



DOHaD

International Society for Developmental
Origins of Health and Disease

SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES

This Guidance includes the International DOHaD Society's Policies concerning:

- Commercial Sponsorship
- Receiving Sponsorship from Industries Marketing Food/Nutrition and Infant Formula Products
- Conditions of Acceptance of Industry Sponsorship
- Frequently asked questions regarding exhibiting at DOHaD Conferences

Finalised 25 March 2018

International DOHaD Society • Charity Registration No.: 1190519

office@dohadsoc.org

International DOHaD Society Policy on Commercial Sponsorship

Terms of Reference

Develop a Position Statement for the International DOHaD Society on Industry Sponsorship of its activities.

Advantages of industry sponsorship:

- Industry sponsorship facilitates and enables the International DOHaD Society to maintain and expand its objectives including the promotion and expansion of research in different geographic regions worldwide for the exploration of early development in relation to health and chronic disease in later life.
- Industry sponsorship provides financial support for the DOHAD Congress, and activities that support the Society's objectives including the provision of funds for trainees engaged in work that meet these objectives.
- It is important for DOHAD members to have a strong and understanding relationship with industries that develop products that impact on health and wellbeing, to both inform and to be informed, of industry developments. Interactions through trade exhibits facilitate this two-way conversation.

Potential disadvantages of industry sponsorship include:

- Threat to scientific independence.
- Threat to organisational independence.
- Apparent endorsement by association of industry products.
- Apparent endorsement by association of industry marketing practices, both nationally and internationally.
- There is a particular concern around sponsorship from the food and nutrition industry particularly infant formula companies. Thus, the Society has clear guidelines on relationships with food/nutrition industries.

Industry codes of conduct and professional organisation guidelines:

The DOHAD Society notes the following industry codes of conduct and other national/international guidelines:

- The World Health Organisation International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk substitutes and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions¹
- The Marketing in Australia of Infant Formulas: Manufacturers and Importers Agreement²
- The Medicines Australia Code of Conduct³
- The WHO Code clearly recognises that industry plays a role in education, research, and professional development when it advises that relationships between manufacturers/distributors and healthcare professionals need to be disclosed by industry and the recipient of such benefits to the healthcare organisation. (Article 7, Section 7.5)

All members of the International DOHaD Society must remain transparent, declaring conflict of interest and declarations of interest with any industry that is or perceived to be in conflict with the DOHAD Society Conditions of Sponsorship (including industries in the food/nutrition arena)

- It is not appropriate for any member of the International DOHaD Society to receive any direct personal benefit from a sponsorship arrangement, including owning shares in the company; business class travel; per diems; gifts and honoraria.

DOHAD Society Congress Chairs, as well as organisers of any workshop symposia or event that is sponsored by or endorsed through the DOHAD Society, must agree with and declare that sponsorship has been carefully considered with reference to the WHO International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes' and other codes that refer to sponsorship and relationships with other health related and food/nutrition related industries.

Conference/workshop/symposia organisers must:

- know about the Code
- have given due thought and consideration to the issues that arise from conference sponsorship
- have publicly committed to adhering to the Code and
- indirectly, understand that the Code does not prohibit such relationships (in fact it acknowledges them)

DOHaD Society has a separate statement, which clarifies the Society's position on the food/nutrition industry and position on breastfeeding (see Page 3 of this document).

Guidelines

1. The DOHaD Society Council will retain transparency in communicating that any industry support provided, is essential to support activities.
2. The DOHaD Society retains ultimate autonomy with respect to its organisation, membership and scientific meetings.
3. An independent organising committee will have control over all aspects of scientific meetings, including content, speakers, sponsorship of conference, attendees etc. This committee should handle any funds from industries supporting the event.
4. Acceptance of sponsorship from industry does not imply the Society's endorsement of their products. This needs to be stated explicitly in the relevant DOHaD document e.g. the programme proceedings for the annual scientific congress.
5. The DOHaD Society will endeavour to engage with a wide range of organisations and/or industries in sponsoring its activities and objectives, including multiple sponsors from the same industry sector, to avoid a strong reliance on any one sponsor.
6. Congress, workshop and symposia organisers should seek/accept support only from those healthcare product and food and nutrition suppliers recognised as producing safe and high-quality products.
7. The DOHaD Society reserves the right to decline sponsorship.
8. Sponsors / other organisations may not use the DOHaD Society name or logo without the express permission of the DOHaD Executive Council.
9. Organising committee members and speaker affiliations/interests must be declared transparently (and in a timely fashion) and if there are conflicts of interest, these individuals should likely not be involved in either the organisational process. A mere declaration of a conflict of interest does not resolve the conflict, nor does a declaration of interest always equate to conflict of interest.
10. An up-to-date listing of sponsors will be posted on the DOHaD Society website.

