

ATS POLICY GOVERNING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY, ATS MEMBERS, AND NON-MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN ATS ACTIVITIES

I. Underlying Principles:

- A) The ATS is committed to the prevention and treatment of diseases caused by the use of tobacco. Therefore:
- 1) The ATS and its members, staff and activities will not support activities of the tobacco industry that promote the public's exposure to tobacco products because the use of tobacco products has been proven to cause and aggravate a wide spectrum of diseases and conditions.
 - 2) The ATS does not invest in tobacco entities or accept for its journals or its conferences any research that has been funded by tobacco entities, and calls upon its members and non-members who participate in ATS activities not to accept relationships with tobacco entities, and to disclose present or past relationships with tobacco entities.
 - 3) The ATS will inform its members, staff, non-members participating in ATS activities, partnering societies, and the public at large of this position.
 - 4) The ATS 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 ATS, the ATS will not co-sponsor the specific project or activity.
- B) The ATS's knowledge and management of an individual's conflict of interest due to a relationship with the tobacco industry relies on the self-disclosure of ATS members and other participants in ATS activities. This disclosure is achieved through ATS procedures for disclosure of conflict of interest and the efforts of the Society's Officers; Board members; Editors; Chairs of ATS Assemblies, committees, task forces, and scientific and educational programs; and ATS staff to carry out this policy according to established ATS procedures.

II. Definitions of Relationships with the Tobacco Industry:

- A) An ATS member, or non-member who participates in the ATS-sponsored activities outlined in this policy has a conflict of interest whenever he/she has a relationship (as described in section IIB) with the tobacco industry or its affiliates

and subsidiaries that benefits either the ATS member/non-member or the tobacco industry in its promotion of tobacco products. For the purposes of this policy, the tobacco industry and individual tobacco companies (hereinafter called “tobacco entity”) are defined as including the following:

- (1) All companies engaged in the manufacture of tobacco products;
 - (2) All affiliates and subsidiaries of such companies 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 tobacco products;
 - (3) All advocacy groups that receive tobacco industry support to promote the use of tobacco products and/or impede policies to prevent tobacco-caused disease.
- (B) Examples of activities that define a relationship with a tobacco entity for an ATS member or non-member who participates in ATS-sponsored activities (both hereinafter called “individual”) include but are not limited to the following:
- (1) Employment of the individual by a tobacco entity
 - (2) Consultancy by the individual with a tobacco entity
 - (3) Board or Advisory Board service of the individual with a tobacco entity
 - (4) Lecture fees (honoraria) paid to the individual by a tobacco entity
 - (5) Expert witness by the individual on behalf of a tobacco entity
 - (6) Testimony by the individual on a legislative or regulatory matter on behalf of a tobacco entity
 - (7) Receipt or pending receipt by the individual of a tobacco entity-sponsored grant including contracted research
 - (8) Receipt or pending receipt by the individual of patents from a tobacco entity
 - (9) Receipt or pending receipt by the individual of royalties from a tobacco entity.
- (C) Individuals must disclose any present or past relationships with a tobacco entity (as defined in sections IIA and IIB) within the past ten years, including present and past ownership of stocks or options of a tobacco entity (other than mutual funds), and those of their spouse or life partner. A spouse or life partner’s

relationship with the tobacco industry or stock/option ownership will not be considered a relationship of the individual with the tobacco industry nor will it be considered as grounds for automatic limitations on the individual's participation in ATS activities specified in this policy.

- (D) Present ownership of tobacco stocks or options (other than mutual funds) prevents the individual from participating in any of the ATS activities listed under section III below. The individual becomes immediately eligible for participation, however (assuming there are no other tobacco industry relationships as defined in sections IIA and IIB), if he/she divests himself/herself of all such holdings a minimum of 30 days before beginning participation. In some circumstances, divestiture may be requested by a nominating group and expected to occur before selection or nomination of the individual for participation. Past ownership of tobacco stocks or options (other than mutual funds) does not automatically exclude an individual from participation in the ATS activities listed under section III but will be considered by a nominating group in determining the appropriateness of selecting the individual.

III. Implications of this Policy for ATS Members and ATS Activities:

- (A) Individuals who are known by ATS to have a present (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 ATS Officer, ATS Board Member, or Chair or Chair-elect of an ATS Assembly, Committee or Task Force.
 - 2) Serve as an ATS Editor.
 - 3) Be a recipient of ATS recognition awards.
 - 4) Serve as a planner (organizer), chair or moderator, or presenter for ATS scientific and educational programs. (ATS journals do not accept research that has been funded by a tobacco entity, but may accept research of an author or co-author that has or had within the past ten years another relationship with a tobacco entity, as long as that relationship is disclosed as part of the journal's disclosure requirements. The ATS International Conference and other ATS programs for which abstracts are accepted do not accept research that has been funded by a tobacco entity, but may accept for poster presentation the work of an author or co-author that has or had within the past ten years another relationship with a tobacco entity, as long as that relationship is disclosed as part of the conference or program's disclosure requirements.)
 - 5) Serve on Assembly planning, nominating and program committees.
 - 6) Serve as an ATS Deputy Editor, Associate Editor, Guest Editor, or member of an ATS editorial board.
 - 7) Serve on a writing committee of an ATS statement or guideline.
 - 8) Serve as an ATS reviewer, including but not limited to, ATS grant proposals, documents, journals, websites, and abstracts.
 - 9) Serve as a spokesperson for or representative of the ATS.

- (B) In addition, nominating committees and others responsible for nomination or appointment of individuals to ATS offices and awards including: ATS Officer; ATS Board Member; Chair or Chair-Elect of an ATS Assembly, Committee or Task Force; ATS Editor, or recipient of ATS recognition awards; will consider an individual's tobacco relationships within the previous ten years as a factor in judging the appropriateness of the individual for nomination or appointment.

IV. Procedures for Implementation of this Policy

Procedures for implementation, interpretation, and adjudication of this policy shall be developed by the ATS with review and approval of the ATS Board of Directors prior to implementation.