Healthcare Vendor Relations Policy

School of Veterinary Medicine Guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is a healthcare vendor?

A Healthcare Vendor is defined as a company or its representative or the agent of a company that either produces or markets drugs, devices, nutritional products, or other medical products or services. Essentially, any vendor that provides a product or service that benefits a third party (i.e., current or future patient) falls into the category of healthcare vendor. Additionally, there is a list on the SCAVMA website that names various companies and identifies healthcare vendor status.

Why are students in the School of Veterinary Medicine affected by the Healthcare Vendor Relations (HVR) policy?

The relationships between all University of California health sciences faculty, staff and students and healthcare vendors are regulated by the UC HVR policy [http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/PP031208Policy.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/PP031208Policy.pdf)

Can healthcare vendors directly provide food or gifts to students or student organizations?

No.

How can they provide support for student activities?

Healthcare vendors can work with the Development Office to provide support for student activities. These gifts should be directed towards the “Student Activities Unrestricted Donors Account” or the “Educational Activities Unrestricted Donors Account.” The gifts are subject to the campus standard 6% gift assessment fee. Contact the SCAVMA President to discuss further details.

Can healthcare vendors make product presentations to students?

Eight healthcare vendor talks are allowed per quarter. The SCAVMA Healthcare Vendor Committee schedules the presentations, and the Office of Student Programs approves them. If the content of the talk concerns company products, then it must be approved to be one of the eight vendor talks per quarter. For example, if a veterinarian from Purina would like to come to the school to discuss types of nutrition offered by Purina, that talk must be approved to be one of the eight. Contact the SCAVMA President for the SCAVMA Healthcare Vendor Committee.

To obtain approval to hold a product presentation, the vendor or student representative must complete a Healthcare Vendor Speaker Application at the beginning of the quarter and turn it in to the SCAVMA Healthcare Vendor Committee. For a list of current SCAVMA officers, refer to the SCAVMA website: [http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Clubs/SCAVMA/default.html](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Clubs/SCAVMA/default.html) In addition, the speaker must sign the Conflict of Interest Form, which asks the speaker to agree that the company will not provide lunch or gifts greater than $5 to the students.

How are meals, supplies and other expenses paid for if they can't be directly funded by a healthcare vendor?

Each SCAVMA-approved event or purchase must have a student “host” to reimburse or make advance purchase arrangements through the Office of Student Programs. The host must use personal resources to purchase food an
event. (As an alternative, the host may use the student club organization’s funds to make purchases. Then he/she can pay back the treasury upon being reimbursed from SCAVMA and the Unrestricted Donors Account. For details on UDA reimbursement, please review the SCAVMA Funding application on the SCAVMA website. Arrangements for all other types of pre-approved expenditures must be made with the Office of Student Programs prior to purchase.

Can healthcare vendors donate small promotional give-away items for distribution at an event?

Yes, as long as the items are less than $5 in value and are provided to all participants in a central location other than the room where the talk is being given.

How can contributions from vendors to the unrestricted donors accounts be recognized?

A poster acknowledging the donations of all healthcare vendors may be displayed at events. Additionally, an individual healthcare vendor’s banner can be displayed alongside the donors’ poster during that vendor’s approved presentation. Please contact the SCAVMA President for access to the SCAVMA Healthcare Vendor Committee to obtain the banner.

Are paid student representatives for healthcare vendors still allowed?

Yes, it is permissible for healthcare vendors to employ student representatives. They must adhere to the HCV Policy.

Does the policy pertain in any way to non-healthcare vendors?

No, vendors that do not fall under the definition of healthcare vendor may continue to directly provide food and gifts to students and student organizations.
1. **DO ALL CLUBS NEED TO BE REGISTERED AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?**
   a. Yes! They need to be registered with SCAVMA and main campus CSI! The SCAVMA Vice President is in charge of student clubs, and there is a required club meeting at the beginning of each school year.

