AAOS
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

6300 North River Road
Rosemont, Illinois 60018

T. 847.823.7186
F. 847.823.8125

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(Ex-Officio)
Karen L. Hackett, FACHE, CAE
Rosemont, Illinois

January 25, 2010

VIA E-MAIL Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov

Senator Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510-400

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), I am writing in response to your correspondence of December 7, 2009, regarding industry funding for Continuing Medical Education, as well as AAOS policies for accepting industry funding and disclosure requirements for top executives and board members.

In accordance with further direction provided by your staff, Brian Downey, this AAOS response does not include those materials previously provided to you and Senator Kohl by correspondence dated July 28, 2009. Mr. Downey advised that AAOS only needed to provide an accounting of funding received from insurance companies.

After performing an exhaustive search of our financial records, it has been determined that AAOS received only a $50,000 grant from Wellpoint, Inc. to specifically assist with the development with a patient data registry. See Attachment 1. None of these funds have been used in connection with continuing medical education programming. No other insurance funding has been received by AAOS through July 28, 2009.[1]

Established in concept by the AAOS in March 2009, the American Joint Replacement Registry's mission is to:

> Foster a national center for data collection and research on total hip and knee replacement with far-reaching benefits to society including reduced morbidity and mortality, improved patient safety, improved quality of care and medical decision-making, reduced medical spending, and advances in orthopaedic science and bioengineering.

[1] Since July 28, 2009, AAOS has received a $15,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield also for development of a joint replacement registry

Bone and Joint DECADE 2002 - USA - 2011

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www.ajrr.net. Additional information on the American Joint Replacement Registry is enclosed at Attachment 2.

In July, 2009, the AAOS Board of Directors empanelled a Conflict of Interest Project Team to evaluate the AAOS policies on conflict of interest and disclosure of those conflicts. The Project Team made a series of recommendations for greater transparency, including, but not limited to:

1. Acknowledgement of commercial supporters of AAOS within the public pages of the AAOS website;
2. Post on the AAOS website the revised AAOS Conflict of Interest Policies and the new AAOS Guidelines for Active Management of Conflict of Interest for AAOS Board of Directors and Leadership Positions; and
3. Provide public access to the AAOS Orthopaedic Surgeons Mandatory Disclosure Database, into which all volunteers, leaders and executives must disclose conflicts.

These Project Team recommendations were approved by the Board of Directors at its December 2009 meeting and are in various stages of implementation by AAOS staff. Nonetheless, many of the changes are expected to be operational by the March 2010 AAOS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Finally, the AAOS Board of Directors' composition has changed slightly since we wrote to you in last July. Dr. David Polly is no longer a member of the Board and Dr. Jeffrey Anglen has joined the Board. Dr. Anglen's curriculum vitae and disclosure form are enclosed as Attachment 3.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate contact me at (847) 384-4042 or hackett@aaos.org.

Very Truly Yours,

Karen L. Hackett

Karen L. Hackett, FACHE, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures