

**Statement on Journal Publishing Ethics: A Joint Response from the
Medical Library Association and the
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries to
Recent Disclosures about Unethical Practices**

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In view of recent news reports regarding the publication of an industry-sponsored journal primarily for marketing purposes by the affiliate of a major medical publisher without disclosure of commercial support or publication purpose, the Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) jointly endorse the need for transparency with regard to publication source and funding. MLA and AAHSL want to emphasize the importance of journal publishers' adherence to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICJME) policy that all participants in the peer-review and publication process must disclose all relationships that could be viewed as potential conflicts of interest. <[http://www.icmje.org/index.html - authorship](http://www.icmje.org/index.html-authorship)> Notably, the National Library of Medicine has a relevant policy regarding supplements that requires full disclosure of outside sponsorship in order for publications to be indexed in MEDLINE.

<<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/supplements.html>>

We expect publishers to remain vigilant about revealing sponsorship relationships to uphold and support integrity and honesty in research and the scientific dissemination process.

MLA is a nonprofit, educational organization, comprised of health sciences information professionals and institutions with more than 4,000 members worldwide. Through its programs and services, MLA provides lifelong educational opportunities, supports a knowledgebase of health information research, and works with a global network of partners to promote the importance of quality information for improved health to the health care community and the public.

AAHSL is composed of the directors of 116 libraries of accredited U.S. and Canadian medical schools, as well as 28 associate members. AAHSL's goals are to promote excellence in academic health sciences libraries and to ensure that the next generation of health practitioners is trained in information seeking skills that enhance the quality of healthcare delivery.