2. **WHERE CAN I FIND A COPY OF THE HCV POLICY?**

3. **CAN MY CLUB DIRECTLY SOLICIT HEALTHCARE VENDORS FOR FUNDING?**
   a. No. Clubs and students are no longer able to solicit HCVs for funding. This is violation of the new policy, and the Development Office (part of the Dean’s Office) has taken over this task. The Development Office plans to allow for companies to donate a large annual sum to the UDA account. This will allow SCAVMA to start each school year with a large pool of funding to distribute to the student body. The UDA application process details are located at: ___________________________________

4. **I AM A COMPANY REP...HOW DO I KNOW IF MY COMPANY IS A HEALTHCARE VENDOR?**
   a. There is a list on the SCAVMA website: [http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/scavma/funding.html](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/scavma/funding.html). Check it out! If your company is not on the list, please read the following definition: *A Healthcare Vendor is defined as a company or its representative or the agent of a company that either produces or markets drugs, devices, nutritional products, or other medical products or services. Examples of a healthcare vendor are pharmaceutical companies, medical supply companies, pet food companies.* If you are still unsure, email your SCAVMA President.

5. **WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF SCAVMA OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFO?**

6. **CAN A COMPANY GIVE MONEY DIRECTLY TO A CLUB?**
   a. If the company is NOT a healthcare vendor, then yes, they can give money directly to a club. If the company is a healthcare vendor, then NO, the company cannot give the money to an individual club. The money must be donated to SCAVMA’s Unrestricted Donor Account. The money will be used for the general student body, and the money cannot be funneled towards any specific events or individual.

7. **ARE THERE TOPIC RESTRICTIONS FOR HCV LUNCH OR DINNER TALKS?**
   a. There are no direct topic restrictions, however, each HCV speaker must sign a “Conflict of Interest Form” that will indicate their intended presentation title. Academic programs must approve of this COI.

8. **WHY DO WE HAVE THE UNRESTRICTED DONOR ACCOUNT?**
   a. The UDA account was created to allow for companies to still donate to the veterinary student body while complying with the HCV policy. This was a solution created by the veterinary school administration and SCAVMA in the fall of 2010 when the HCV policy was installed.

9. **WHO CAN ACCESS MONEY FROM THE UNRESTRICTED DONOR ACCOUNT? HOW DOES THE UDA ACCOUNT WORK?**
   a. Everyone should have fair access to the UDA account, as it is “unrestricted”. Students can apply for reimbursement for specific events and talks. Unfortunately, the UDA money
cannot be used to reimburse SYMPOSIA events because those count as fundraisers. That also means that UDA money cannot reimburse any class fundraisers (calendars, Doxie Derby, Turkey Roast etc).

10. IF I AM TRYING TO GET A REIMBURSEMENT FOR A SYMPOSIUM OR CLASS FUNDRAISER, HOW DO I GET REIMBURSED?!
   a. Apply for SCAVMA Funding.....

11. IF MY COMPANY DONATES TO THE UDA, CAN I HAVE DIRECT ACCESS OF MONEY FROM THE UDA ACCOUNT?
   a. No, the money that enters the UDA account no longer has any labeling or ear-tagging. The money cannot be “saved” for any specific event or individual. This is a new policy starting in fall of 2011. To simply state it: just because a company donates to the UDA account, you (individual or club) are not guaranteed to receive that money.

12. HOW DO I APPLY FOR GENERAL REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE UDA ACCOUNT?
   a. Go to the SCAVMA website (http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/scavma/funding.html) and print out/electronically fill out the following documents. Follow the directions on the website!

13. IF A CLUB INVITES A VENDOR TO AN EVENT IN ORDER TO SHOWCASE A PRODUCT AND THIS CLUB DOES NOT TAKE FUNDING FROM THIS COMPANY, IS THIS A VIOLATION OF HCV POLICY?
   a. No, this is not a violation of the Healthcare Vendor Policy.

14. CAN A HEALTHCARE VENDOR/COMPANY PROVIDE FOOD FOR AN EVENT?
   a. No. The speaker associated with the HCV company cannot purchase the food. The food must be purchased by a student on their own credit. The company cannot give any funding to that student to help the student purchase any food or gifts.

15. HOW CAN VENDORS PARTICIPATE AT EVENTS IF THEY CAN’T DONATE MONEY DIRECTLY TO A CLUB?
   a. Vendors can purchase booth space from clubs at a specific event. The money gained from booth sales does not have to go into the UDA account. This is considered a purchase of a service. The club is able to pull that money into their private banking account.

