



**POLICY GOVERNING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
THE TOBACCO/INHALED PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, CTS MEMBERS, AND NON-MEMBERS
WHO PARTICIPATE IN CTS ACTIVITIES¹**

1. Underlying Principles

A. The Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) is committed to the prevention and treatment of diseases caused by the use of tobacco and related combustible and inhaled products. Therefore:

1. The CTS and its members, staff and activities will not support activities of industries that promote the public's exposure to tobacco and other combustible and inhaled substances, because the inhalation and oral use of such products has been proven to cause and/or aggravate a wide spectrum of diseases and conditions.

2. The CTS:

- a) Does not invest in tobacco entities (as defined in section II, A);
- b) Does not accept for its journals any research that has been funded by tobacco entities;
- c) Does not accept for its journals any research submitted by an author that has currently, or had within the 12 months prior to submission, a relationship with a tobacco entity;
- d) Does not accept for its conferences any research that has been funded by tobacco entities;
- e) Does not accept as a planner or oral presenter for its conferences, or as a Society leader (as defined in section III, A.), anyone who has a current relationship with a tobacco entity, or has had one within the preceding 12 months;
- f) Calls upon its members and non-members who participate in CTS activities not to accept relationships with tobacco entities, and to disclose present or past relationships with tobacco entities.

B. The CTS will inform its members, its staff, any non-members participating in CTS activities, its partnering societies, and the public at large of this position.

C. The CTS will work with partnering societies and organizations that do not have a comparable policy to resolve any differences as they affect co-sponsorship of specific projects and activities. If any differences regarding the involvement of individuals on these projects or activities who have relationships with the tobacco industry cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the CTS, the CTS will not co-sponsor the specific project or activity.

D. The CTS' knowledge and management of an individual's conflict of interest due to a relationship with the tobacco industry relies on the self-disclosure of CTS members and other participants in CTS activities. This disclosure is achieved through CTS procedures for disclosure of conflict of interest and the efforts of the Society's Officers; Board members; Editors; Chairs of CTS Assemblies, committees, task forces, and scientific and educational programs; and CTS staff to carry out this policy according to established CTS policies and procedures.

II. Definitions of Relationships with the Tobacco and E-Cigarette Industry

A. A CTS member, or a non-member who participates in the CTS activities outlined in this policy, (referred to below as "individual") has a conflict of interest whenever he/she has a relationship

¹ Credit to the American Thoracic Society Policy Governing Relationships between the Tobacco Industry, ATS Members, and Non-Members Who Participate in ATS Activities (Updated February 2019)

(financial or non-financial, as described in section IIB) with a tobacco entity or its affiliates and subsidiaries that benefits either the CTS member/non-member or the tobacco entity in its promotion of tobacco products that have been shown to cause and/or aggravate disease. For the purposes of this policy, tobacco entities are defined as including the following:

1. Any company engaged in the manufacture of a tobacco product that has been shown to cause and/or aggravate disease;
2. Any affiliate or subsidiary of such a company for which it may be reasonably concluded, as a result of publicly available information, that the affiliate or subsidiary's ownership, activities, and/or image benefits the sale of a tobacco product that has been shown to cause and/or aggravate disease;
3. Any foundation for medical research or medical education that is primarily funded by one or more tobacco entities (with exception of foundations established for research and prevention of tobacco-caused disease as a result of court-supervised settlements with tobacco entities, and in which tobacco entities have no other involvement);
4. Any advocacy group that receives tobacco industry support to either (a) promote the use of a tobacco product that has been shown to cause an aggravate disease, or (b) impede policies to prevent tobacco-caused disease.

B. Activities that for purposes of this policy define a relationship with a tobacco entity include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Employment by a tobacco entity;
2. Service as a consultant or spokesperson for a tobacco entity;
3. Service on a Board of Directors, advisory board, or advisory committee of a tobacco entity;
4. Lecture fees and other honoraria paid to the individual by a tobacco entity;
5. Expert testimony on behalf of a tobacco entity;
6. Receipt or pending receipt of a tobacco entity-sponsored grant including contracted research;
7. Receipt or pending receipt of patents from a tobacco entity;
8. Receipt or pending receipt of royalties from a tobacco entity;
9. Ownership of stocks, options, or other equities of a tobacco entity (excluding mutual funds unless a tobacco sector fund).

III. Disclosure of Involvement with the Tobacco Industry

A. Wherever CTS requires declaration of potential conflicts of interest, individuals must disclose to CTS all relationships with a tobacco entity held by them at any time during their professional career, or by their spouse/life partner.

B. An exception may be the disclosure process used for submission of manuscripts to the CTS Journal, which follows procedures of the International Committee for Medical Journal Editors. The CTS does not accept for publication any research that has been funded by tobacco entities or submitted by an author or co-author that has or had within the 12 months prior to submission a relationship with a tobacco entity.

