

IWGGD Policy on Participation of Academically Affiliated Individuals with Industry Ties

1. Background

The International Working Group on Gaucher Disease (IWGGD) values the contributions of experts from academic, clinical, and scientific communities. As the boundaries between academia and industry increasingly overlap, many professionals engage in **part-time roles** within commercial organisations in the pharmaceutical and biotech industry while retaining their academic affiliations.

To uphold IWGGD's standards of independence, scientific integrity, and transparency—and in line with its strict policy on interactions with industry—this policy establishes a framework for participation by individuals with dual academic and industry roles. This policy **does not apply to individuals who are fully employed by industry**, for whom separate rules remain in place.

2. Guiding Principles

- **Scientific Merit and Inclusion:** Individuals with academic affiliations who also have part-time industry roles may continue participating in IWGGD activities when their involvement aligns with the scientific goals and values of the organization.
- **Transparency:** Full and timely disclosure of all relevant industry affiliations is required.
- **Independence:** Participants may not represent or promote commercial interests within IWGGD platforms.
- **Consultancy roles:** IWGGD recognizes that many academic professionals may serve as paid consultants to industry. While this may not constitute formal industry employment, individuals in such roles are still required to disclose these relationships in the interest of transparency. Such Consultants will be considered under the same category as academic participants for registration purposes, unless their consultancy represents their primary role or it's tied to promotional activities, in which case standard industry registration fees may apply.

3. Scope of Participation

Eligible individuals may:

- Participate in working groups, scientific meetings, and educational initiatives;
- Present scientific findings, provided affiliations are clearly disclosed;
- Contribute to scientific papers, consensus documents, and data discussions, subject to review.

They may not:

- Serve in leadership positions (e.g., chair or co-chair roles) within IWGGD working groups or governance structures without explicit board approval;
- Engage in sponsorship discussions and financial decision-making;

- Use IWGGD events or communication platforms for marketing, product promotion, or representation of any commercial entity.

4. Disclosure Requirements

- Individuals must declare all relevant industry affiliations annually or upon any change.
- Disclosures will be reviewed by the IWGGD Board and shared where applicable in meetings, publications, and presentations.
- Individuals must declare all relevant industry affiliations in any presentations (oral or written)

5. Conflict Mitigation

- The Board reserves the right to limit participation in discussions or decisions where conflicts of interest may exist.
- Individuals are expected to recuse themselves from agenda items or votes that present a potential conflict.

6. Registration Fee Category

To reflect their hybrid status, individuals with academic affiliations and part-time industry roles **who are not attending on behalf of a company** will be assigned a separate registration fee category for IWGGD scientific meetings:

- **Academic with Industry Ties:** EUR 500

This category is distinct from both full academic members and industry representatives.

7. Oversight and Review

- The IWGGD Board will review and update this policy every two years or as needed.
- Questions regarding applicability or exceptions will be resolved at the discretion of the Board.