

Keck School of Medicine of **USC**
Office of Continuing Medical Education

SOCIAL EVENTS AT CME ACTIVITIES POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

It is recognized that Continuing Medical Education events can also have social and networking components. Social events, however, must conform to regulations and standards issued by the ACCME, the AMA, Pharma and AdvaMed.

POLICY:

Social or networking components of CME activities shall not compete with or take precedence over the educational program.

Meals, receptions and other social events must not be the focus or the primary inducement to attend the CME activity, nor should information about them in brochures and other promotional materials give the impression that they are more important than the educational program of the CME activity.

Meal functions should be modest in nature and appropriate for the educational setting in which the function takes place.

Certain other social activities may be considered, if they meet the following criteria:

- The purpose of the social event is to increase the depth of interaction among the attendees and faculty and must be limited to registered attendees and course faculty.
- The cost per person of the social event cannot exceed \$100; this does not apply to events for which attendees pay their own costs.
- The time devoted to the social event must be considerably smaller than the main educational activity (as a general guideline, it should be less than 50% of the time associated with the educational activity).

In accordance with the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support, the USC Keck School of Medicine Office of CME is prohibited from using funds originating from a commercial supporter to defray travel, housing, registration fees, or personal expenses for non-faculty participants.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the OCME.