

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 a good return on its investment in terms of income / fees for professional services, marketing opportunities and charitable impact.

Professional Societies are generally primarily funded through membership subscriptions. As a primary care based Society, growing membership beyond a certain threshold has proven very difficult for PCRS-UK as result of 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 or NHS organisations to see the value of and to be willing to pay for PCRS-UK membership. Public fundraising is not a realistic source of funding for PCRS-UK whose immediate beneficiaries of health professionals are not the public. 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 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 large majority of the Board has no interest in the pharmaceutical industry. 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.

Dated: October 2016