

# Medical School Conflicts of Interest

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# Background

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- Medical students face exposure to medical device or pharmaceutical companies
- Medical schools have responsibility to protect students
- Broader implications of medical company infiltration into academics
- To counter this American Medical Student Association rank schools

# Case Studies

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- Case Study 1- Harvard Med receives F
  - Money that flows into teaching from companies
  - Former dean was on board of pharma company
  - Creating a 19 member committee to assess conflict of interest policies
  - Professors must disclose all industry ties in class
  - Currently no limit on free gifts to faculty

# Case Studies

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- Case Study 2: Medtronic  
Consultant/Professor testifies to senate
  - Former military doctor and current Medtronic consultant and medical professor at University of Minnesota Dr. David Polly Jr. testified to senate about need for more funds
  - Dr. Polly claimed himself member of professional association
  - Was paid by Medtronic to testify

# Summary of Ethical Questions

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- To what degree is it ethical for the medical industry to interact with academics?
- Should professors with conflicts of interests be allowed to teach medical students?
- How do industry ties affect the professional opinions and credibility of professors at an academic institution?

# References

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- <http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jun/17/ucsds-medical-school-earns-b-ethics-report-17-jun-/>
- [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/03/business/03medschool.html?\\_r=2&em=&adxnnl=1&pagewanted=2&adxnnlx=1256742192-gxxKDiabXgvOs86xDSWVnw](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/03/business/03medschool.html?_r=2&em=&adxnnl=1&pagewanted=2&adxnnlx=1256742192-gxxKDiabXgvOs86xDSWVnw)
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