General Introduction to the AAPM Code of Ethics

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No conflicts of interest to disclose
Session objectives

1. To become familiar with ethics in the AAPM, specifically regarding conflicts of interest
2. To identify key issues in a case study as it applies to the AAPM Code of Ethics
3. To facilitate discussion regarding key issues in the presented case study
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We will review the five W’s pertaining to ethics in the AAPM
The Code of Ethics:

- Is maintained by the Ethics Committee through Task Group 109
- Applies to all members of the AAPM and corporate affiliates
- Is not the sole source of information regarding ethical practice in the AAPM
  - The code is Professional Policy (PP) 24-E
  - There are other Administrative (AP) and Professional Policies that apply to specific groups or circumstances
- **AP-102B** discusses conflict of interest (COI) policy in the context of publication editorship
- It applies to editors of AAPM journals

- **PP 15-D** discusses conflict of interest in the context of conducting AAPM-related affairs
- It goes into more specifics in terms of disclosure requirements (e.g. employment, compensation, leadership positions, investment interests)
- It applies to:
  - the Executive Committee
  - the Board of Directors
  - members and chairs of councils, committees, subcommittees, work groups, task groups, and/or units
  - And by extension:
    - Spouses, domestic partners, parents, or children of said AAPM members
Of note, there is also a pertinent Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Conflict-of-Interest Review and Management of Policies and Procedures.
Sections of the code:

- Preamble
- Principles
  - Represent core values of conduct in the profession
  - Provide a framework for ethical decision making
- Guidelines
  - How the Principles apply in specific professional settings
- Complaint Procedure
  - Describes the procedure for complaint submission and handling
When a member:

- Is seeking advisement on an ethical issue
  - Or whether or not something is an ethical issue
- Wants to manage a situation before it results in unethical behavior
- Feels that submitting a complaint is warranted

Not all member interactions with the Ethics Committee need to involve a complaint.

The Code of Ethics is a resource. The Ethics Committee is a resource.
‘When’ in a literal sense,

- Professional policies have sunset dates
- Earliest instance of PP 24 is in 2008
- The most recent substantial revisions were by Task Group 109 in 2018
- Complaint process thereafter
## WHERE

### AAPM

- Staff Contacts
- Mission & Strategic Plan
- Policies & Procedures
  - Association Governance
  - Committees
  - Committee Classifieds
  - Individual Appointments
  - History & Heritage
  - Chapters
  - Speaker Index
- Public & Media
- International
- Medical Physicist
- Membership
- Students
- Meetings
- Education

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<th>POLICY NUMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>PP 1-J</td>
<td>Definition of A Qualified Medical Physicain</td>
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<td>Process for Selection of AAPM Nominees for the ABR Physics Trustee</td>
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<td>Guidelines for Solicitation of Funds in the Name of the AAPM</td>
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<td>Medical Physics and JACMP Policies and Procedures for Reviewing and Adjudicating Individual Cases of Alleged Violation of Standards for Scientific Integrity and Conduct</td>
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<td>AAPM Position Statement on the Role of Medical Physicists in Providing Quality Medical Care</td>
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<td>Code of Ethics for the American Association of Physicists in Medicine</td>
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Because, it:

- Encapsulates what we value as an organization
- Is important to the establishment and maintenance of good patient care
- Sets expectations for those wishing to interact with or join AAPM membership
- Can serve as a compass or guide for those seeking to navigate and/or classify certain scenarios or behaviors in the profession
- Demonstrates the AAPM’s recognition of ethics as being important to the practice of medical physics
Thank you for your time!