



Sjögren's Foundation

Corporate Relations Policy

1. Purpose

The **Sjögren's Foundation** seeks to advance its mission to improve the lives of individuals affected by Sjögren's disease through research, education, advocacy, and support.

Strategic relationships with corporations — including pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, healthcare, and other industry partners — can help advance this mission by supporting research, patient education, awareness initiatives, and other programs.

The purpose of this Corporate Relations Policy is to establish principles and procedures that ensure all corporate relationships:

- advance the mission of the Sjögren's Foundation
 - maintain the integrity and independence of the Sjögren's Foundation
 - comply with applicable laws and regulations
 - avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of undue influence
 - promote transparency and public trust.
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2. Scope

This policy applies to all relationships between the Sjögren's Foundation and:

- A. pharmaceutical companies
- B. biotechnology companies
- C. medical device companies
- D. healthcare corporations
- E. research organizations

F. commercial entities providing sponsorships, grants, or other support.

Corporate relationships may include:

- sponsorships
 - educational grants
 - research support
 - program funding
 - awareness campaigns
 - cause-related marketing
 - licensing arrangements
 - event partnerships.
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3. Governing Principles

All corporate relationships must adhere to the following principles.

A. Mission Alignment

Corporate relationships must provide a **clear and meaningful benefit that advances the mission** of the Sjögren's Foundation.

Programs supported by corporate partners should contribute to one or more of the following missions of the Foundation:

- patient education
- research advancement
- disease awareness
- advocacy efforts
- improved patient outcomes.

B. Independence

The Sjögren's Foundation maintains **full independence in its governance, programs, policies, and advocacy positions**.

Corporate partners may not influence the Sjögren's Foundation's:

- medical, scientific, or advocacy positions
- policy decisions
- program content.

The Sjögren's Foundation retains **final editorial control over all Foundation educational materials and programs.**

C. Scientific and Medical Integrity

All scientific, medical, and educational content developed by the Sjögren's Foundation must be:

- evidence-based
- independent
- reviewed when appropriate by qualified experts.

Corporate partners may **not review, edit, or approve scientific or educational content** prepared by the Foundation prior to publication.

D. Transparency and Disclosure

The Sjögren's Foundation is committed to transparency regarding corporate support.

The Sjögren's Foundation will disclose:

- corporate sponsors and supporters
- total corporate funding as a percentage of overall organizational revenue
- funding received from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or medical device companies.

This information may be published in:

- annual reports
- Form 990 filings
- the Sjögren's Foundation's website.

E. Conflict of Interest

All corporate relationships must comply with the Sjögren's Foundation's **Conflict of Interest Policy.**

Board members, employees, and volunteers involved in corporate partnerships must disclose any financial or professional relationships that could create a conflict of interest.

Individuals with a conflict must recuse themselves from decision-making related to the corporate relationship.

F. No Product Endorsements

The Sjögren's Foundation **does not endorse specific commercial products, medications, or services.**

The Sjögren's Foundation may provide **scientifically accurate information** about treatment options, but it will not:

- recommend one specific product over another
- promote specific brand-name drugs or therapies.

Certification programs may be permitted only when based on objective standards and when they do not create the appearance of endorsement.

The Sjögren's Foundation may present (in emails, social media posts, conferences, website, etc.) over-the-counter product options that may aid patients in symptom management once the product ingredients have been reviewed and considered safe for patients and will not cause potential harm. Patients may also share their favorite products with other patients. Neither of these scenarios convey that the Sjögren's Foundation is providing a product endorsement. In the case where a company has paid the Sjögren's Foundation to present their product to patients, there will be a clear statement that the communication is an advertisement or sponsored post.

4. Types of Corporate Relationships

The Sjögren's Foundation may engage in several types of corporate relationships, including:

Corporate Sponsorships

Support for events, educational programs, or initiatives that align with the Sjögren's Foundation's mission.

Educational Grants

Unrestricted or restricted grants supporting educational programs for patients, clinicians, or the public.

Research Funding

Corporate funding supporting research programs consistent with the Sjögren's Foundation's research priorities.

Cause-Related Marketing

Programs in which a corporation contributes funds to the Sjögren's Foundation based on consumer purchases.

Program Partnerships

Collaborative initiatives that advance patient education or disease awareness.

All such relationships must comply with this policy.

5. Written Agreements

All corporate relationships must be documented through a **written agreement** that includes:

- the purpose of the relationship
- the financial or in-kind support provided
- whether support is unrestricted or restricted
- the program or initiative supported
- the duration of the relationship
- disclosure requirements
- approved use of the Sjögren's Foundation's name and logo.

The agreement must confirm that the Sjögren's Foundation maintains **full control over program content and decision-making**.

6. Use of Sjögren's Foundation Name and Logo

Use of the **Sjögren's Foundation name, logo, or trademarks** in corporate materials must be:

- reviewed and approved in writing by the Sjögren's Foundation

- limited to the specific purpose described in the agreement
- limited to the timeframe specified in the agreement.

Corporate partners may not imply endorsement of a product or service by the Sjögren's Foundation.

7. Exclusivity

The Sjögren's Foundation generally avoids exclusive corporate arrangements.

However, exclusivity may be permitted in limited circumstances such as:

- event sponsorship
- educational program sponsorship
- research projects
- licensing agreements.

Exclusivity must:

- be limited to a defined activity and time period
 - provide meaningful benefit to the Sjögren's Foundation and its mission
 - not prevent collaboration with other companies in unrelated programs.
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8. Privacy and Data Protection

The Sjögren's Foundation will protect the privacy of participants in programs supported by corporate partners and will follow the Sjögren's Foundation Privacy Policy which can be accessed on our website <https://sjogrens.org/privacy-policy>.

Corporate partners may **not receive access to personally identifiable patient or donor information** unless explicitly authorized and compliant with applicable privacy laws or when a donor or patient freely gives their own information to the partner.

9. Review and Oversight

Corporate relationships are subject to oversight by:

- Sjögren's Foundation leadership
- relevant staff
- the **Board of Directors**.

The Board will review corporate funding periodically, including:

- total corporate contributions
 - percentage of revenue from corporate sources
 - alignment with mission and ethical standards.
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10. Compliance with Laws and Regulations

All corporate relationships must comply with:

- applicable federal, state, and local laws
 - nonprofit governance standards
 - healthcare industry compliance rules
 - IRS regulations governing nonprofit organizations.
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11. Policy Compliance

All employees, board members, and volunteers involved in corporate relationships must comply with this policy.

Violations may result in:

- termination of the corporate relationship
 - disciplinary action
 - policy review or revision.
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12. Policy Review

The Board of Directors will periodically review this policy to ensure it reflects:

- best practices in nonprofit governance

- evolving healthcare industry standards
 - the mission and values of the Sjögren's Foundation.
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Approved by the Board of Directors of the Sjögren's Foundation on June 13, 2026.