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Date: Thu, 13 Nov 2003 10:28:35 -0600
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"James Daniels" <James_Daniels@ama-assn.org>,
"Tina Koral" <Tina_Koral@ama-assn.org>
Subject: Re: ACCME, conflict of interest and the Society for
Neuroscience Annual Meeting 2003

Dear Dr. Koudinov,

We will investigate your complaint and we appreciate your interest in bring concerns that relate to the integrity of the AMA PRA credit system to our attention.

Sincerely,
Charles E. Willis, Director
AMA PRA Standards and Policy Liaison Activities
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>>> <alexeikoudinov@neurobiologyoflipids.org> 11/9/2003 7:01:15 PM >>>
Marty Saggese,
Executive Director
Society for Neuroscience

cc: Past and incoming SFN Presidents, Huda Akil, SC Landis, Carol Barnes, AMA,
ACCME

Dear Mr. Saggese,

As I informed you few days ago several abstracts of the Neuroscience 2003 Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SFN), November 8-12, 2003, New Orleans, LA, do not list the competing financial interest by Dennis Selkoe.

Unfortunately, this situation breaks the highest standard quality [continuing medical education \(CME\)](#) previlige granted by the American Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to the providers of CME. It also fails to meet [AMA "Ethical! Considerations for Providers of CME"](#) that state: "Both physician and non-physician CME faculty should ensure the scientific accuracy of their presentations, and avoid influence by either industry or financial contributors. They must communicate any potential conflict of interest to providers and physician participants."

Sadly, there are many other abstracts related to my own field of Alzheimer's disease, neurodegeneration, learning and memory (co-authored by Carl Cotman, Eric Kandel, and Paul Greengard) that similarly miss competing financial interest declaration.

This creates a possibility that AMA requirement for "CME providers to present physicians with commercially unbiased and objective information" is not met.

I therefore inform ACCME and AMA (by cc: of this e.mail) about the following facts:

1. Sixteen abstracts by Dennis Selkoe (Program numbers: [202.9](#) , [295.3](#) , [295.9](#) , [336.1](#) , [336.5](#) , [558.1](#) , [558.2](#) , [667.2](#) , [667.7](#) , [729.16](#) , [772.6](#) , [772.11](#) , [841.9](#) , [904.10](#) , [904.13](#) ; of total twenty abstracts co-authored by ! him) have missed competing interest declaration by D.Selkoe.

Dennis Selkoe is a founder of Athena and a director of Elan. Dr. Selkoe competing interest (including recent presump shares sale) is described in details in Science's SAGE KE letter ([13 August 2003](#)) and in Open letter to Donald Kennedy, Science Editor-in-Chief ([SAGE KE, 16 June 2003](#)), that I provided you with several months ago.

2. My teaching abstract "[Research on Alzheimer disease and amyloid beta protein: a science for sale story](#)" submitted for Neuroscience 2003 (abstract ID 8063) was withdrawn by annual meeting program committee. Upon my request to reverse the withdrawal [SFN executive committee](#) "has decided to uphold the decision of the Program Committee Chairperson, Robert Malenka".

Thus, the Society did not allow me to deliver my educational presentation. This presentation while discussing scientific issues (as highlighted in the [withdrawn abstract](#)) would widely disclose the competing financial interest by D. Selkoe.

3. Last year I informed the Society for Neuroscience that "none of eleven abstracts of D.Selkoe for the annual meeting 2002 has 'conflict of interest statement' as it is required by The Society". The Society response yielded retroactive listing the competing interest in one of D.Selkoe abstracts and no penalty for other abstracts, despite of the Society rules-2002 withdrawal promise for "abstracts that do not adhere to ... the abstract submission rules."

4. All fourteen abstracts by Carl W. Cotman (Program numbers: 76.14 , 114.14 , 415.18 , 525.4 , [525.24](#) , 629.23 , 629.25 , 633.12 , 707.13 , 784.29 , 836.13 , 843.4 , 874.10 , [944.12](#)) have missed competing financial interest declaration by Dr.Cotman.

Dr. Cotman serves as co-founder, scientific director and consultant of the Cortex Pharmaceuticals (see [Forbes magazine](#); also see [Open letter to Donald Kennedy](#), Science Editor-in-Chief), a company "making significant strides in developing revolutionary drug therapies to potentially combat and eliminate" neurological and psychiatric disorders, and CNS traumatic injuries (see [R&D page of Cortex Pharmaceuticals](#)).

Please note that Carl W. Cotman presentations [525.4](#) and [633.12](#) (to be presented on Monday, Nov. 10, and Tuesday, Nov. 11, respectively) are covered by the Neuroscience 2003 news report "[Exercise has a more powerful impact on the brain than previously thought; may lead to improved treatments for disorders such as spinal cord injury](#)" of Nov. 8, 2003. Another Nov. 8, 2003 news report "[Diet may improve cognition, slow aging, and help protect against cosmic radiation; also may explain why women may be more prone to weight gain](#)" covers Dr. Cotman presentation [836.13](#) to be presented on Wednesday, Nov. 12. These two official SFN news items, however, do not mention apparent relevance of the Neuroscience 2003 reports by Carl Cotman to his Cortex Pharmaceuticals R&D efforts.

5. All fourteen abstracts by Erik Kandel (Program numbers 92.13 , 92.19 , 92.23 , 171.11 , 291.22 , 478.8 , 583.10 , 583.14 , 624.9 , 690.3 , 758.20 , 809.12 , 860.17 , 872.1 ; The only other abstract by Kandel et al., No. 230.6, is withdrawn) do not disclose apparent competing financial interest by Dr. Kandel.

[Dr. Kandel](#) serves as chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board and principal scientific founder of Memory Pharmaceuticals (see [Memory Pharmaceuticals Advisory Board page](#))

4. All thirteen abstracts by Paul Greengard ([52.8](#) , [160.11](#) , 160.12 , 246.2 , 363.10 , 395.9 , 423.16 , 457.8 , 667.8 , 804.9 , 870.7 , 936.13 , 936.15) miss competing interest declaration by Dr. Greengard.

Such possible conflict is because of Dr.Greengard appointment (as of Nov. 12, 2001) to the Scientific Advisory Board of Neurome, Inc. See [Neurome press release of Nov. 12, 2003](#). Neurome, Inc. and contact! Dr. [Floyd E. Bloom](#), [Neurome CEO](#) and a founder and a director of [Alkermes, Inc.](#)

I appreciate your understanding that I aim free information dissemination and an unbiased development of Alzheimer's neuroscience and the neurobiology of learning and memory. I observe the Society for Neuroscience [Guidelines](#) for Responsible Conduct Regarding Scientific Communication. I do not have any competing financial interest. I do not know personally listed above scientists, and have no personal conflicts with them.

Sincerely,
Alexei Koudinov, MD, PhD

Footnote: clicking on underlined/highlighted abstract numebtrs above should navigate you to the online abstracts mostly on the subject of! Alzheimer's disease research.