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.