

Emerging issues in Europe panel

Dr Alastair Benbow
VP and European Medical Director

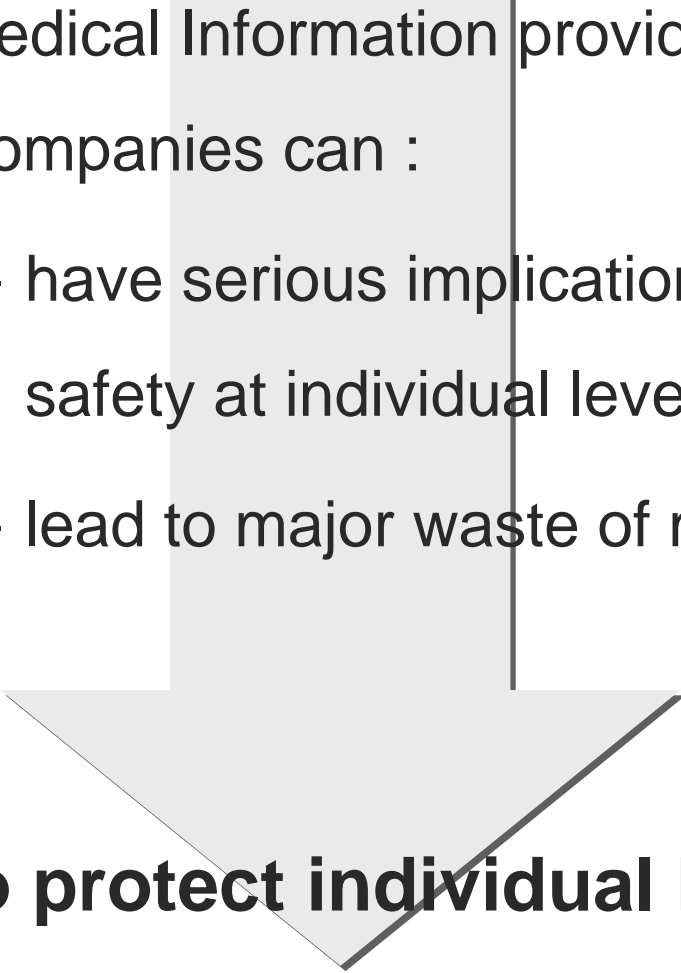
6 June 2007, Brussels

**International Pharmaceutical
Regulatory and Compliance
Congress and Best Practice Forum**

An open question to you all

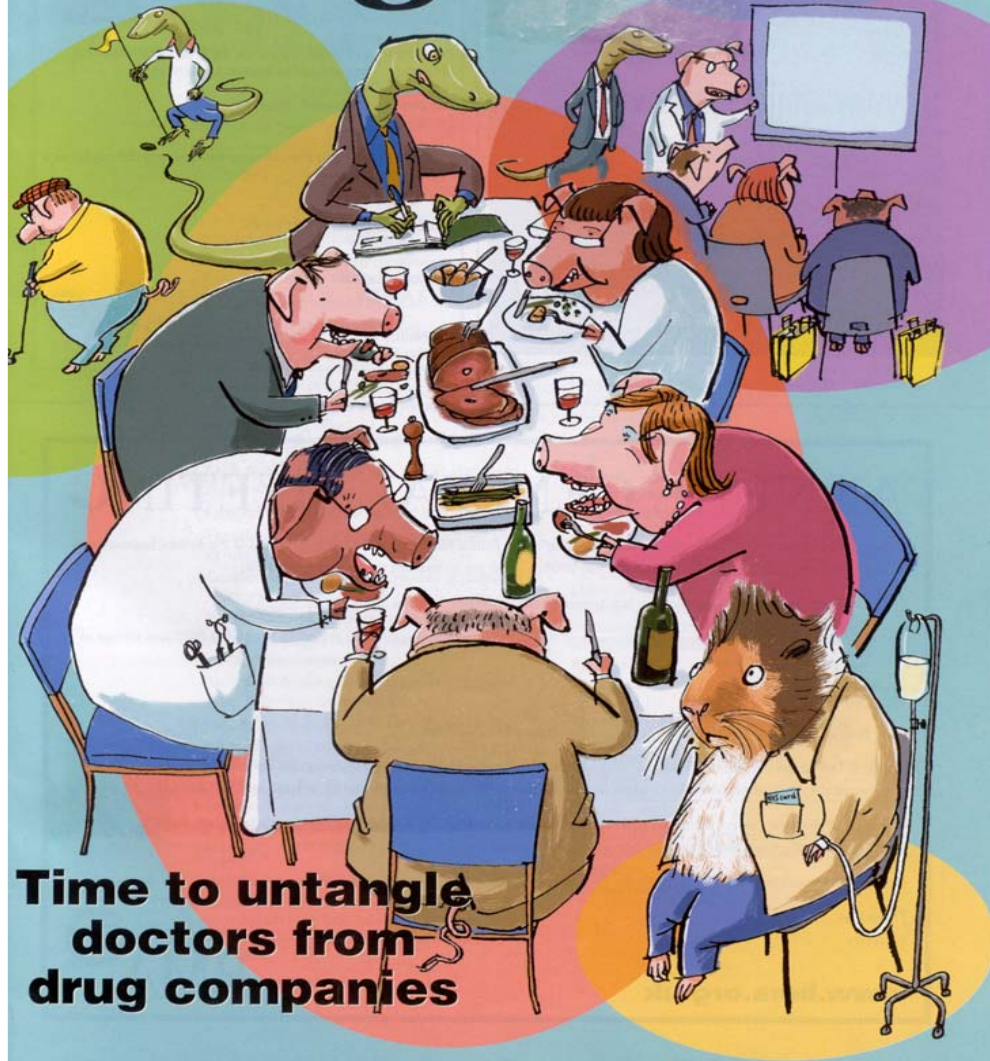
Do you care about the
reputation of the
industry?

