F7 Industry Funding Policy

The British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) seeks to work in collaboration with any organisation who shares its overall aim to represent the needs of thoracic oncology patients and improve their outcomes. This includes industry and government as well as other professional societies/charities. The BTOG key consideration in any collaboration is ensuring that its independence is not in any way compromised and it is free to act in the best interests of the Charity.

BTOG recognises the significance of allied industry in the thoracic oncology field. Through collaboration with allied industry companies including pharmaceutical, medical and legal, BTOG can gain access to expertise and resources to promote BTOG and support its charitable objectives.

The financial support provided by BTOG’s sponsors allows BTOG to make its services either freely available or at accessible rates to thoracic oncology healthcare professionals.

BTOG members do not pay an annual membership fee and public fundraising is not a realistic source of funding for BTOG whose immediate stakeholders are healthcare professionals and not directly members of the public. BTOG is consequently reliant on industry sponsorship for a significant proportion of its income. BTOG must maintain a level of independence from any single external commercial organisation and therefore sponsorship opportunities are always circulated to multiple potential sponsors. Written confirmations are in place including the amount of sponsorship agreed and cancellation terms. The sources of funding are declared and made transparent on the BTOG website and on all relevant materials.

BTOG recognises its credibility and independence as its greatest assets both in terms of its ability to influence and to secure support. It recognises the potential conflicts that its reliance upon allied industry brings. BTOG has rigorous governance processes in place to ensure it operates independently and is not unduly influenced by any third-party body. This includes policies on conflict of interest and endorsement. The Board of Trustees operates at arm’s length from BTOG sponsors and has no direct contact with them in that capacity. The BTOG Board of Trustees is responsible for safeguarding the values and purpose of BTOG and ensuring that activities contribute to achieving the objects of the charity and that BTOG follows its legal obligations.