IV. Implications

A. Individuals known by CTS to have a current relationship with a tobacco entity, as defined in sections IIA and IIB, or to have had such a relationship within the past twelve months, will not:

1. Be nominated or serve as an CTS *Officer*, CTS *Board Member*, or *Chair/Co-Chair* or *Chair-elect of an CTS Assembly*, *Guideline Panel*, *Committee* or *Task Force*. (The CTS Nominating Committee may also regard a relationship with a tobacco entity that existed more than twelve months ago as cause for not nominating an individual to serve as a CTS Officer.)

2. Serve as an *CTS Editor in Chief*.
3. Serve as an *CTS Deputy Editor, Associate Editor, Guest Editor, or member of the CTS Journal editorial board*.
4. Be accepted for *publication in the CTS journal*. The CTS does not accept for publication any research that has been funded by tobacco entities or submitted by an author or co-author that has or had within the 12 months prior to submission a relationship with a tobacco entity.
5. Serve as a *CTS reviewer*, including but not limited to, grant proposals, guidelines manuscripts, documents, journals, websites, and abstracts.
6. Serve as the *Chair, Co-Chair, or other panelist for an official CTS document* such as a guideline or statement.
7. Serve on any *official CTS committee*.
8. Serve on an *Assembly planning, program, or nominating committee*.
9. Serve as a *planner, chair or moderator, or presenter for ATS scientific and educational programs*. (The CTS annual meeting, the Canadian Respiratory Conference, and other CTS programs for which abstracts are accepted do not accept research that has been funded by a tobacco entity, but may choose to accept for poster presentation the work of an author or co-author that had a relationship with a tobacco entity that existed more than twelve months ago, as long as that relationship is fully disclosed as part of the conference or program's disclosure requirements.)
10. Serve as an *official spokesperson for the CTS or official representative of the CTS*.
11. Be a recipient of *CTS recognition awards*.
12. Be a recipient of a *CTS letter of support for research funding*.

B. An individual owning tobacco stocks, options, or other equities (excluding mutual funds unless a tobacco sector fund) may be considered for approval to participate in the activities noted above if he/she permanently divests himself/herself of all such holdings a minimum of 30 days before the date of consideration. Past ownership does not disqualify an individual for participation in the activities listed above but may be judged as disqualifying for a specific role or requiring recusal from specific aspects of a role, if seen as likely to compromise the activity or the individual's effectiveness in it.

C. CTS Officers, Editors, nominating committees, and others responsible for the nomination or appointment of individuals to CTS roles, or the acceptance of individuals to present at CTS conferences or develop an official CTS document, should also consider an individual's past tobacco relationships, as disclosed or otherwise known to CTS, and determine whether the past involvement is likely to compromise the activity or the individual's effectiveness in the activity, and therefore should disqualify the individual for participation or require recusal from specific roles or aspects.

D. An individual's spouse/ life partner's relationship with a tobacco entity will not by itself cause the limitations on the individual's participation in CTS listed above. It may, however, be judged to be of such significance that it warrants disqualifying the individual for a specific activity, such as nomination for Officer, or recusal from specific aspects of an activity.

V. Other Nicotine Delivery Systems

A. CTS disclosure procedures also require disclosure of professional or other financial relationships with manufacturers and marketers of non-tobacco nicotine delivery systems such as e-cigarettes, personal vaporizers, vape pens, e-cigars, e-hookah, or vaping devices (products that produce an aerosolized mixture containing flavored liquids and nicotine that is inhaled by the user).

B. Disclosure of professional or other financial relationships with manufacturers and marketers of on-prescription nicotine patches, gums, etc., indicated for tobacco use cessation is already expected within an individual's disclosure of relevant commercial interests, such as involvement with pharmaceutical companies.

C. Involvement with commercial entities that manufacture or market non-tobacco nicotine delivery systems and are unrelated to tobacco companies is not prohibited by this policy and does not cause the automatic limitations on an individual's participation in CTS activities specified in this policy. It may, however, be judged as likely to compromise the activity or the individual's effectiveness in it, and therefore disqualify the individual for a specific activity, or require recusal from specific aspects of an activity.

D. Involvement with commercial entities that manufacture or market combustible and/or inhaled nicotine delivery systems is subject to the limitations as defined in section IV Implications).

VI. Cannabis Industry

A. Disclosure to CTS of professional or other financial relationships with the cannabis industry is also required.

B. A separate policy to address interactions with the cannabis industry will be developed by the CTS Board of Directors by fall 2019.

VII. Procedures for Implementation of this Policy

Procedures for implementation, interpretation, and adjudication of this policy shall be determined by the CTS Board of Directors or its staff, or in the case of the CTS Journal, by the CTS Editorial Board Committee, Journal Editors, and Journal staff, and are subject to review by the CTS Board of Directors and CTS Executive Committee.

Approved in principle by the CTS Board of Directors on April 10, 2019.

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