

ISSUE  
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## About Us

The UConn School of Medicine's Office of Community and Continuing Medical Education serves the educational needs of physicians and other clinicians both within UConn Health and throughout the state of Connecticut. The office supports educators who strive to plan, implement, and evaluate educational events whose goals are to enhance patient care and to improve clinical practice. The office accomplishes these goals by sponsoring, reviewing, and approving educational programs, as well as by providing knowledgeable faculty to present and discuss important health-related matters.

The UConn School of Medicine's target audience of UConn CME includes the broad range of the medical profession, from full-time practitioners to academic physicians with special interests in research and teaching, primary care providers, and other related health professionals. The ACCME credits through the office of Community and Continuing Medical Education is specifically associated with those licensed as M.D., D.O., and APRNs, however, all other related health professionals are welcome to attend any CME event and use the certificate of credit for their certificate attendance for their own professional development activities.



### Office of Community & Continuing Medical Education

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Closed for State Holidays. For questions pertaining to CME applications or general CME related inquiries, comments, or questions. Please contact us at [cme@uchc.edu](mailto:cme@uchc.edu).



# Season's Greetings

## Innovations in Continuing Medical Education

*From the Desk of Melinda Sanders, MD, Medical Director for UConn CME...*

### Committee Learning Activities: An Active Learning Example and Resource for CE Planners and Providers

Committee Learning Activities add value by recognizing the educational process that occurs in groups that meet regularly. Members may receive CME credit for learning as a part of their participation on the committee. The University of Connecticut Continuing Medical Education program is a decentralized office supporting CE for departments within UConn Health. In 2021, the UConn CME office worked with the institution's multidisciplinary tumor boards to designate them as a committee learning activities as a pilot initiative. Tumor Board CME is a unique learning process because it addresses the educational content differently from more traditional typical CME learning activities and uses active learning principles. Members of the tumor board function as a regularly scheduled committee and then utilize multidisciplinary approaches to the diagnosis, staging and treatment planning of patients with cancer including the findings from imaging, biopsy and surgery, as well as genetic and molecular studies. Members discuss implementation of optimal treatment plans for patients with cancer managed at UConn Health integrating surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy as needed. Participants on the tumor boards describe evidence and/or guideline-based approaches to therapy as well as available clinical trials. Additionally, committee members address the cultural, linguistic, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic barriers which may affect a given patient's treatment.

A review of evaluations after one year of implementation demonstrates that providers find value in the sessions, and there is evidence that the learning at tumor boards is translating into practice. Participants indicated in their evaluations that in the vast majority of cases the committee learning activity had reinforced and/or confirmed findings in their clinical practice; in a few instances management was changed after the discussion. 99% of participants reported meeting learning objectives of the committee learning activity; and 99% of participants reported that as a result of going to this committee learning activity, that their educational needs were either partially or fully met.

Learning from the activity occurs as clinicians discuss optimal management and barriers to care. Members of each discipline continually bring new information to the group, both about specific patients as well as about new therapeutic agents, new testing, new genetic findings and new side effects necessary to plan optimal treatment.

Do you have an innovated CE/CME idea that aligns with our strategic vision for our UConn CME?

**We would love to hear!** [cme@uchc.edu](mailto:cme@uchc.edu)



*Looking back at the start of the road in 2022...*

## What changed in the beginning of 2022 for ACCME?

### Planning to Speak at CME Events?

The ACCME rules for disclosure of financial relationships changed at the beginning of 2022. The general ACCME rule is that speakers and planners of CME activities must disclose financial relationships with companies that are ineligible to be accredited in the ACCME System (ineligible companies, formerly called commercial interests.) **Ineligible companies** are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing **healthcare products used by or on patients**. In the past, the most likely companies to fall into that definition were pharmaceutical, medical device manufactures, and their agents. As of 2022, the rules have changed.

#### Changes include:

- Adds the ineligible company categories – financial relationships with these additional categories of companies must be disclosed: health-related **wearable products**; growers, distributors, manufacturers or sellers of **medical foods and dietary supplements**; and **bio-medical startups** that have begun a governmental regulatory approval process, as well as a few less common categories. [See full list.](#)
- **Stock ownership in a privately held ineligible company** (as opposed to a company that is publicly traded on the stock exchange) **is now considered an ownership interest, which can disqualify you from presenting CME**, unless one of a few exceptions can be documented. These are the same rules that apply to owners and salary employees of ineligible companies. [See #2 here for details.](#)
- Disclose past 24 months (increased from 12 months)
- No longer include spouse disclosures

#### Rules that didn't change include:

- Employees and owners of ineligible companies are generally disqualified from presenting in CME activities, unless specific exceptions are met. [See #2 here for details.](#)
- Government, hospital, insurance, publishing, education, university, 501c3 organizations, and many other types of financial relationships are never considered conflicts of interest because they are all organization types that are eligible to offer CME. [Read full eligibility rules.](#) Therefore, you DO NOT need to include them on your disclosure form.
- Volunteer (non-financial) relationships are never considered reportable conflicts of interest.

#### Accreditation Statement

The UConn School of Medicine's Office of Community & Continuing Medical Education is accredited by the Accreditation Governing Board for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.





Read all the current articles and news in the world of CE by visiting the SACME site!! Read their Fall 2022 Edition and learn what is happening in the world of International CME, Publications & Scholarships, Tips & Innovation Practices, Soph Box, E-Learning & Technology, Regulations, Funding Opportunities, & More!

[CE News \(sacme.org\)](http://sacme.org)

### CME APPLICATION REMINDER

#### What We Require in a CME Activity:

- **PLAN AHEAD!!** The CME application process requires at a **minimum 16-week submission deadline** for all application forms prior to the anticipated date of the educational activity. Ideally, the development/planning of the CME education and the application for the potential CME activity should be considered in the very early or initial planning phases; many times, this could be 6 months or more prior to your anticipated activity date.
- Is designed to make change around competence, performance, or patient outcomes
- Addresses professional practice gaps of physicians. The practice gap is defined as the difference between current and best practice.
- Uses needs assessment data to plan the activity and documents the source of the needs assessment data.
- Has content that matches the intended learners' current or potential scope of practice developed in the context of desirable physician attributes.
- Uses educational formats appropriate for the setting, objectives and desired results of the activity.
- Is following the ACCME's Standards of Integrity and Independence.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of the learning intervention in meeting the objectives.

#### Planner FAQ – visit our website

<https://health.uconn.edu/continuing-medical-education/frequently-asked-questions/>



### CME Calendar of RSS Events

Click on the link to explore current offerings:

<https://events.uconn.edu/2022/month/08/581>



Come and check our newly redesigned CME website! It is a work in progress to make our site more user-friendly with helpful information right at the tips of your fingers! Your comments and suggestion for any tips or FAQs to be added, please let us know by sending us an email at [cme@uchc.edu](mailto:cme@uchc.edu).

<https://health.uconn.edu/continuing-medical-education/>

