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National Steering Committee on Optometric Guidelines for Educational Support Formed

CHARLOTTE, NC, February 4, 2009: The first meeting of the National Steering Committee on Optometric Guidelines for Educational Support took place on Monday, January 26, 2009 at the ACCME Offices in Chicago Illinois. The Committee consists of representatives from the AAO, AOA, ARBO, ASCO, SECO and Industry. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to develop guidelines for optometric continuing education, including issues related to industry support, disclosure and advertising.

The first meeting included a presentation from the ACCME on their standards for commercial support to ensure the independence of continuing education activities from commercial support. This was followed by a Steering Committee work session where the Committee also reviewed guidelines from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (Pharma), and the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE).

After drafting initial guidelines, the Steering Committee will reconvene during SECO 2009 with the goal of establishing Support and Disclosure Policies for the profession of optometry.

The committee welcomes input by contacting them at nscoges@aol.com

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The National Steering Committee on Optometric Guidelines for Educational Support consists of representatives from the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the American Optometric Association (AOA), the Association of Regulatory Boards in Optometry (ARBO), the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), SECO International, LLC (SECO), Allergan, Essilor of America, USA and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care.