



BLACK DOG INSTITUTE and PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

New drugs have brought great advances in recent years in the treatment of the mood disorders. The Black Dog Institute is at the forefront of research into therapeutic benefits of drug treatments, and works closely with pharmaceutical companies. For example, Institute researchers conduct clinical trials of new drugs. Institute specialists often speak at medical conferences, including conferences sponsored by companies making medical or pharmaceutical products.

The Black Dog Institute Board strongly endorses the Institute operating within ethical guidelines formulated by Australian professional and regulatory organisations. Ethical guidelines the Institute observes include:

- Guide to Ethical Principles in the Relationship between Psychiatrists and the Pharmaceutical Industry (RANZCP)
- AMA Position Statement on Doctors' Relationships with the Pharmaceutical Industry

The Board of the Institute has also endorsed a number of requirements to apply when the Institute, its specialists or other staff work with pharmaceutical companies. These include:

- The Institute research projects all require approval, and confirmation of their scientific merit, from hospital and/or university ethics committees and disclosure of their funding sources to these committees
- The Institute at all times complies with Area Health and University requirements, and reports funding sources and amounts in its accounts provided to government bodies
- The Institute seeks to publish the results of all studies it undertakes, and identify the source of funds for each study, whatever the study outcome
- The Institute seeks to fund symposiums and conferences it organises from its own resources although conference-related social events may be sponsored. Where a symposium or conference is sponsored, the Institute seeks multiple sponsorship.
- The Institute lists in its Annual Report the national and international appointments and positions held by its medical staff on pharmaceutical company Advisory Boards, and seeks to maximise the diversity of these appointments.

The Black Dog Institute keeps its policy on relations with pharmaceutical companies under constant review and welcomes comment (by email to: blackdog@blackdog.org.au or telephone (02) 9382 4523).