



BOPA SUMMER NEWSLETTER FOR CORPORATE MEMBERS

AUGUST 2017

Dear Industry Partner



Welcome to the first BOPA newsletter specifically for our corporate partners. There have been a few changes in the way the BOPA Committee is working with industry so as BOPA Chair I thought I'd communicate them to you in a newsletter rattled quickly out in my lunch break! A bit old fashioned and not very slick, but hopefully still useful.

The first thing to say is how much BOPA as a professional association values working with its industry partners. BOPA like most other professional associations has a third party medical communications company, in our case Succinct Communications, working for us to manage our secretariat and annual symposium which can sometimes mean the committee is a bit removed from our corporate members.

Partnership with Succinct has proven to be a highly successful model, allowing the BOPA symposium to be one of the highlights of the year. Of course providing such a high quality event doesn't come cheap and Succinct rely on sponsorship from the pharmaceutical industry. We all know that changes in recent years following the US Sunshine act and updated ABPI code have seen greater scrutiny on how the industry works with NHS staff.

Transparency, Sponsorship and Partnership with Pharmaceutical Industry

With this in mind BOPA has just published our transparency position statement on how we work with our pharmaceutical industry partners which outlines our position on sponsored medical education, see <http://www.bopawebsite.org/publications/position-statements>.

BOPA operates as a charity and works with other professional bodies so having a transparency statement protects our model of working and shows that we understand and accept the role of the pharmaceutical industry in supporting our medical education.



Symposium 2018

Plans for the Annual Conference in Glasgow are gathering steam thanks to our hard working conference subcommittee and Kirstie and her team at Succinct. We have got some exciting sessions lined up, including innovative ways of working with industry partners. We have encouraged joint working between companies with products in the same area, whilst maintaining compliance and supporting company goals. Our joint session on biosimilars will showcase this new approach. Another thing to note is the BOPA committee has taken a more active role in the industry sponsored educational sessions with a member of the committee chairing or on the faculty for each of the industry sessions, to ensure transparency, balance and avoid repetition.



We know that companies buying stand space is vital for funding of the conference and this only works if our members visit the stands and interact with our sponsors, so rest assured we are always looking at ways of encouraging BOPA members to do this. We feel it should be a win-win scenario with visits to stands contributing to our member's clinical knowledge.

One thing that we are looking at for 2019 is the potential for companies to deliver education sessions on their stands during programme breaks, it was too late to introduce this year, but we have agreed to have 2 companies having 'meet the expert sessions' on their stands. Any other ideas for novel approaches will be welcomed, but the overarching aim will be to ensure any such sessions fit with BOPA goals, the conference program and are fair for all sponsors.

Why not join the BOPA Committee

As you know the BOPA committee are all busy professionals who take on BOPA roles in their own time, so we never have as much time as we'd like to spend on BOPA goals!! One change to our constitution that we are taking forward this year is to remove the restriction on the number of pharmacists working for the industry who can be on the committee. Currently under the constitution there is only one place for an industry pharmacist. However as working in the pharmaceutical industry is a career path for Oncology Pharmacists we felt we should remove this restriction to allow our industry based colleagues to contribute to the committee. Of course all our committee members are there in their role as an expert oncology pharmacists and do not represent their employer, acting as an independent professional and declaring any conflicts of interest as they arise, our chair will remain restricted to a practising oncology pharmacist with an NHS role. You can see the constitution on our committee documents page, see <http://www.bopawebsite.org/publications/committee-documents>

The call for elections is out now so why not consider joining us, but be quick as nominations close at beginning of September! (See link above)

For those of you wanting to meet the committee we are having an evening event on Thursday 5th October prior to the conference starting - hope to see you in Glasgow.



The new BOPA Education Bursary Scheme

The committee are aware that in the past our corporate members would offer individual sponsorship to selected BOPA members to help fund attendance at our conference. However times change and many members are not able to accept direct sponsorship from industry so one development we are really excited about is setting up a Bursary scheme for 2018, to which BOPA members can apply to for funding for conferences attendance. Those applying will then be obliged to take part in feeding back learning and delivering education from the events.

We would look to work with a number of Industry partners, asking them to contribute a set annual fee to the scheme with BOPA contributing an equal financial contribution from our membership funds to the scheme so that it fits the principles of joint working. We think this is a better alternative that the traditional model of industry choosing selected individuals to sponsor.

We are also exploring using the bursary scheme to enable small group BOPA members to annually attend international cancer conference(s) as part of a supported group, who will then deliver and feedback education for the rest of our members and part of as co-ordinated programme making full use of digital platforms.

This is the type of learning that pharmaceutical companies used support for parties of doctors and pharmacists in the past. However the bursary will be completely independent and in line with our new transparent way of working with a far more democratic selection process. We will be inviting contributing companies to be part of a pre-trip educational planning board, as you all have insight into the exciting data that will be presented.

Whilst there are many ways of keeping abreast of developments from ASCO/ESMO, having the highlights selected and critically presented with view on UK implication from fellow pharmacists gives a unique insight.

Feedback to committee

Finally we'd like to hear from our industry partners directly on how they find working with BOPA, any idea's they have for future partnerships and how we can continue to be successful in an ever changing world.

Enjoy the rest of the summer

Steve Williamson, BOPA Chair