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Consensus Statement on Relationship between UK Medical Schools and the Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Industries

Principles

1. The pharmaceutical industry is a key partner in the delivery of healthcare in the UK and globally. Medical Schools should develop educational programmes for undergraduates, postgraduate students and trainees that describe the processes and disciplines of drug discovery, clinical testing, safety, therapeutics, pharmacovigilance, regulation and the commercial aspects of the pharmaceutical industry.
2. Collaborations between industry and academia are a necessary and welcome part of the continuum of drug development. Universities should seek genuinely integrated scientific partnerships with industry and all levels of their research portfolio from basic science to clinical trials.
3. Links between the pharmaceutical industry and medical schools should be transparent and explicit. Students should be aware of the potential for the challenges to professionalism and clinical judgement that may be presented by certain interactions with the pharmaceutical industry. Students should be exposed to balanced information that describes both potential benefits of the relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and the healthcare sector, as well as the potential risks that inevitably derive from the commercial imperative of the industry.
4. Students should be aware that doctors' relationships with the pharmaceutical industry take many forms, some of which might be perceived to influence the way doctors prescribe medicines. They should be aware of the **General Medical Council's Supplementary Guidance on Conflicts of Interest** that followed *Good Medical Practice*: http://www.gmc-uk.org/static/documents/content/Conflicts_of_interest.pdf. They should also be aware of the guidance in the **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's Blue Guide** and consider the advice of the **Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority**, which is responsible for administering the **Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry's Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry**, which covers inducements, hospitality and other issues.

