



**Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education**

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December 19, 2007

Michael R. Lemon, MBA  
President  
North American Association of Medical Education  
and Communications Companies  
367 Inverness Parkway  
Englewood, CO 80112

Dear Michael:

Thank you and the other Officers of NAAMECC (Karen Overstreet, Stephen Lewis, and Rich Tischler) for traveling to Chicago to meet with me.

Our meeting and discussion was an affirmation that your organization and your membership share the ACCME's commitment to the CME system as a strategic asset for physician learning and change to promote healthcare improvement in the United States. You also affirmed your previously stated position that a strong and effective ACCME is critical to the continuing integrity and validity of the continuing medical education system.

As custodian of the CME system, the ACCME will ensure that CME is independent of commercial influence. The ACCME is resolute in its commitment to this principle, evidenced by the *2004 Standards for Commercial Support* and subsequent policies that provide guidance on the features and practices of continuing medical education that is independent from ACCME-defined commercial interests. For the benefit of the integrity of the CME system and its physician learners, there can be no equivocation regarding the absolute need for independence.

The ACCME will continue to pursue dialogue and education as a means to make evident the strategic vision for effective, valid, and independent CME. In light of its mission, mandate and objectives, the ACCME is dedicated to facilitating our providers' successes at meeting these important ACCME requirements. To that end, we specifically invite your members to work together to develop and share strategies that all providers may implement to enhance attainment of the ACCME's requirements for accredited CME as described in our *Updated Accreditation Criteria, Standards, Essential Areas*, and policies.

In addition, we welcomed your specific comments and suggestions regarding ACCME policies and actions to ensure that accredited providers are neither aligned with, nor influenced by, commercial entities that compromise the independence of the CME

system. We will share these, and future, comments and suggestions with the ACCME leadership as is our standard process.

This week's meeting provided a productive and respectful forum through which we could explore these issues together. We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M Kopelow". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Murray Kopelow, MD, MSC, FRCPC  
Chief Executive