

To: School of Medicine Faculty, Staff & Residents
From: Dr. James Brick, Interim Dean
Subject: Conflict of Interest (see attached policy & appendices)
Date: 01.16.09

Over this past year, the WVU School of Medicine (SoM) underwent a rigorous process to develop our Conflict of Interest Policy. At the beginning of 2008, a small working group was formed to develop the first draft of a conflict of interest policy for the SoM. This group included the following faculty members:

- **Barbara Ducatman, MD, Chair, Pathology – Working Group Leader**
- James Arbogast, MD, Chair, Family Medicine
- Kevin Halbritter, MD, Interim Chair, Medicine
- Dan Flynn, PhD, Deputy Director, Cancer Center
- David Hubbard, MD, Orthopedics
- Gary Marano, MD, Radiology
- David Myerberg, MD, JD, Jackson Kelly
- Paul van der Sloot, MD, Otolaryngology
- Mike Wuchner, Finance

This group was charged to review other School's best practices and to develop an appropriate policy for our SoM. In February 2008, the working group released draft one of our conflict of interest policy. This policy was reviewed/discussed by SoM leadership at two Council of Chairs meeting and was posted on our intranet site for all faculty to comment.

The feedback received by SoM leadership and faculty was used to revise the draft policy. In addition, administration within the SoM investigated the feasibility of implementing several of the recommendations that were in the first draft of the conflict of interest policy. However, due to leadership changes in the spring of 2008, the implementation of the conflict of interest policy was placed on hold pending further review.

In June of 2008, the American Association of Medical Colleges published their recommendations with regard to conflict of interest policies. This document was thoroughly reviewed and the original draft policy was modified to meet AAMC recommendations where feasible.

A town meeting was held in October to review the AAMC recommendations and to address the concerns of SoM faculty. Taking into account the feedback received from the faculty a second draft of our conflict of interest policy was developed. This policy was reviewed by the following individuals:

- Fred Butcher, PhD, Interim Vice President, Health Sciences
- Jim Brick, MD, Interim Dean

- David Brisell, JD, Chief Legal Council, University Health Associates
- Norman Ferrari, MD, Senior Associate Dean
- Beverly Kerr, JD, Chief Legal Council, WVU School of Medicine
- Gary Marano, MD, President, University Health Associates
- Woody Moss, MD, Center for Health Law and Ethics

Each of these individuals made recommendations that were incorporated into the final version of our conflict of interest policy. Although this process took about a year to complete, I believe it has resulted in the development of a policy that addresses conflict of interest issues that may arise at the SoM and is reasonable for the SoM to implement. This policy will go into effect on April 1, 2009.

Over the past year, many organizations have developed recommendations/policies with regard to conflict of interest in medicine - such as the American Association of Medical Colleges. It is clear that all of these policies, including ours, are in evolution. Therefore, please know that any future changes in our policy will only be the result of keeping the best interest of our patients' first.