16. WHEN A STUDENT COMPANY REP PURCHASES FOOD FOR A HEALTHCARE VENDOR TALK, DO THEY HAVE TO PURCHASE FOOD FOR THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY? AND WHERE CAN THE FOOD BE PLACED (IN THE ROOM, IN VALLEY FOYER)?
   a. As long as the talk has been publicized throughout the entire student body via email (in other words, everyone has the opportunity to RSVP and attend), the student company rep should only need to purchase food for those students who have RSVP’d. The food can then be fairly kept within the lecture hall that hosts the event.

17. IF A CLUB DOES HOST A HEALTHCARE VENDOR, IS IT STILL A VENDOR TALK?
   a. Yes, if there is a healthcare vendor present, no matter who hosts it, the talk is still considered a HCV talk. So get your paperwork organized!

18. I AM A STUDENT COMPANY REP AND MY COMPANY STILL WANTS TO GIVE SAMPLES AND DISCOUNTED PRODUCTS TO THE VMTH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
   a. First, get yourself the Healthcare Vendor Policy from the SCAVMA website: http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/scavma/funding.html. Read it! Give it to your company for them to review. And then contact the VMTH. SCAVMA is not involved in the communication between companies and VMTH administration.

19. SAY YOU ORGANIZE A VET TO COME IN AND THEY GIVE A LECTURE OR DO A WET LAB AND WE PAY FOR THE LUNCH, THAT’S OKAY AS LONG AS THE LUNCH IS TOTALLY SEPARATE
FROM THE LEARNING ACTIVITY AND THE PRESENTER SIGNS THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT, RIGHT?

a. If the vet is associated with a healthcare vendor, the company would not be able to pay for the lunch. This would be a violation of the HCV policy. Signing the COI does not mean the company can purchase the food or gifts for an event. In other words, if there's a hint of HCV influence, get your paperwork organized!

20. WHAT DO YOU PERCEIVE IS THE LINE HERE; SAY OUR VET, MICAH, COMES TO TALK AND THERE'S NO OXBOX ANYTHING IN HIS PRESENTATION, IT'S PURELY ABOUT GI STASIS OR WHATEVER, THEN IT'S NOT REALLY A VENDOR TALK, RIGHT, I MEAN, AS LONG AS HE SIGNS THAT CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT?

a. If the vet is invited by a club to give a simple topic talk, then that is fine. All presenters must sign a COI, no matter what.

21. What are the consequences if, for example, a club does receive a product at a discounted rate from a health care vendor?

a. This a direct violation of the HCV policy. The club violating the HCV policy will lose eligibility for funding for the following quarters...

22. What are the consequences for:

a. Not filling out a speaker app?

b. Holding an illegal HCV event?

23. Clubs and/or individuals

24. HOW ARE HCV SPEAKERS CHOSEN (8 LIMIT)?

a. First come first serve. All apps must be in by the beginning of each quarter. The SCAVMA President sets the final deadline for these applications.

25. A club has an off-campus event and doesn't notify you that they are going to have multiple healthcare vendor speakers. They do not fill out the proper forms, and this puts the total speakers for that quarter over 8. What happens to the club? To SCAVMA? To the student body as a whole? To the administration? To the school and hospital?

a. 

26. WHAT SYSTEM IS CURRENTLY USED TO REIMBURSE CLUBS USING THE UNRESTRICTED DONOR ACCOUNT, AND HOW IS THIS SYSTEM NOT IN LINE WITH THE HCVP?

a. The UDA is not within the HCV policy because the administration did not create the account. SCAVMA is in charge of the UDA account, thus it is not a university wide policy.

27. WHERE DID THE HEALTHCARE VENDOR POLICY COME FROM?

a. The HCV policy came from an overall University California policy. The policy was meant to target medical schools, and the veterinary school was included in its umbrella. These guidelines are designed to clarify the implementation procedures for ensuring School of Veterinary Medicine compliance with the University of California Healthcare Vendor Relations Policy, http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/PP031208Policy.pdf

28. For wet labs off campus I know we need to have a vet on site. Do they need to be faculty or are residents ok?

a. Per Dr. Illkiw- any off campus wet lab by a club needs a FACULTY member present. However, if a group of students decided to go do something off campus and it is NOT CLUB SANCTIONED they do not need an advisor.