



Kidney Research UK's Policy on working with the Pharmaceutical Industry and Corporate Trusts.

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1. Introduction

The purpose of Kidney Research UK's Policy on Working with the Pharmaceutical Industry and Corporate Trusts is to set out how Kidney Research UK ("the Charity") works with corporate supporters to achieve its vision of 'a world free from kidney disease'¹. It does not set out an exact policy for every funding opportunity but defines policy and established rules about such funding and what companies may and may not expect from Kidney Research UK in return.

A key part of the strategic growth of Kidney Research UK is dependent on grants received from an increasing number of local and national corporates, pharmaceutical industries and trusts and other funding bodies including the government. Kidney Research UK has developed a number of partnership opportunities over recent years which allow us to work together with 'like-minded' organisations, in order to meet clear patient needs now, and in the future, and to develop improved patient treatment programmes.

The Pharmaceutical Industry increasingly wishes to see good practice in its links and partnerships with Voluntary Health Organisations, and in particular the ABPI (Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry) advocates the implementation of such guidelines and policies.

2. Position Statement

Kidney Research UK is increasingly interested in corporate supported grants and partnerships on a significant portion of the Charity's research funding, whilst maintaining its independence and unbiased stance. Kidney Research UK takes note that at the same time it is apparent that such parties, namely Pharmaceutical Companies and Corporate Trusts etc., are increasingly seeking returns on what they see as an investment in charities and therefore wish to receive public acknowledgement accordingly.

¹ Based on the Long Term Medical Conditions Alliance Guidelines for VHO's developing a policy for working with the pharmaceutical industry.

3. Policy Statements

- 3.1 Kidney Research UK disseminates information about its fundraising and thereafter its work in research and other programmes supported by this funding via its website, and other media, as required. All corporate and trust funds received by Kidney Research UK will be treated with the same transparency and integrity. However, Kidney Research UK will guard against being perceived as a form of endorsement of any kind.
- 3.2 Kidney Research UK is very careful when working with commercial partners and organisations to ensure that full independence is maintained by all involved and that the outcomes from the jointly supported work is also independent and unbiased, thus advice or information offered to the general public, health professionals or published in journals is not influenced in any way. Kidney Research UK will not embark upon, and also reserves the right to terminate, any corporate supported grants or partnerships that may damage its reputation.
- 3.3 Kidney Research UK does not look to develop a partnership or relationship solely with one particular company as its interests are broad, encompassing all areas of renal medicine and thus many corporates may see a potential competitive advantage in working with the Charity. However, Kidney Research UK acknowledges the opportunity of the funding partners to gain public credit for their involvement and the partnerships that support specific projects maximises these opportunities, but it discourages the 'bandwagon' effect where the public association of one company with Kidney Research UK may encourage others to initiate or increase their support.
- 3.4 Kidney Research UK understands that all successful partnerships are where all parties concerned gain something and each should therefore make efforts to understand the internal culture and external pressures on the other(s).

4. Limitations and Boundaries

All potential partnerships and new initiatives will be vetted and agreed by the Kidney Research UK's Council of Trustees and under the latter's delegation be subject to discussion and review by the Charity's Scientific and Clinical Research Committee and any number of the Charity's Medical Advisors.

The proposed funding contribution and the work it supports should not contravene Kidney Research UK's standard policy for funding research etc. nor unwittingly contravene the policies of the Association of Medical Research Charities.

5. Limitations and Boundaries – Specific Agreements

Kidney Research UK accepts funding from commercial companies and corporate trusts on the following conditions:

- 5.1 All parties concerned have signed a detailed written memorandum of agreement
- 5.2 Agreed main contact people for all parties
- 5.3 Clear budgeting arrangements have been finalised
- 5.4 An agreed method of monitoring and enforcement has been established
- 5.5 Timescales of reports to funders and associated PR plans and management thereof agreed, including regulating use of Kidney Research UK's logo
- 5.6 Clear lines of communication agreed and established at an early stage with respective responsibilities and assignments to ensure a successful venture and outcome
- 5.7 All potential research proposals which may be supported by the partnership(s) should be obtained via an open competitive arena and undergo Kidney Research UK's normal stringent external peer review process

6. Product Endorsement

Acknowledgement of a Pharmaceutical Company or Corporate Trust's support is not endorsement of the company or its products.

Kidney Research UK does not endorse any one treatment or product because we believe people living with kidney disease need the widest

possible range and choice of treatments options to assist in alleviating the condition and symptoms of the illness.

Kidney Research UK believes in the informed choice, encouraging active partnership between both patients and respective healthcare professionals.

7. Logos

Kidney Research UK's partners should not use the Charity's logo except in direct relation to the joint funding initiatives/partnerships as specifically agreed and in these cases should be explicit and not imply a wrong or incorrect meaning.

The logos of all joint funders/partners should always be used in normal corporate colours and appearance.

8. Editorial Independence

Publications produced from the work by the investigators will acknowledge all supporters and will be independent and unbiased.

Kidney Research UK reserves the right, following agreement at outset with all parties, to produce specific literature (e.g. a positioning paper) following the outcomes of the work and will liaise with any investigators publications appearing at the same time.

9. Termination.

Kidney Research UK reserves the right to terminate any partnership where the agreements have been transgressed or develops into something that contravenes the Charity's general policies.