



In compliance with [policies](#) of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), **the ACR cannot permit employees or private owners of commercial interests to present abstracts. The ACR is not able to make any exceptions to this policy.**

Frequently asked questions regarding the new policy include:

- **What is a “commercial interest”?**
 - ACCME defines a *commercial interest* as any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients.
- **What is an “employee”?**
 - ACCME defers to the US Internal Revenue Service definition of *employee* as a guideline in determining whether an individual is an employee of a commercial interest. According to the IRS: “Generally, you must withhold income taxes, withhold and pay Social Security and Medicare taxes, and pay unemployment tax on wages paid to an employee.”
- **What is an “owner”?**
 - *Owner* refers to the private owner or part-owner of a commercial interest.
- **Does ownership of a stock qualify as ownership?**
 - Stock ownership in a publicly traded company does *not* fall under this policy. Stock ownership by presenting authors is permitted and should be disclosed on the submission site.
- **Can co-authors on an abstract be employees or owners of a commercial interest?**
 - Employees or owners of a commercial interest may be listed as an author on an abstract, but may not present the abstract.
- **Will the ACR enforce this policy?**
 - If the presenting author of an abstract is found to be an employee or owner of a commercial interest, the abstract will *not* be eligible for review.
- **When did ACR announce this policy?**
 - This policy was released in the 2020 ACR Convergence Abstract Guidelines on April 7, 2020.