

# 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

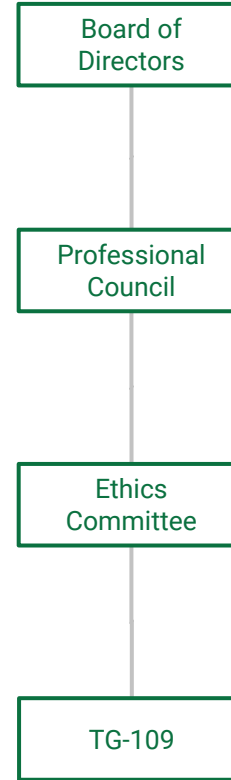
Who  
What  
When  
Where  
Why

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# WHO

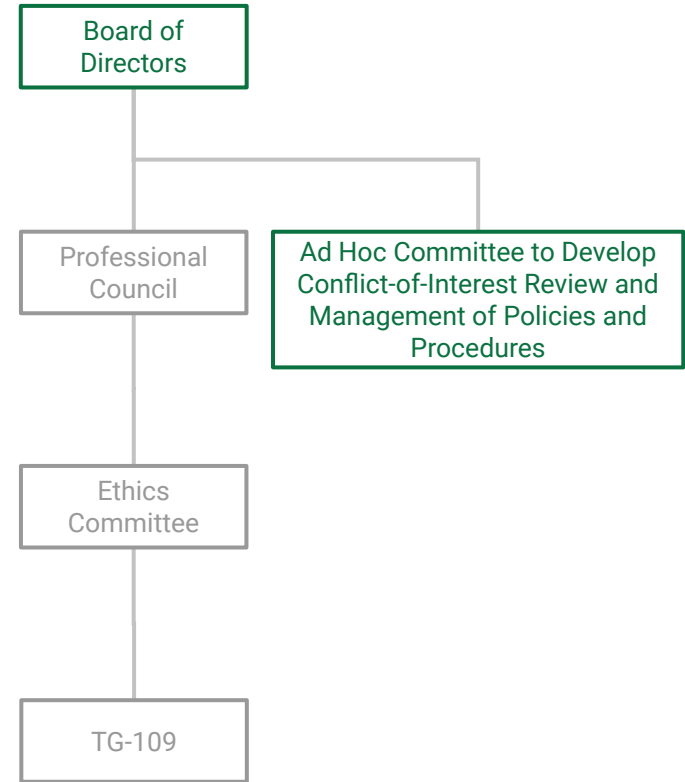
## The Code of Ethics:

- 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





# WHAT

## 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

## 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



## **‘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.org

## 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

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY NAME	APPROVAL DATE	SUNSET DATE
PP 1-J	Definition of A Qualified Medical Physicist	8/2/2018	12/31/2023
PP 2-D	Licensure and The Medical Physicist's Role in the Practice of Medicine - A Guide for Administrators and Regulators	7/31/2008	12/31/2021
PP 3-D	Medical Physicist Expert Witness	7/14/2014	12/31/2024
PP 7-E	Process for Selection of AAPM Nominees for the ABR Physics Trustee	10/17/2016	12/31/2021
PP 11-D	Guidelines for Solicitation of Funds in the Name of the AAPM	7/18/2019	12/31/2024
PP 12-D	Policy on CT Whole Body Screening	12/4/2019	12/31/2024
PP 13-B	Dose Management in Diagnostic Radiology	11/29/2017	12/31/2022
PP 15-D	Conflict of Interest	11/19/2020	12/31/2025
PP 16-C	Medical Physics and JACMP Policies and Procedures for Reviewing and Adjudicating Individual Cases of Alleged Violations of Standards for Scientific Integrity and Conduct	11/25/2018	12/31/2023
PP 17-C	Scope of Practice for Clinical Medical Physics	8/2/2018	12/31/2023
PP 18-B	Statement on the description of involvement of Medical Physicists in clinical procedures	12/3/2013	12/31/2024
PP 20-C	Civilian or Government Physicist Employees' Professional Activity	12/3/2013	12/31/2024
PP 22-D	AAPM Position Statement on the Role of Medical Physicists in Providing Quality Medical Care	11/28/2018	12/31/2023
PP 23-B	Endorsement of Products, Manufacturers, or Suppliers	12/4/2019	12/31/2024
PP 24-E	Code of Ethics for the American Association of Physicists in Medicine	11/19/2020	12/31/2025

WHO

WHAT

WHEN

WHERE

WHY

# WHY

## 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!