

Officers 2008-2009

September 5, 2008

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education
515 N. State Street, Suite 1801
Chicago, IL 60654

President

Melinda Steele, M.Ed.
Texas Tech University
Health Sciences Center

Dear Dr. Kopelow,

Past-President

Jocelyn Lockyer, Ph.D.
University of Calgary
Faculty of Medicine

The Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education (SACME) is pleased to have an opportunity to respond to recent ACCME Calls for Comment on proposed policies. In preparation of the comments, the SACME leadership surveyed our members on the points for each of the proposals. As with any member organization, there was not a unanimous viewpoint, but rather varied opinions based on each organization's situation and circumstances as accredited providers. Based on the survey results, we attempted to glean the most salient points to include in the SACME responses.

President-Elect

Lois Colburn
University of Nebraska
Medical Center

As part of this commentary, we are concerned that two such important issues, interactions with commercial supporters and elimination of commercial support, were not presented as separate issues but embedded in a larger document that contained policy and procedural changes for ACCME accredited providers. Presentation in this manner obscures the importance and urgency of these issues. We are much more satisfied with the third Call for Comment (Additional Features of Independence in Accredited Continuing Medical Education) which was released separately.

Vice President

Todd Dorman, M.D.
Johns Hopkins School of
Medicine

Attached you will find the responses from SACME to each of the Calls for Comments:

- Limiting Interactions between Accredited Providers and Commercial Interests over Commercial Support with Industry
- Elimination of Commercial Support of Continuing Medical Education Activities
- Additional Features of Independence in Accredited Continuing Medical Education

Treasurer

Deborah Sutherland, Ph.D.
University of South Florida
Continuing Professional
Development

SACME would welcome the opportunity to work with the ACCME as policies are developed, refined and implemented. We would also welcome any opportunities to further modify and refine the accreditation system and processes to the benefit of both the ACCME and accredited providers and in keeping with the goal of improving patient care. Please feel free to contact me should further information be desired.

Secretary

Susan Tyler, M.Ed., C.M.P.
University of Cincinnati College
of Medicine

Sincerely,

Melinda Steele MEd

Melinda Steele, M.Ed., CCMEP
President, Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education

