The School of Medicine Policy on gifts from the drug or medical device industry states that gifts may be solicited and accepted by the School for broad areas of interest (such as residency education, faculty development, or research) in broad specialties or large sub-specialties of medicine and science, or in broad topical areas or centers (such as imaging, vaccines, or stroke). These gifts will be placed in pooled accounts with other gifts received for the same purpose from other companies, individuals or charitable organizations. The use of the funds in the pooled accounts will be determined by authorized fund administrators in accordance with University policies and oversight.

The gift policy has two broad goals: to minimize or eliminate feelings of reciprocity by unlinking the donor from the beneficiary of the funds; and to minimize or eliminate the perception or possibility that industry is unduly influencing decisions in research, teaching or clinical care.

The following guidelines are provided for amplification of the policy.

1. Faculty, staff, students and trainees in the School of Medicine may not accept any personal gifts from industry, regardless of value.
2. Medications or pharmaceutical samples cannot be accepted. Company representatives should be directed to the Emory Healthcare Pharmacy.
3. Gifts cannot be solicited or accepted for a specific or distinct activity, such as travel to a particular meeting or funding for a specific speaker or topic.
4. Gifts cannot be accepted to fund a specific fellow or sub-specialty fellowship program.
5. Gifts cannot be accepted for a specific researcher or research lab.
6. There can be no commitment by Emory, or by Emory faculty, staff, students or trainees, of anything in return for a gift, such as patient data, survey or research results, endorsement of a product, or the purchase of products or services.
7. The departmental senior administrators will select the specific activities to be supported by gift funds while keeping within the broad designation of the donor.
8. All gift funds will be expended in accordance with Emory University expense policies, which will allow the use of funds only in support of the missions of the University. All expenditures are subject to the review of the Department and School, as well as internal and external audit by Emory University’s Division of Finance and Administration.
9. The use of donated funds for a purpose other than that stipulated by the donor is prohibited.
10. Gifts cannot be accepted for a “named activity” such as the ABC Drug Company Scholars.
11. Departments in the School of Medicine may provide a broad outline to industry of how funds in a pooled account are projected to be used, if requested. Additionally, at the end of a fiscal year, the Department may provide a recap of the broad use of the funds in the pooled account into which a gift was placed. This recap will not identify specific recipients or activities, but will instead describe what broad categories of activity were supported by the pooled fund.

*These Guidelines are not intended to replace the Industry Relations Policy which is the primary source on policy issues.*