The SPP's Continuing Medical Education Statement

CME Mission

The purpose of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) program is to support the vision of the Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP), which is to provide the highest quality of care to children by promoting diagnosis, research, education, training and advocacy in pediatric pathology.

The CME program provides educational activities to reinforce and update participants’ knowledge, skills and attitudes, and to foster translation of participant’s newly acquired knowledge into practice in all areas of pediatric pathology and pathologic mechanisms of diseases affecting the fetus, newborn, child, and adolescent. Ongoing evaluation of the educational needs of pediatric pathologists provides a basis for the educational content, through which the program advocates, facilitates, and enhances the continuing learning process of our target audience of pathologists, fellows, and residents who evaluate pediatric specimens.

To accomplish this, the CME program of the Society for Pediatric Pathology includes lectures, symposia, workshops, platform presentations, discussions at a virtual slide session and other forums of professional interests at annual national meetings; periodic symposia co-sponsored with other pathology societies; and a periodic course in perinatal pathology. In these CME activities, our participants engage in presentations, critical evaluation, and discussion of methodological advancements in pediatric pathology and in fields interfacing with pediatric pathology. A three-part annual case-based slide survey provides a self-test opportunity through the evaluation of virtual slides. It simulates the diagnostic work-up occurring in practice through questions pertaining to the differential diagnosis, selection of ancillary studies, prognostic considerations, and clinical correlates.

The Society for Pediatric Pathology, in conjunction with the International Paediatric Pathology Society, also publishes a peer-reviewed journal, *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*, to disseminate information on current research and significant advances in the understanding of pediatric and perinatal diagnosis and practice.

The effectiveness in meeting registrants’ needs is assessed by comparative monitoring of annual attendance at meetings, participants’ evaluations as to improvement of their knowledge and skills relevant to their pathology practice, and participants’ performance on self-assessment tests. The expected results are the improved quality of practice and diagnostic skills of pediatric pathologists and therefore, the improved quality and safety of care provided to children.

Policy Statement

The Society for Pediatric Pathology is committed to a zero-tolerance policy for real or perceived commercial bias in any of our educational or scientific programs or their planning. We strive to avoid even the appearance of commercial influence, conflict of interest, or advertisement. Our policies are based on, and our CME programs are developed and implemented according to, the guidelines of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

All of our faculty, planners, and organizers in positions of influence of CME content (including prospective speakers, authors, reviewers, course directors, moderators, other CME planners and organizers,) must disclose any commercial interest with which they or their spouse/partner have, or have had, a relevant financial relationship within the past 12 months. They must disclose nature of that relationship in any amount, and their role in that relationship. When we request a disclosure, we
provide definitions of commercial interest, relevant financial relationships, and conflict of interest, as defined by the ACCME. We counsel all those who disclosed. If a relevant financial relationship is identified and a conflict of interest cannot be resolved, we exclude the prospective faculty, planner, or organizer in the position of influence from the development or implementation of the CME activity. Commercial influence, be it real, potential or perceived, in the planning or development of CME activities, is prohibited by policies of the SPP, with the goal of complete avoidance of influence on the selection of education programs, their content and implementation of the CME activity. Our guidance to faculty and organizers includes examples on how to avoid real or perceived industry influence, promotion or advertisement in CME activities – presentations, test questions, answers, references, handouts, case reviews, abstracts and other educational material, in print, on-line or at live sessions. Disclosures are published in education materials prior to the registrants’ participation in the activity.

The SPP does not accept commercial support for any CME activity. Financial support from commercial sponsors for non-CME activities are arranged by a professional CME Management Company, contracted by the SPP, with complete independence from SPP planners or organizers.

It is the CME Management Company’s contractual obligation to assure that commercial exhibitors and sponsors establish and follow relevant policies and practices in full compliance with requirements of the ACCME. It is also the CME Management Company’s contractual obligation to guide the SPP’s Executive Committee, Education Committee and CME Planning Subcommittee on regulatory changes by the ACCME, including changes in their guidance and requirements related to planning and implementation of CME activities, and reporting on CME activities to the ACCME and to the American Board of Pathology (ABP), along with other updates relevant to the SPP as a CME provider, and a Self Assessment Module (SAM) Credit provider toward the Maintenance of Certification (MOC), respectively.

Additionally, participants have an opportunity to report any perceived commercial bias at the time of their CME activity evaluation. Any reported infractions or perception of bias are to be investigated by the SPP Executive Committee, Board, and Education Committee, in a manner to assure complete transparency and impartiality, and are to be acted on, to address the reported incident and to avoid similar future incidents.