



Statement on Pharmaceutical industry funding

PCRS-UK seeks to work in collaboration with any organisation, who shares its aims of improving respiratory care. This includes commercial companies and government as well as other professional societies / charities. PCRS-UK's primary consideration in any collaboration is ensuring that its independence is not in any way compromised and it is free to act in the best interests of its members and what it considers to be in the best interests of people with respiratory conditions / the public good.

PCRS-UK recognises the very significant influence, through innovation in technology and investment in marketing and education that the pharmaceutical industry has on the delivery of healthcare. Through collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, PCRS-UK is able to gain access to expertise and resources to promote the Society and support its charitable priorities that it would otherwise not have access to.

The financial support provided by PCRS-UK corporate supporters for the core activities of the Society allows the PCRS-UK to make its services either freely available or at greatly reduced rates to its members. In addition by working in partnership with companies to support the development of pharmaceutical industry education programmes, PCRS-UK is able to influence the content of such programmes by providing clinical and primary care input, and independent review / scrutiny. PCRS-UK will only endorse / put its name to programmes where it has driven and approved the content and where it believes it is securing on good return on its investment in terms of income / fees for professional services, marketing opportunities and charitable impact.

PCRS-UK's funding strategy is to grow its membership with the ambition that every practice and / or practice respiratory lead is a paid member of PCRS-UK, thus providing a significant proportion of the Charity's income as well as increasing its charitable reach. There is however significant resistant within primary care to joining a specialist Society and significant cultural hurdles need to be overcome in order for individual primary care health professionals, General Practices and NHS organisations to see the value of and be willing to pay for PCRS-UK membership. PCRS-UK is currently reliant on pharmaceutical industry for a significant proportion of its income (circa 75%). Funding is secured from each of the major companies in the respiratory market (currently 10 companies) and no single company provides more than 20% total funding. This ensures there is no bias to any particular company.

Written agreements are in place for all funding received from the pharmaceutical industry. The sources of funding are declared and made transparent on the PCRS-UK website and on all relevant materials.

PCRS-UK recognises its credibility and independence as its greatest assets both in terms of its ability to influence and to secure support. It recognises the potential conflicts that its reliance upon pharmaceutical industry brings. PCRS-UK has rigorous governance processes in place to ensure it operates independently and is not unduly influenced by any third party body. This includes policies on management conflict of interest, endorsement and commercial partnerships (see <http://www.pcrs-uk.org/company-papers>). The trustee board operates at arm's length from PCRS-UK Corporate Supporters and has no direct contact with them. The [Trustee Board](#) is responsible for overseeing the activities of the Society, ensuring proper procedures and policies are in place to manage resources effectively to deliver charitable outcomes and to protect the independence and reputation of the Society.

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The Primary Care Respiratory Society, formerly known as the *General Practice Airways Group*, is a registered charity (Charity No: 1098117) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (Company No: 4298947)
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