

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

## GOAL – PROTECT YOUR SOCIETY

You are subject to this policy if you hold any position within The Aesthetic Society, ASERF, ASJ, or ASN (collectively “the Society”), whether elected, appointed or hired. Conflicts of interest are relationships, often financial, you hold with industry, which would cause a reasonable observer to question your impartiality. Collectively, they are “your conflicts;” individually, “your Company.”

## STEP 1 – REVEAL YOUR CONFLICTS

Each June 1<sup>st</sup>, fill out the Society’s online conflict of interest form. Update this list online, as necessary, when you accept any invitations for meetings or conference calls (collectively “Society meetings.”) Orally update this list at the beginning of every Society meeting. You may accept cost reimbursements and compensation, defined as transfers of value above and beyond reimbursement for costs actually incurred, for participating in your Company’s speakers bureau, advisory panel and non-CME training and educational events, unless you are a Society President, President Elect, or Editor, in which case you may accept cost reimbursements, but not accept compensation from your Company, unless you are the Founder.

## STEP 2 – RECUSE YOURSELF

For medical journals, the Committee on Publication Ethics states that once you reveal your conflicts, you may speak about your Company. For Continuing Medical Education (CME) presentations, the ACCME policy requires disclosure of your conflicts which may be subject to a conflict resolution process. *For Society meetings, however, when your Company is the topic, you may not speak.* This means you may not chair the discussion, “give your thoughts,” vote, or at the request of the other meeting participants, remain on the call or in the room if your presence would influence deliberations.

## STEP 3 – DISTANCE YOURSELF

You may not promote your Company to the Society except in Society approved advertising, and never in meetings. Outside of the Society, you may speak for your Company, but you may not mention your Society titles. Your Company may use your name in their marketing, but neither your Company nor any member of industry may use your Society titles without the Society’s permission. The President and President-Elect of the Society may not serve as expert witnesses during their terms of office.

## OUR PROCESS

Society staff shall review all disclosures and provide a summary for The Aesthetic Society Parliamentarian and ASERF President as well as abbreviated lists for the chair of each meeting. Conflicts shall be continuously monitored at The Aesthetic Society Board meetings by the Parliamentarian; at ASERF Board meetings by the ASERF President; and at all committee meetings by the chair.

The Conflict of Interest Committee shall be jointly appointed by The Aesthetic Society and ASERF Presidents on an as needed basis. If a non-anonymous written report claims you failed to completely disclose, or failed to recuse, the Conflict of Interest Committee will investigate, speak with you, and fashion any remedy it deems appropriate. The COI Committee may recommend that you be removed from any appointed or hired Society positions and may also bring the matter before the Nominating and Ethics Committees, as the Committee deems appropriate.

Remedies fashioned by the Committee shall be immediately implemented. If you are dissatisfied with the decision of the Committee, you may appeal to a jointly convened meeting of The Aesthetic Society and ASERF Executive Committees, which 2/3rds majority opinion of the voting members present shall be final. The standard of review shall be whether the Committee exercised reasonable judgment in evaluating your conflict and fashioning its remedy.

Approved by The Aesthetic Society Board of Directors – January 4, 2022

Approved by the ASERF Board of Directors – February 2, 2022