## **ACADEMY OF LASER DENTISTRY**

## DISCLOSURE POLICY REGARDING DUAL COMMITMENT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

(NOT A NEW POLICY – FORMAT CHANGES ONLY WITH THIS REVISION)

## **Policy**

It is the policy of the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) that persons who submit or review manuscripts or materials for publication or presentation disclose any proprietary, financial, professional, or other personal interests that may influence or be perceived to influence positions presented in, or the review of, the manuscript or presentation. This policy is intended to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in educational activities and scientific endeavors. ALD acknowledges that the potential for conflicts of interest can occur for financial and other reasons, such as personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion. Agreements between authors and study sponsors that interfere with the authors' access to all of a study's data or that impede their ability to analyze and interpret the data and to prepare and publish manuscripts independently may represent conflicts of interest and should be avoided. This disclosure requirement includes relationships with biomedical device manufacturers or distributors, pharmaceutical companies, or others whose products or services may be considered to be related to the subject matter of the educational activity or scientific endeavor. The intent of requiring disclosure is not to prevent an author with dual commitments from submitting a manuscript or presentation. Disclosure is requested so that the readers may reasonably formulate their own judgments regarding the article or presentation in the light of full disclosure of related information.

## Operating Principles Governing Disclosure of Dual Commitment and Potential Conflict of Interest

- 1. Dual commitments and potential conflicts of interest that are governed by the ALD's Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy (and that affect the presenter, the presenter's immediate family, or a trust of which the presenter or member of the presenter's immediate family is a beneficiary) include **but are not limited to:** 
  - employment or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through publication of the paper or presentation
  - corporate affiliations and commercial relationships
  - consultancies (paid or unpaid)
  - ownership of companies, stock options, stock ownership, equity
  - current or pending ownership of patents, patent licensing agreements, royalties, copyrights
  - financial interest (honoraria for lectureships or other teaching activities, stipends)

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- special customer preferences (material donations, clinical materials, special discounts, special gifts)
- governance (corporate responsibility, corporate allegiances such as service on governing or advisory boards)
- research contracts, grants, or other support for investigation
- paid expert testimony
- by virtue of present or past employment of immediate family or relatives
- personal relationships that are directly or indirectly associated with the work
- professional interests or personal beliefs that may influence the work.
- 2. ALD requires disclosure of dual commitments and conflicts of interest. In determining the significance and extent of a dual commitment or conflict of interest, ALD considers the following:
  - scope of the commitment or relationship
  - frequency and timing whether past, recent, occasional, or long-standing
  - number a single, exclusive relationship vs. multiple, competing relationships.
- 3. If a dual commitment is related to material contained in the submission, it must be disclosed to the readers and audience, regardless of scope, frequency, timing, or number.
- 4. Failure to disclose may be determined to be a violation of ALD's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct. Penalties for failure to disclose will be considered at the discretion of the ALD.