

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON ETHICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS
AND
THE COUNCIL ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

CEJA-CME Report 1-I-08

Subject: CEJA Report 1-A-08, “Industry Support for Professional Education in
Medicine” – Update

Presented by: Regina M. Benjamin, MD, Chair
Claudette Dalton, MD, Chair

1 At the 2008 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates testimony to the Reference
2 Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws praised the efforts of the Council on
3 Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA) to address questions of fundamental importance to the
4 profession in its Report 1, “Industry Support for Professional Education in Medicine.” However,
5 testimony was significantly in favor of referral, urging CEJA to more fully address potentially
6 different implications for different stakeholders in medical education and to seek further input from
7 stakeholders.
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9 In view of these concerns, the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs and the Council on Medical
10 Education (CME) discussed the issues raised by CEJA Report 1 (A-08) and concluded that those
11 issues can best be addressed by the two Councils working together. CEJA and CME appreciate the
12 unique roles and responsibilities of each Council. To take maximum advantage of their differing
13 areas of expertise and focus, the Councils will develop complementary, companion reports that
14 provide ethical analysis and recommended guidelines (CEJA) and empirical analysis of existing
15 strong practices and strategic recommendations for implementing ethical guidelines (CME). It is
16 CEJA and CME’s intention to present these reports to the House at its 2009 Annual Meeting.
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18 To help inform their work, CEJA and CME will jointly solicit focused commentary on key issues
19 relating to commercial support for medical education. Invitations to comment will be extended to
20 interested stakeholders, including consumer/patient advocates as well as professional organizations,
21 through an open call for response posted on the AMA Web site. The comment period will open
22 immediately following the 2008 Interim Meeting.
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24 To ensure effective collaboration, the Councils’ respective work processes and products will be
25 coordinated by a small joint work group composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of CEJA, the Chair
26 and Chair-Elect of CME, and at least one additional member of each Council. The work group
27 members will serve as representatives of and liaisons to their respective Councils.