Institute of Medicine
Committee on Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice

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American Academy of Neurology

• 22,000+ U.S. and international members
• Internationally-recognized medical publications
  – *Neurology* (medical journal)
  – *Continuum* (CME journal)
  – Clinical practice guidelines
Current Personal Experience

• AAN General Counsel
• Legal advisor to
  – Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee
  – Committees and subcommittees developing guidelines
  – Committees delivering CME to members
  – Editor-in-Chief of *Neurology*
• Responsible for implementation of AAN Policy on Conflicts of Interest
Academy Guidelines

• Guideline development is key AAN activity
• Board of Directors governs process and approves each guideline
• AAN collaborates with other US and international organizations to jointly develop guidelines
• 100 have been developed; 70 are current
• 40 are under development
Development of Guidelines

• Technical work by experts in subcommittees
• Reviewed by Practice Committee, appropriate other committees and sections
• Approved by AAN Board of Directors
• Further peer review in publishing process
• Published in *Neurology*
Integrity of Guideline Process - I

• “Principles Governing AAN Relationships with External Sources of Support”
  – Approved by AAN Board in June 2004
  – Considers clinical practice guideline development a “core governance activity”
  – “The AAN Board of Directors is responsible for assuring the separation of core governance activities from external funding sources.”
Integrity of Guideline Process - IIP

• AAN Policy on Conflicts of Interest
  – Requires disclosures of COI by
    • Guideline authors
    • Reviewing committees, subcommittees
    • Board of Directors
    • Editors of *Neurology*

• Policy includes detailed disclosure form
Integrity of Guideline Process - III

- Since 2000, guidelines have been developed in strict compliance with manual (evidence based)
- Multiple levels of independent peer review
  - Committees
  - Sections
  - Board of Directors
  - Journal reviewers and editors
  - Journal and guideline readers
In conclusion….

• External funding of guidelines not authorized
• Well-defined disclosure process
• Extensive internal and external peer review
• Board of Directors and legal oversight
• Careful to protect integrity of the process