

Sponsorship Policy

UNSW Medical Society

UNSW Medical Society (UNSWMS) and its Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Performing Arts Groups (PAGs) rely on sponsors to fund our regular operations, which aim to engage UNSW medical students, enrich their learning and developmental experiences, and advocate on their behalf to faculty, university, and external stakeholders.

The following policy stipulates the expectations of MedSoc and SIGs in seeking and contracting sponsors, and of our sponsors in attending events and promoting themselves to students.

Expectations of MedSoc & SIGs

1. UNSWMS volunteers including the executive, council members, SIGs and PAGs are expected to abide by the following sponsorship policy.
 - 1.1. It is the responsibility of the sponsorship team, including the Sponsorship Director, treasurer, and memberships officers to ensure that this policy is followed
 - 1.2. If any volunteer is unsure about the terms of this document or how their actions align, they should contact the Sponsorship Director, Treasurer, or President for clarification

2. Prospectus

- 2.1. A prospectus will be compiled each year by the outgoing and incoming Sponsorship Directors
- 2.2. This prospectus will include opportunities for MedSoc council, SIGs and PAGs and may also include rural campus societies
- 2.3. The Sponsorship Director will approach the SIG and PAG Sponsorship Officers to have the opportunity to write a page for the prospectus
 - 2.3.1. SIGs' and PAGs' Sponsorship Officers must provide relevant information for the prospectus by the specified deadline or they will not be included in the prospectus
- 2.4. The prospectus will be sent to prospective sponsors before the end of February each year

3. Process of signing contracts

- 3.1. All sponsorship contracts and agreements can only be signed by the Sponsorship Director
 - 3.1.1. In the event of the absence of the Sponsorship Director, the President or Treasurer may sign contracts

3.2. Council Sponsorship

- 3.2.1. Council members are to contact the Sponsorship Director before approaching or replying to sponsors regarding sponsorship for an event. This is due to:
 - 3.2.1.1. MedSoc has existing arrangements with ongoing sponsors
 - 3.2.1.2. An event may have already been allocated to a sponsor
 - 3.2.1.3. There may be restrictions on what types of sponsors can be involved in the event
 - 3.2.1.4. Ensuring ethical and legal correspondence is followed to prevent unintended future consequences

3.3. SIG and PAG Sponsorship

- 3.3.1. SIGs and PAGs may initiate sponsorship as per the following guidelines
- 3.3.2. SIGs and PAGs may identify potential sponsors to contact which are not listed on MedSoc's blacklist or brownlist as per section 8.
 - 3.3.2.1. If a pharmaceutical company reaches out directly, the Sponsorship Director must be consulted. Acceptance of pharmaceutical sponsorship may be accepted, however, this is a case-by-case basis depending on context and sponsorship details.
 - 3.3.2.2. No sponsorship contracts should be signed by SIG sponsorship officers, all contracts must be reviewed and signed by the MedSoc Sponsorship Director, which will be invoiced.
 - 3.3.2.3. Refer to section 6 for more details.
- 3.3.3. If there are discrepancies in negotiating sponsorship terms and legal matters, SIGs can and should consult the Sponsorship Director.
- 3.3.4. If a SIG or PAG breaches the terms of this policy on more than one occasion in a given year, they will face consequences at the discretion of the executive. This may include
 - 3.3.4.1. A fine
 - 3.3.4.2. A restriction on events
 - 3.3.4.3. The SIG may be re-evaluated as per the SIG tiered standing system

4. SIG sponsorship officers are to submit a report of past, current and projected sponsorship to the Sponsorship Director at the beginning and end of their term. An additional update may be requested by the Sponsorship Director throughout the year.

5. Pharmaceutical sponsorship

It is recognised within the literature that pharmaceutical sponsorship of medical student events presents a conflict of interest between the industry and future practitioner prescribing habits. Medical students have been shown to be vulnerable to these influences, despite the fact that most believe they are personally immune. Therefore, it is important for medical students to be aware of the effects that pharmaceutical sponsorship can have on their attitudes and behaviour towards medicines, and thus cautious when entering into a partnership with sponsors of this nature. Restricting and regulating interactions with pharmaceutical companies is key in helping students to maintain a degree of independence from industry bias if a partnership is sought.

The University of New South Wales Medical Society (UNSW MedSoc) does not encourage Special Interest Groups (SIG) and Affiliates entering into partnership agreements with pharmaceutical companies, which is in line with the current Australian Medical Association stance regarding the issue. However, in the case that a decision is made to receive sponsorship from a pharmaceutical company, the following regulations will apply.

