



Code of Conduct

Members of the SNS Executive Committee (EC) are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. To ensure a strong and successful organisation, our activities require honesty, equity and transparency.

By accepting appointment to these senior leadership positions, members of the EC agree to follow this Code of Conduct with its guidance below, and to work within the spirit of the guidance in any instance where specific examples are not outlined.

Personal Behavior:

- Act ethically, with honesty and integrity, in the best interests of the society and patient care at all times
- Not make improper use of their position as EC to gain personal advantage or advantage for their institution
- Take responsibility to contribute actively to all aspects of the EC role
- Make decisions fairly, impartially and promptly, taking reasonable regard of available information, legislation, policies and procedures; and observing democratic principles when reasonably possible
- Make reasonable efforts to remain properly informed
- Consider the financial, strategic and other implications of decisions within the EC
- Act in a financially responsible manner
- Plan to attend and contribute actively to a majority of EC and other meetings
- Act to encourage involvement and to develop skills and experience of younger members within the society; and to promote due balance of representation within the committees and activities of the society
- EC members do not receive revenue or incentives for their tasks within the EC besides the ones specified in the regulations on expenses of the SNS
- Although SNS encourages industry symposia at its conferences, it does not favour any company nor should it appear to promote any product
- Thus EC members should not chair or speak at industry symposia held at the respective SNS conferences except in cases where, by agreement of colleagues without conflicts, the topic is one for which the member has unique qualification (e.g. exceptional clinical expertise or as principal investigator of a research study that is under discussion within the symposium). In that case, promotional materials for the symposium should not draw attention to the society members' leadership role.

Communication and Official Information:

- Promote transparency of decision-making and activities of SNS within the reasonable limits imposed by contract negotiations etc.
- Avoid disclosure of confidential information or documents acquired through membership of the EC, other than as required by law or where agreed by decision of the EC
- Healthy debate is a strength of SNS democratic approach, but members agree to accept the principle of collective responsibility for policies and decisions formally determined by EC meetings
- Written and oral communication on behalf of SNS should be aligned with relevant messages or policies developed within the respective EC meeting
- Respect the confidentiality of personal information held by SNS and the right to privacy of its members; and recognise the intellectual property/contributions of members who contribute to SNS activities



Conflicts of Interest:

It is recognised that committee members benefit socially, academically and professionally from their involvement with SNS but also that they devote considerable time and effort to the field in the service of SNS. A balance that will be recognised as reasonable and fair by independent observers should be maintained.

- Not allow personal, academic, institutional or financial interests, nor the interests of any associated person, to conflict with the interests of SNS
- Where conflicts of interest may arise, declare these openly and agree measures with colleagues to ensure that they are appropriately managed, in the interest of patients and of SNS
- Decline gifts or favours that might cast doubt on their ability to apply independent judgment as a member of the EC
- Encourage cooperation across SNS-associated groups and institutions while promoting respect for their unique contributions

SNS Executive Committee Members will have to sign a conflict of interest declaration.

April 2019