

## UMich first to reject drug companies' funding for continuing medical education

By *Catherine Bertram*



In January, the University of Michigan Medical School will implement a new policy eliminating industry funding for continuing medical education courses which the university provides. The school's dean said faculty "wanted education to be free from bias, to be based on the best evidence and a balanced view of the topic under discussion."

Every year, pharmaceutical and medical-device companies contribute \$1 billion to continuing medical education courses in the U.S. Academics, ethicists, and lawmakers have pointed out that these contributions may encourage CME presenters to more favorably discuss the products of the companies providing funding. As a result, physicians might not get a completely fair and accurate understanding of the efficacy of the companies' products.

We trust our doctors to have up-to-the-minute expertise in the latest medical procedures and discoveries. But they can't provide that if their postgraduate courses come with a prepackaged bias toward a company's products. The University of Michigan's policy is a step in the right direction.