Expectations and responsibilities of both parties

1. The DOHaD Society has the right to use acquired sponsor funds, which are not tied to a specific agreement, in a manner it determines appropriate to meet the objectives of the Society.
2. Sponsors may not seek direct commercial gain from their sponsorship of DOHaD Society sponsored events nor directly influence the Society's activities.
3. It is not appropriate for any member of DOHaD to receive any direct personal benefit from a sponsorship arrangement.
4. The DOHaD Society will consider private and confidential any information provided by a Sponsor about its functioning or activities, unless otherwise stated.
5. The DOHaD Society will only accept sponsorship from industry sponsors that sign a document acknowledging the conditions of their sponsorship and which attest to their agreement to abide by a relevant industry code of conduct (see *Conditions of Acceptance of Industry Sponsorship* form).

References

1. *WHO International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes*,
2. *Marketing in Australia of Infant Formulas: Manufacturers and Importers Agreement - The MAIF Agreement* and
3. the Australian Breastfeeding Association website <https://www.breastfeeding.asn.au/who-code> discussing the WHO Code
4. *The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative: A guide for health workers to working within the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes* – UNICEF
5. NHMRC *EAT FOR HEALTH Infant Feeding Guidelines Information for health workers*



International DOHaD Society Policy on Receiving Sponsorship from Industries Marketing Food/ Nutrition and Infant Formula Products

The DOHaD Council and Society Membership acknowledge that there is potential conflict of interest as the Society advocates healthy lifestyle including healthy food and nutrition and breastfeeding as the preferred option for adult, child and infant feeding whenever possible (e.g. the Society has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML)). This potential conflict of interest, which also applies to research collaborations, was recently highlighted in an opinion paper¹ and has the potential to create ambiguity and adversely affect perception of the goals and values of the Society. The Society, however, also recognises that the use of nutritional supplementation/formula products is necessary in some situations and that interaction with the DOHaD community may serve to improve food/nutrition and formula products and contribute to improved child and infant health.

To manage this potential conflict, the DOHaD Society Council has committed to maintain transparency regarding the nature of the engagement with food/nutrition and infant formula industries and to adhere to the following guidelines and principles:

1. The DOHaD Society advocates that, whenever possible, a baby should exclusively receive breast milk until introduction of solids at around four to six months of age.
2. The DOHaD Society advocates that breast milk is the preferred milk for infants for at least the first 12 months after birth.
3. The DOHaD Society recognises and respects that breast feeding is not always feasible, and that some mothers choose not to breast feed.
4. The DOHaD Society acknowledges that there are some clinical situations in which formula alternatives or nutritional supplements are necessary for early nutrition of newborns.
5. The DOHaD Society recognises that engagement by expert Members of the Society with industries producing breast milk substitutes and engaging in food/nutrition development and sale, may be of mutual benefit for improving the quality of these products.
6. The DOHaD Society advocates that while not prohibiting Members from engaging with industry, it strongly advocates full disclosure and declaration of interest in both published scientific and publicly distributed articles, as well as presentations made at World Congresses or symposia (i.e. any presentation made will have a first slide containing a declaration of interest).
7. The DOHaD Society rejects any practice that seeks to promote formula feeding as preferable to breast feeding, or any practice that advocates intake of poor nutritional or food additives or products as described by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
8. The DOHaD Society will not permit the display of formula products or any products from any food/nutrition industry at its World Congresses, workshops and any other Society sponsored or endorsed events.
9. The DOHaD Society will not permit distribution of formula products or any products from any food/nutrition industry to any of the attendees of a DOHaD World Congress, workshop and any other Society sponsored or endorsed event.
10. Conference organisers should seek/accept support only from those healthcare product and food and nutrition suppliers recognised as producing safe and high-quality products and the Society reserves the right to decline sponsorship.

References

1. Public-Private Collaboration in Clinical Research During Pregnancy, Lactation, and Childhood: Joint Position Statement of the Early Nutrition Academy and the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition. JPGN Volume 58, Number 4, April 2014.

Conditions of Acceptance of Industry Sponsorship

DOHaD is grateful for the generous support from many organisations in recent years, and wishes to maintain its good relationship with companies in order to promote healthy nutrition and lifestyles.

