

Corporate Partnership Policy

1. Purpose

Industry and corporate organizations active in the musculoskeletal field have a key role in advancing musculoskeletal research and musculoskeletal health,

The International Federation of Musculoskeletal Research Societies (IFMRS) is interested in working collaboratively with organizations active in this field, in a spirit of openness and dialogue.

Consistency and transparency are key to this. The present policy outlines what this means in practice for the IFMRS, for the institutions we collaborate with, for the relationships between the IFMRS and corporate partners or supporters.

2. Scope

The policy is intended to embrace collaborative programmatic efforts and to address issues that include the handling of donations, external support, corporate partnerships, collaborations with external organizations, marketing, advertising, sponsorship, project funding and in-kind support, including particularly such arrangements in which resources are provided directly to the IFMRS.

The IFMRS CEO and the IFMRS Board are responsible for correctly observing and applying this policy.

3. IFMRS Values

All relations will be conducted in line with the IFMRS Values:

- Scientific excellence and rigor
- Diversity, equity and inclusivity
- Global collaboration
- Transparency

4. Core principles in working with industry partners

4.1 Transparency. The IFMRS strives to have clear processes for its work including decision-making processes, utilizing its website and other appropriate communication tools.

4.2 Strategic and editorial independence. The IFMRS plans to produce a strategic plan of activities for the year(s) ahead with clearly defined objectives. Corporate partners may wish to support this strategic plan in whole or in part, but do not determine the IFMRS's strategic priorities. Corporate partners do not determine what the IFMRS decides, says or publishes.

All sponsorship and collaborative efforts between the IFMRS and corporate partners must advance the IFMRS's mission. The IFMRS will not accept restricted or designated funds for activities that are inconsistent with the vision and mission of the IFMRS and its strategic and other plans.

4.3 Plurality. The IFMRS will strive to have multiple companies supporting its activities to avoid the appearance of undue influence by association with a single corporate organization.

4.4 Principles of collaborative working. Any external relationship should be based on integrity, openness, transparency, independence, accountability, mutual respect and benefit for all concerned. Each party should be clear about its roles and responsibilities and the limits. These, together with all material terms of the arrangement, should be consistent with the current corporate partnership policy and must be set out in a written agreement between the parties. All agreements will be conducted in line with any relevant industry codes of conduct.

4.5 Ethical guidelines. The IFMRS will not ally itself in any way with any organization whose activities are likely to be seen as damaging to the health of people or to the IFMRS reputation.

Further, the IFMRS will not accept money from a source or activity that is:

- Illegal,
- Unverifiable as to its source,
- Where the relationship will be counter-productive to the IFMRS.

4.6 Individual Responsibility. All members of the IFMRS's Board of Trustees and staff are obliged to disclose any conflicts of interest in order to avoid potential ethical conflict.

A conflict of interest is defined by our full policy (reprinted below) but can be summarized as involvement in activities that are contrary or may be perceived to be contrary to:

- the goals of the organization,
- the reputation of the organization,
- the independence of the organization.

4.8 Product Endorsement. The IFMRS does not endorse companies, individual products or services. The IFMRS will provide appropriate recognition of company sponsorship but such recognition should not be interpreted as endorsement of particular policies or products.

4.9 Use of the IFMRS name or logo. The IFMRS holds final approval of all uses of its name, logo and other identifying symbols. These symbols can be used by commercial entities only if their use furthers the IFMRS's mission and only with the written consent of the IFMRS.