

National Trauma Institute Policy
Ethics & Disclosure for Contributions and Industry Relationships
December, 2010

The National Trauma Institute (NTI) is a nonprofit organization devoted to increasing scientific knowledge related to trauma and reducing death and disability as a result. Trauma is the leading cause of death in the US population between the ages of 1 and 44, is a major unrecognized health problem, and carries an economic cost of more than \$700 billion a year. Research is the path to more cost effective care and improved outcomes for patients with traumatic injuries.

As the pre-eminent organization dedicated to trauma research in the United States, NTI acquires and disseminates funding for scientific research in this field. This mission is urgent, given the lack of financial support for trauma research relative to the heavy burden of injury to our society, as well as the absence of any other agency that employs a rigorous peer review to select the highest priority studies and to avoid resource-wasting replication and connects multiple centers for large clinical trials.

NTI secures corporate support for research, education events and professional meetings, yet maintains independence from industry, which is essential to its credibility. The following guidelines and disclosure practices govern NTI's relationships with corporate interests.

1. The National Trauma Institute wishes to recognize and encourage contributions for research and other appropriate activities from major corporations and their foundations. This may represent an attractive opportunity for companies and individuals who wish to contribute specifically to programs, projects, or research studies in recognition of personal or business connections with this field. However, it is vital to NTI's credibility that its actions are free from both real and apparent influence of individuals or business organizations that stand to gain financially from the outcomes of NTI research or other sponsored activities. Thus, NTI does not endorse brands or products or use brand names of products to acknowledge corporate sponsors, nor does NTI accept money with a real or apparent expectation of reciprocity.
2. NTI directs an annual appeal for research funds to representatives of related industries, some of whom have been participants or exhibitors at NTI meetings.
3. NTI identifies and communicates the benefits associated with varying levels of donor support.
4. In all cases, the recipients of such research grants are determined according to the usual practices of the NTI Science Committee, with approval of the Board. The Science Committee selects grant recipients without influence or participation of the donor. Use of funds is subject to NTI policies regarding accountability and reporting.
5. The publications and presentations of grant recipients are expected to acknowledge support from NTI and from industry donors in the case of specifically named research grants, as conditionally approved by the NTI Board of Directors.
6. Contributions to NTI are recognized in annual report listings, on our website, and at related NTI meetings and programs. All such recognition must comply with ACCME regulations.

7. Medical advertisements in NTI programs or articles are clearly distinguished from editorial content and not placed near articles.
8. At this time, NTI accepts donations to support peer-reviewed grants for research activities and operations.
9. Directed donations are allowable, under the guidelines outlined in Appendix A of this document.
10. Exhibitor participation and sponsorship at the annual meeting or other activities are allowable and encouraged under the guidelines outlined in Appendix B of this document.

Appendix A
National Trauma Institute Policy
Directed Donations to the Research Fund

Directed research donations are allowable under the following guidelines:

1. The NTI Science Committee reviews the proposed scope and topic for the directed donation and considers whether it:
 - a. Represents a topic that is consistent with the NTI research agenda.
 - b. Is broad enough in scope to allow a competitive solicitation of multiple proposals.
 - c. Is not specifically directed to an individual or institution.
2. Once approved by the NTI Science Committee, each directed donation results in a broadly advertised request for proposals (RFP), meeting the scope of the directed donation. The NTI Science Committee evaluates proposals and awards funding to those proposals that both meet the NTI research standard and fall within the scope of the directed donation.
3. In the event that the directed donation is not used for research within the scope of the directed donation within three years of initial contribution, the directed funds are returned to the donor.
4. Other than the direction of the area of research to be studied, the grant is considered to be a donation to the NTI research fund. The donor of directed donation funds does not have editorial control of the venue, content, presentation, or publication of any scientific information produced by this research.

Appendix B
National Trauma Institute Policy
Exhibitor or Sponsor Participation in the Annual Meeting

1. NTI shall:
 - Review and formulate the exhibitor prospectus
 - Evaluate policy-related questions about issues of corporate sponsorship at NTI events
 - Determine which portion of the annual meeting or other educational offerings are appropriate for corporate sponsorship
 - Determine how best to recognize that corporate sponsorship
2. Sponsorship of individual events at the annual meeting by interested parties is permissible if the following conditions have been met:
 - The Program Committee has determined that the event is appropriate for corporate sponsorship.
 - The event does not take place during the annual meeting hours.
 - The date and time of the event is set by the NTI Staff/Program Committee.
 - NTI staff members have determined room availability at the specified dates and times.
3. The sale of each 8x10 booth space at the annual meeting includes two vendor registrations to the meeting. Additional meeting registrations are sold at standard registration rates. There is no limit to the number of industry representatives who may attend the annual meeting.
4. NTI prohibits amplification in exhibit booths.
5. NTI provides food and beverage for meeting participants in the exhibit hall to help raise the visibility of vendors.
6. NTI staff members who plan educational content may not be involved in fundraising, so their decisions are not influenced by the possibility of gaining industry financial support.