

# Live Ear Surgery Series :: Disclosure Summary

## Friday, March 21, 2025

*The following planners and presenters, in the past 24 months, have/had no financial relationship with an ineligible company:*

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**Purpose:** The information provided addresses several requirements of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to help **ensure independence** in CME activities. Everyone in a position to control the content of a CME activity must disclose **ALL** financial relationships with an ineligible company to the CME provider. This information must be disclosed to participants prior to the beginning of the activity. Also, CME providers must mitigate current conflicts of interest prior to the educational activity.

**Definitions: “Financial relationships”** are those whose relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (e.g., stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit.

The ACCME defines **ineligible companies** as those whose primary business is producing marketing, selling, reselling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Among the exemptions to this definition are government organizations non healthcare-related companies and nonprofit organizations that do not advocate for ineligible companies. Circumstances create a **“conflict of interest”** when an individual has an opportunity to affect the CME content about products or services of an ineligible company with which they have a financial relationship.

ACCME focuses on financial relationships with ineligible companies in the 24-month period preceding the time that the individual is being asked to assume a role controlling content of the CME activity. ACCME has not set a minimal dollar amount for relationships to be significant. Inherent in any amount is the incentive to maintain or increase the value of the relationship.

**For CME Mitigation Purposes** the ACCME defines **“relevant financial relationships”** as financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 24 months that create a conflict of interest.

**CME Activity Planning Committee Members:** if a conflict of interest exists, the Planning Committee member must withdraw from the planning committee unless the conflict can be mitigated. Mitigation may be made by one of the following methods: (1) Peer review of CME content will be conducted at another oversight level to assure balance; (2) Change in focus of course so the activity does not include information related to products or services about which the Planning Committee has a conflict; (3) Severing relationship(s) between the member and any related ineligible company; (4) Others to be determined by the SSF CME committee.

**CME Activity Planners:** When a conflict of interest exists, the planning committee must address the conflict by one of the following methods: (1) Review content to be presented by speaker in advance to ensure content balance; (2) Change topic so the presentation is not related to products or services where a conflict exists; (3) Select a different presenter without any related relationship with an ineligible company; (4) Include presentations by other faculty to provide an overall balance to the content of the course; (5) Limit or specify the sources for recommendations that the presenter can use.

Each speaker is required to give a balanced, evidenced-based presentation based on published research. No conclusions or recommendations without external validation may be made by a speaker with a conflict of interest.