Our acceptance of sponsorship from any source is guided by the following principles, which we require potential sponsors to endorse:

1. DOHaD will only accept sponsorship from companies that agree to abide by the DOHaD Policy on Commercial Sponsorship, and which also abide by the relevant industry code of conduct in relation to involvement with DOHaD.
2. Products cannot be displayed on exhibition stands nor samples of products provided.
3. Sponsors may not use the DOHaD name or logo except with the express permission of the DOHaD Executive.
4. Acceptance of sponsorship from industry does not imply DOHaD endorsement of their products.
5. Whilst products cannot be displayed, information sheets and any advertising materials displaying the company logo (e.g. pens, notepads, lanyards etc) are acceptable, but images of bottles/teats or foods/beverages that are not in alignment with DOHaD's commitment to promoting healthy nutrition and lifestyles will not be permitted.
6. No member of the DOHaD Society shall receive any direct personal benefit from a sponsorship arrangement.
7. All cases of conflict will be reviewed by the Society Secretariat in consultation with the Society Sponsorship and Industry subcommittee.
8. Failure to comply with the Society's Conditions of Sponsorship will be brought before the Society's Council and may result in the termination of the Society's relationship with the parties involved.

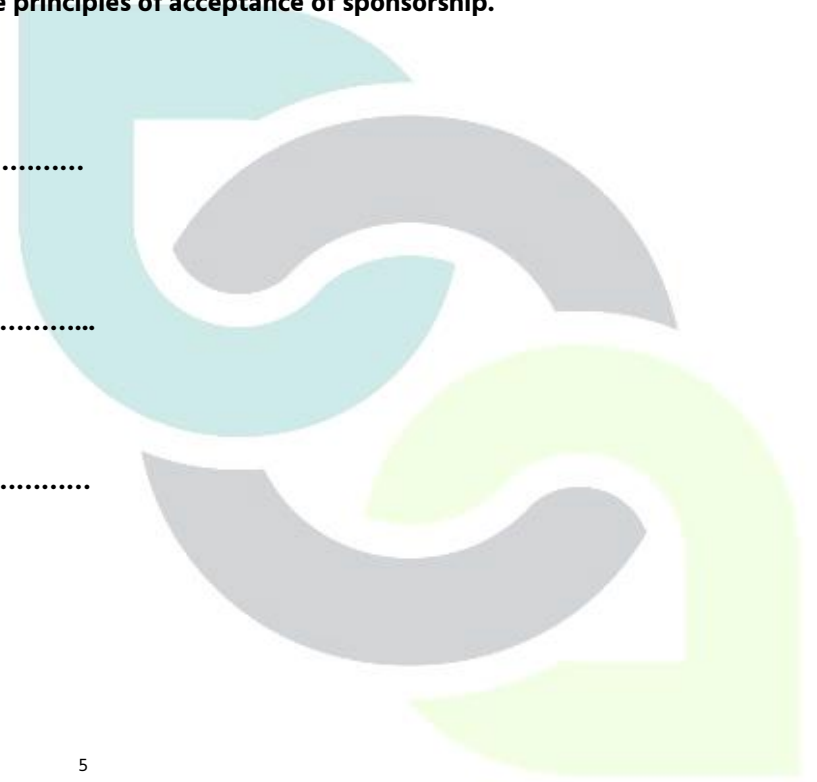
I confirm that our company abides by all of the above principles of acceptance of sponsorship.

Signed:

Position:

Company:

Date: /..... /.....



Frequently asked questions regarding exhibiting at DOHaD Conferences

Question: Can companies who market Infant Formulas be allowed to sponsor at DOHaD events?

Answer: DOHaD will only accept sponsorship from companies producing and/or marketing infant formula that agree to abide by the DOHaD Policy on Commercial Sponsorship, and which also abide with the relevant industry code of conduct (in particular the World Health Organisation International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. Geneva; 1981) in relation to their involvement with DOHaD.

Question: Can Industry sponsors who abide by their codes display their products at DOHaD events?

Answer: No product, e.g. nutritional supplements, infant formula, fortified foods can be displayed on exhibition stands, nor samples provided. Whilst products cannot be displayed, information sheets about the products and advertising materials displaying the company logo (e.g. pens, notepads, lanyards etc) are acceptable.

Question: Can companies display bottles, teats and pacifiers at DOHaD events?

Answer: These must not be displayed.

