

**Controversy and clarification regarding the symposium-debate on the pharmaceutical industry and medical profession:**

The debate about the pharmaceutical industry and the medical profession has started in advance! Following the email announcement of this event scheduled for the morning of April 8<sup>th</sup>, a controversy erupted due to the fact that the email announcement that you received did not mention the fact that some of its funding has been received from various pharmaceutical companies. It was felt by several respondents that this information (which will be given out as usual at the event itself, rather than in advance via the announcement) has lowered the quality and/or credibility of the symposium.

Secondly, it was stated by some respondents that the speakers are industry-supported, thus reducing their credibility significantly.

Therefore, by way of clarification, we offer the following information:

1. Some, but not all, of the speakers have received past or current support from the pharmaceutical industry.
2. All conflict of interest issues of the speakers and the conference organizers will be exposed at the event.
3. The balance between “pro” and “con” positions should be well addressed by the various speakers. They were chosen because of their expertise, different perspectives, and the variety of their involvements in this area. The very controversy that has arisen is part of the *raison d’etre* of the event itself.
4. This will not be an Oxford-Cambridge style classic debate. However, as in a debate, audience feedback and opinion, as well as audience participation will be solicited.
5. The listing of speakers and topics remains as follows:

**Ashley Wazana**, McGill University

*"Evidence that doctors' prescribing habits are distorted by their relationship with the pharmaceutical industry."*

**Denis deBlois**, Université de Montréal

*"Nobody knows anything: The science and financing of drug R&D."*

**Carl Salzman**, Harvard University

Debate with Dr. McIntyre

*"Ambivalence around the Pharmaceutical Industry: some good, some bad."*

**Roger McIntyre**, University of Toronto

Debate with Dr. Salzman

*"Opportunities of Multilateral Relationships: Implications for psychiatry."*

**Alan Schatzberg**, Stanford University, California

*"Implications of Anti-Industry Sentiments on Drug Development in Psychiatry."*

Thank you and apologies for any confusion or disruption that this omission on the advance announcement may have caused. We look forward to a very lively morning!

Daniel Frank, MD, FRCPC,  
Symposium organizer.