted by the College in support of programs that are designed to be of benefit to the field of addiction, e.g. educational programs, research fellowships, awards for excellence in research, or travel awards to attend the CPDD Annual Scientific Meeting, or are used to defray the cost of meeting functions, and are managed independently by members who represent the College. Grants are only accepted from companies that have been approved as participating corporations.
5. All grants are publicly disclosed at the annual conference and on this website. ([Click here](#) to see a listing of all funds the College receives from companies.) All funds received through grants are used solely for the purpose designated in the grant. Any funds that may remain from such grants are reported on the College's annual financial statement, are carried over and used for that purpose in subsequent years, or are returned to the granting company/organization.
6. The CPDD Executive Office staff coordinate all financial matters with participating corporations, i.e. collecting fees, reconciling budgets, and coordinating the submission of grant applications.
7. All members of the Board of Directors and Executive Office staff are required to fully disclose all potential conflicts of interest at least annually. Before each meeting of the Board, the President, Executive Officer, and Director of the Executive Office are charged with the responsibility to monitor for conflicts of interest. Anyone with a COI relevant to a particular discussion must disclose that COI and, if appropriate, recuse him or herself from the discussion (see the CPDD COI Policy).

#### Annual Meeting Firewalls:

1. No specific sessions are identified as having been sponsored by a particular for-profit organization. No support is accepted from any company that has not been approved by the CPDD Board of Directors as a participating corporation.
2. Participating for-profit corporations will not be permitted to sponsor satellite sessions that take meeting attendees away from the meeting site during scheduled symposia, oral communications, and poster sessions.
3. The Annual Meeting evaluation is used to monitor activity of participating corporations. All meeting attendees are asked to report any activity of participating corporations that they believe to be inappropriate.

#### **Process**

Currently, CPDD passively accepts donations through advertising on its website and via corporate memberships. However, active solicitation of donations is also possible. This requires special precautions to avoid COI's with the organization and to protect CPDD's status as a nonprofit organization. The process for actively soliciting donations is outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures of the Development Committee.

The Executive Officer will serve as the representative for CPDD on any active fundraising endeavors. She/he will communicate with the Finance Committee to determine which, if any, CPDD investments may represent a potential COI and ensure that donations do not exceed the threshold for 501(c)(3) organizations. In addition, the Development Committee will work closely with the Executive Officer in establishing mechanisms for identifying and approaching for-profit organizations for fund-raising purposes.