

D. INDUSTRY-PROVIDED MEALS, TRAVEL, AND LODGING

Meals, travel, and lodging provided by industry – when not provided under an approved consulting relationship (see next point, E. Consulting Activities and External Professional Relationships) – are subject to the State of Illinois Ethics Act/Gift Ban. See Attachment C – Gift Ban Reviews and Approvals.

1. Food

Industry representatives may not directly provide meals or other types of food for any educational or professional activity of the SIU School of Medicine. Faculty, staff, students, and other trainees are generally prohibited from accepting meals at any location as this would be considered a gift under the State of Illinois Ethics Act and guidelines. However, de minimus (i.e., small, minor) meals or refreshments served at business meetings or receptions attended (e.g., meals provided at conferences) as part of an employee's official duties are allowed and do not require conflict of interest reporting. Meals and other refreshments paid for by the SIUSOM or the faculty/staff person, such as those included in a conference fee, are allowed and do not require prior approval by the SIUSOM Ethics Officer.

Dinners provided by industry at a restaurant at a site separate from the meeting would not be allowed and would need to be reported to the SIUSOM Ethics Officer for necessary steps to bring the employee into compliance with the State of Illinois Ethics Act. This would also include items reported under the Open Payments Act related to meals, if accepted. See Attachment A.

2. Industry-Sponsored Professional Travel and Lodging

Under the State of Illinois Ethics Act, industry may sponsor a faculty or staff member's travel and lodging for a professional event only if the event meets one of the exceptions to the Act's gift ban as determined by the SIUSOM Ethics Officer. Please review Attachment C – Gift Ban Reviews and Approvals and Attachment E – Sponsored Travel Examples – Approval for details.

Travel and lodging associated with a consultancy or other external professional relationships is also allowed. See E. Consulting Activities and External Professional Relationships below for more information.

a. Industry Research Travel and Lodging

Faculty and staff may accept industry reimbursement for travel, lodging and meals to attend meetings to act as a bona-fide expert or participate in panels regarding development of new research protocols, to discuss research results, or to participate in a conference to understand requirements for future research activities. Examples include investigator or study coordinator meetings.

Regulations regarding payment by industry for travel expenses related to research or clinical trial participation are governed by SCRIHS (Springfield Committee for Research Involving Human Subjects) policies, but also require advance approval by the SIUSOM Ethics Officer in accordance with the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

b. Sponsored Travel Other Than Research

In addition to cases pertaining to research or clinical trial-related meetings, payments by industry for travel, meals, and lodging expenses for some other meetings may serve

SIUSOM's mission and be acceptable under the Gift Ban's exceptions in the State Ethics Act. Expenses to be paid for by industry must be pre-approved by the SIUSOM Ethics Officer and reported on the faculty/staff member's conflict of interest/commitment disclosure form.

Faculty or staff may accept reasonable honoraria and reimbursement for travel, lodging, meals and conference fees for their attendance at educational conferences or meetings, including those related to research activity, only if the person presents, serves as a panel discussion participant, panel moderator, or otherwise actively participates in the conference or meeting. Acceptance of honoraria must be consistent with State of Illinois law and SIU policies; see F. Honoraria and Industry below. Faculty or staff who are simply attendees at conferences cannot accept either honoraria or reimbursement of travel, lodging, or meal expenses unless participation is approved by the SIUSOM Ethics Officer.