

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Dialogue 1

Gifts and Gratitude: The Role of Industry Largesse in Research

Daniel S. Goldberg, J.D.
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston

Noon, Friday, September 21, 2007
Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3023

→ Lunch will be provided ←
(No RSVPs required)

Never has there been more scrutiny of the gift-giving relationship between industry and physicians, both clinicians and investigators. While such scrutiny is both overdue and well-deserved, greater attention needs be paid to extensive social science research explaining how conflicts of interest affect human behavior, and how they do not. That is, there are strong reasons to believe both that the influence a conflict has on human behavior is only weakly correlated with the size of the gift, and that managing conflicts after they have arisen is a poor remedy because at that point the influence has already affected the behavior. What is needed is a more complex and more accurate picture of the ways that conflicts of interest affect behavior.

Daniel S. Goldberg, J.D., is an Intercultural Cancer Council Fellow at the Chronic Disease Prevention & Control Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He is also writing a Ph.D. dissertation on pain and pain management for the program in ethics and medical humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch. His professional work involves health policy and research ethics, particularly regarding disparities in clinical trials. His other interests include neuroethics, disability studies and the history of medicine and public health.

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