- 5.1. Pharmaceutical companies are defined as companies that produce products registered on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and/or products listed as 'medicines' under the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.
- 5.2. Once it has been established that a company satisfies this classification, the SIG/Affiliate must follow the necessary steps outlined below:

7.2.1. Financial Sponsorship

7.2.1.1. All contracts involving pharmaceutical companies must receive approval from the Groups Director and the Sponsorship Director.

7.2.1.2. SIGs/Affiliates must be transparent about the arrangements made with the pharmaceutical company. Any changes or updates to the partnership sponsorship contract must be communicated to the Groups Director and

Sponsorship Director as soon as possible but at least three days prior to the sponsored event.

7.2.1.3. If it is found that a SIG/Affiliate has failed to ensure or is not transparent that their pharmaceutical sponsor has complied with the contract, this may provide grounds for the immediate termination of the contract by the Sponsorship Director.

7.2.1.4. If a SIG/Affiliate believes that the grounds for termination is unjust prior to termination, they may direct the complaint to the next executive meeting for discussion. At that point in time, all sponsorship from the pharmaceutical company will be suspended until further notice.

7.2.1.5. Any financial sponsorship received from the pharmaceutical company shall under no circumstances be spent on social events, as outlined in the Arc clubs regulations.

7.2.2. Gifts

7.2.2.1. Gifts are defined as any form of collateral provided by the pharmaceutical company free of charge.

7.2.2.2. Collateral supplied by the pharmaceutical company is allowed in principle, but limited to items of < \$10/piece in value or educational items for medical students such as textbooks. This does not include gifts in the form of meals/food items.

7.2.3. Sponsored events

7.2.3.1. Any publicity or advertising of pharmaceutical sponsors must be limited to company name and logo only. Such publicity may appear in UNSW MedSoc publications and on any website associated with UNSW MedSoc (including Facebook event pages and app).

7.2.3.4. All speakers are required to clearly disclose their ties to industry in all presentations.

7.2.3.5. There is to be a maximum of two pharmaceutical company representatives at each sponsored event.

7.2.3.6. Speakers are strictly not allowed to market or promote any of their products or services. SIGs

and PAGs are to ensure this is strictly followed.
Following noncompliance, the SIG or PAG may incur a fine/penalty.

6. Blacklist

6.1. Additionally, in accordance with AMSA's internal policy, SIGs should avoid making sponsorship deals with any organisations that provide and promote:

- 6.1.1. Tobacco
- 6.1.2. Pornography
- 6.1.3. Gambling
- 6.1.4. Firearms
- 6.1.5. organisations promoting discriminatory activities or programs on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, age or physical disability.

6.2. MedSoc officially recommends SIGs not to contact Dr Zeshan Qureshi or his associates (may be under the banner of "The Unofficial Guide of Medicine") for sponsorship.

7. SIG Sponsorship Brownlist

7.1. The following list are sponsors that ALL SIGs are not allowed to contact for sponsorship (either one-off funding or ongoing partnership) until after the UNSWMS Sponsorship Director has finished their negotiations and indicated that the brownlist is open for SIGs. The brown-list may or may not be open to SIGs and PAGs depending on contractual negotiations.

- 7.1.1. Avant
- 7.1.2. MDA National
- 7.1.3. MIGA
- 7.1.4. MIPS
- 7.1.5. Bongiorno
- 7.1.6. Grimsey
- 7.1.7. Cutcher & Neale
- 7.1.8. BOQ Specialist

8. Online learning platforms

8.1. All promotion of online learning platforms through MedSoc or its SIGs must be done with consultation of the MedSoc Sponsorship Director and Academic Resource officer. This includes, but is not limited to,

- 8.1.1. Osmosis
- 8.1.2. AMBOSS

9. Membership Benefits

The UNSWMS Memberships team each year seeks out in-kind sponsorship opportunities on behalf of the whole membership base. These membership agreements should comply with the above policies regarding sponsorship, and in addition, membership officers should strive to ensure that companies and their products are;

- 9.1. Healthy and health-promoting
- 9.2. Appropriate for the occasion and the audience
- 9.3. Equitable and non-discriminatory
- 9.4. Environmentally conscious

10. Expectations of Sponsors

It is expected that sponsors of UNSW Medical Society, in promoting to students, act in accordance with the values of the society. This includes;

- 10.1. Providing sponsorship material that is environmentally conscious.
- 10.2. Delivering messages that are not discriminatory and are appropriate in their content and delivery.

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Authors	D.Duncan, J.Boey, T.Tsang
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