Response from GlaxoSmithKline

We have posted a great deal of information on our US website regarding payments to healthcare professionals and I would urge you to also check that site at: http://us.gsk.com/html/responsibility/work-with-healthcare-professionals.html

We believe these interactions work to the goal of improved patient care but recognize that others may hold different views. That's why we are committed to being open and transparent about the relationships and we voluntarily have been posting payments from GSK to healthcare professionals since 2009. I must say that we do not receive many visitors to our site where the information is posted nor do we receive many questions about the postings. We recommend that patients with questions about their specific physician have an open and honest dialogue with that healthcare professional.

Speakers – GlaxoSmithKline contracts with some healthcare professionals because they provide valuable knowledge, insight and experience about our medicines and the diseases and conditions they are approved to treat. These programs led by healthcare professionals deliver important information, which can translate to improved patient care. Information regarding such US professionals and their payments are posted publicly.

Advisors – GSK also engages healthcare professionals to share their expertise with our company. Because these advisors possess unique insight and knowledge in their various fields, they can help us to better evaluate scientific issues or data and respond to the emerging needs of patients and other healthcare professionals. Information regarding such US advisors and their payments are posted publicly.

Research Investigators – GSK engages institutions and their affiliated healthcare professionals to conduct various types of research related to the development of new medicines, vaccines, and health related products. GSK is committed to disclose payments made to US healthcare institutions for such research with the first posting in Q1 2011.

GSK has instituted a code on promotional practices that specifies the allowable circumstances under which we can work with healthcare professionals, the types of information that can be provided, where meetings can be conducted, and the rates at which we compensate them for their time and service. GSK reviews all information to be presented at speaker events to ensure that it is consistent with the approved US label for the product(s) discussed.

GSK has an active speaker monitoring process to ensure speaker compliance with GSK’s speaker policy. GSK may terminate speakers for non-compliance with GSK policy. In the event that we become aware of any situation – such as inappropriate behavior or not abiding by the rules governing industry-sponsored speaking events – we can take action.

Broadly speaking, speakers should have knowledge and experience with GSK products but a healthcare professional’s prescribing practice neither qualifies nor disqualifies him or her as a speaker for GSK.

Mary Anne Rhyne
Director, US Media Relations
GlaxoSmithKline
mary.a.rhyne@gsk.com