

Plastic Surgeons' Perceptions of Financial Conflicts of Interest and the Sunshine Act

Surgeons' perceptions of financial conflicts of interest are lacking in the field of plastic surgery. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) and the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Johns Hopkins Hospital are conducting a study to assess the views of plastic surgeons towards financial conflicts of interest within their field, in addition to evaluating the surgeon's understanding of the Physician Payments Sunshine Act which became federal law in 2012.

Please take a few moments to complete this brief, five-minute questionnaire. The results of this study will help surgeons make more informed decisions about collaborating with biomedical and pharmaceutical companies. This will be your last opportunity to participate in this important study. All responses will be completely confidential.

Your completion of this survey or questionnaire will serve as your consent to be in this research study.

1. What is your gender?
 - A. Male
 - B. Female

2. What is your age?
 - A. Under 35
 - B. 35-44
 - C. 45-54
 - D. 55-64
 - E. 65 and above

3. How many years have you been in practice?
 - A. Less than 5
 - B. 5-9
 - C. 10-14
 - D. 15-19
 - E. 20-24
 - F. 25 years or more

4. In what state do you primarily practice?

5. Please indicate which of the following best describes how you practice in terms of clinical practice time spent:
- A. 100% Reconstructive
 - B. 25% Cosmetic and 75% Reconstructive
 - C. 50% Cosmetic and 50% Reconstructive
 - D. 75% Cosmetic and 25% Reconstructive
 - E. 100% Cosmetic
6. What is the primary focus of your practice?
- A. Microsurgery
 - B. Pediatrics
 - C. Craniomaxillofacial
 - D. Aesthetics
 - E. Head & Neck
 - F. Hand
 - G. General Reconstruction
 - H. Breast
 - I. Research
 - J. Other (please specify): _____
7. Which of the following best describes your current practice type?
- A. Solo practice
 - B. Solo practice-shared facility
 - C. Small plastic surgery group practice (2-5 plastic surgeons)
 - D. Large plastic surgery practice (6 or more plastic surgeons)
 - E. Medium multi-specialty group practice (6-20 physicians)
 - F. Large multi-specialty group practice (more than 20 physicians)
 - G. Academic practice
 - H. Military

8. If you are in academic practice, what is your clinical/research or administrative split?

Clinical____% Research____% Administration____%

9. Have you ever accepted gifts/monetary compensation from a pharmaceutical/biomedical company (any gift of value, ranging from coffee at a meeting to research support)?

- A. Yes
- B. No

10. **If you answered YES to the previous question**, which of the following best describes the types of gifts which you have received (please circle all that apply):

- A. Consulting services
- B. Being an employee of a company
- C. Royalties
- D. Research funding
- E. Speaker services
- F. Travel/lodging
- G. Food/beverage
- H. Direct financial gifts or monetary compensation

11. Do you foresee yourself accepting gifts/monetary compensation from pharmaceutical/biomedical companies in the future?

- A. Yes
- B. No

12. **If you answered YES to the previous question**, what type of gifts/compensation would you be willing to accept (please circle all that apply):

- A. Consulting services
- B. Being an employee of a company
- C. Royalties
- D. Research funding
- E. Speaker services
- F. Travel/lodging
- G. Food/beverage
- H. Direct financial gifts or monetary compensation

13. Do you think that accepting gifts/monetary compensation affects your colleagues' choice of instruments/devices/supplies/medications they use or recommend for treatment?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. No opinion
14. Assuming that different types of financial relationships can have different degrees of influence on physicians/surgeons please rank from 1-5 the "most" (1) to "least" (5) influential.
- _____ Consultant
 - _____ Food/beverage/travel support
 - _____ Recipient of royalties/stock owner
 - _____ Research support
 - _____ Employee
15. Do you think it is appropriate for a private or governmental entity (e.g. biomedical device company, government, hospital, etc.) to disclose your or your colleagues' gift/monetary compensation received from pharmaceutical/medical device companies?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
16. Have you previously had patients inquire about your acceptance of any gifts/monetary compensation from pharmaceutical/medical device companies?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
17. Do you agree with the following statement: "Accepting gifts/monetary compensation is likely to influence the instruments/devices I use or recommend for a patient's surgery."
- A. Agree
 - B. Disagree
18. Were you aware of the Sunshine Act prior to taking this survey?
- A. Yes
 - B. No

19. Have you ever used the Sunshine Act Open Payments database to look up financial ties between pharmaceutical/biomedical device companies and your colleagues or yourself?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
20. Do you believe that physicians/surgeons and pharmaceutical/biomedical device companies should be mandated to report all financial ties to a government agency?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. No opinion
21. Do you believe that it is necessary to make such a database public to all?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. No opinion
22. Do you believe that patients care about knowing the financial relationship of their physician/surgeons with pharmaceutical/biomedical device companies?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. No opinion
23. Do you believe that patients will be able to make a more informed decision about their healthcare by knowing the financial interests of physicians/surgeons?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. No opinion
24. Do you believe that there should be reporting requirements/monitoring on how much physicians/surgeons can receive in gifts/monetary compensation?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. No opinion
25. **If you answered YES to the previous question**, what annual amount do you think physicians/surgeons who receive gifts/monetary compensation from pharmaceutical/biomedical device companies should be required to disclose (circle all that apply):

- A. None
- B. Any gift
- C. \$ 1-100
- D. \$ 101-1,000
- E. \$ 1,001-10,000
- F. \$ 10,001-100,000
- G. > \$ 100,001

26. Do you believe that there should be reporting requirements/monitoring for only certain types of gifts/monetary compensation that physician/surgeons receive from industry?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. No opinion

27. **If you answered YES to the previous question**, which one of the following categories do you think should be reported/monitored (please circle all that apply):

- A. Consulting services
- B. Being an employee of a company
- C. Royalties
- D. Research funding
- E. Speaker services
- F. Travel/lodging
- G. Food/beverage
- H. Other (please specify): _____
- I. None