

Conference «Self-Regulation in the Pharmaceutical Industry – What can it achieve?» | April 21 2005 | Hilton Hotel Basel

## **Physicians and Pharmaceutical Industry: An Example of Complementary Self Regulation (ABSTRACT)**

**Emeritus Professor Dr med. Dr h.c. Werner Stauffacher, Director Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences**

Impressed by an apparently increasing incidence and/or publicity given to instances of blatantly mishandled conflicts of interest between physicians – both employed and in private practice – and industry in clinical research as well as in connection with postgraduate and continuous medical education, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS), organized a workshop devoted to conflicts of interest in all fields of contact between physicians and industry in November 2001, to which representatives of all parties involved were invited on a personal basis.

As a result of this workshop, SAMS published a set of rules and recommendations (currently being completed to serve as more stringent guidelines) for physicians in 2002, in order to assist them in identifying areas of potential conflicts of interest in research, postgraduate and continuing medical education, and in dealing with them in an open and transparent way.

At the same time, but independently, the representatives of industry who had participated in the workshop, decided on the publication of a «Code of Conduct for the Pharmaceutical Industry» in the same areas of professional contacts between physicians and industry which was published later in 2003.

The two texts will be briefly presented and discussed with respect to the need for them, their usefulness and their potential efficacy in view of existing legislation and regulations.