Consumers International Mission

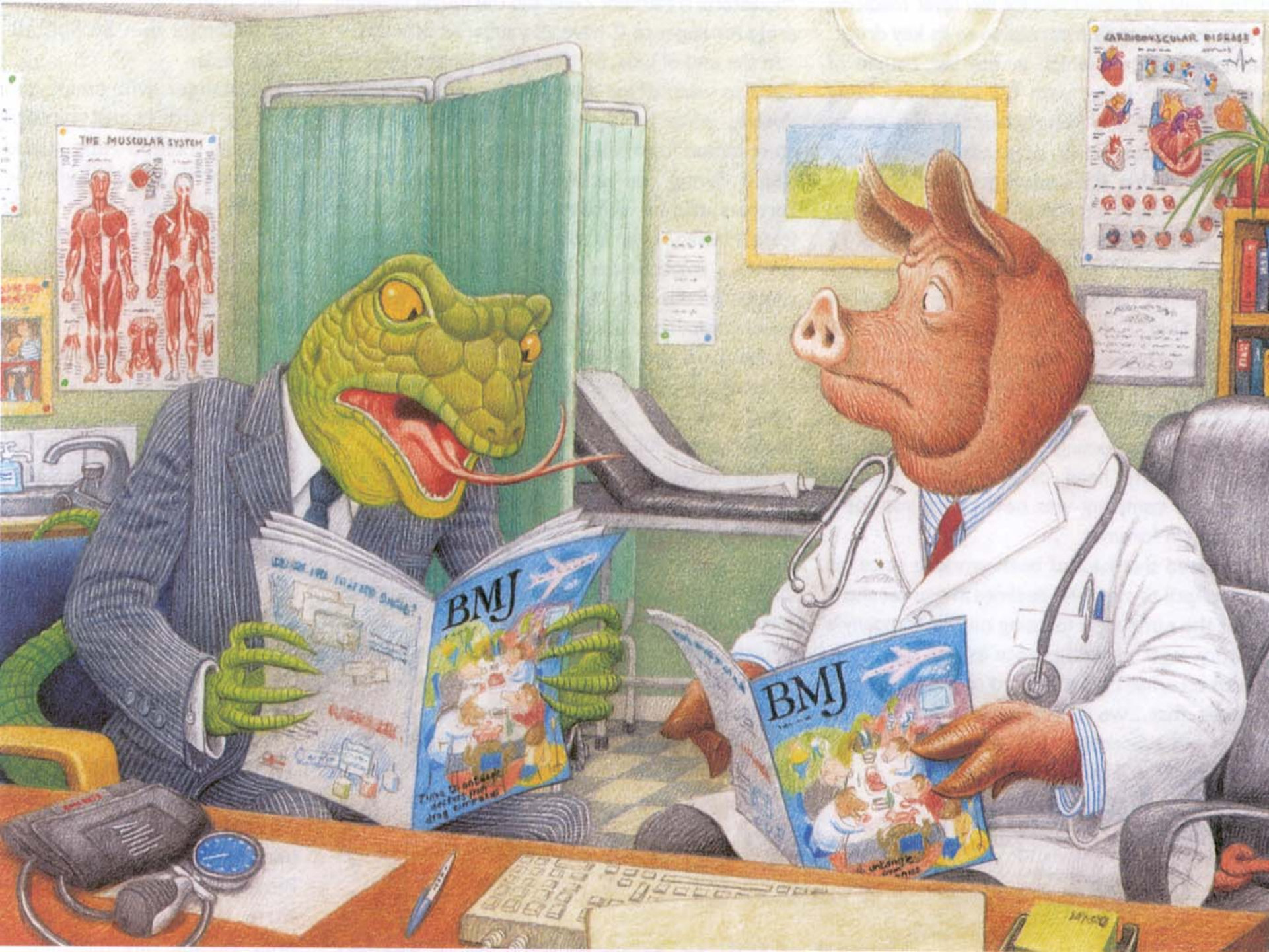
- 
- Medical Information provided by Pharmaceutical Companies can :
 - have serious implication for consumer health and safety at individual level
 - lead to major waste of money at social level
 - **to protect individual health**
 - **to protect social wealth**

BMJ

No 7400 31 May 2003



**Time to untangle
doctors from
drug companies**



BMJ 2007;334:338-340 (17 February), doi:10.1136/bmj.39119.519664.BE

Feature

Drug industry sponsorship

Who's funding WHO?

Michael Day, *freelance journalist*
London
miday@f2s.com

WHO guidelines state that it will not accept money from drug companies, but how rigorous is it in enforcing this? **Michael Day** investigates

Serious questions have been raised about whether the World Health Organization is using patient groups as a conduit for receiving proscribed donations from the pharmaceutical industry. Email correspondence passed to the BMJ seems to show that in June 2006 Benedetto Saraceno, the director of WHO's department of mental health and substance abuse, suggested that a patient organisation accept \$10 000 (£5000; 7000) from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) on WHO's behalf. The sum was then to be passed on to WHO—ostensibly with the intention of obscuring the origins of the donation. GSK withdrew its offer of funding when it learnt that acceptance was conditional on obscuring its origin. However, the email exchange indicates that other sums of money originating from drug companies may have already been channelled to WHO through patient groups.

BMJ 2007;334:934 (5 May), doi:10.1136/bmj.39185.461968.AD

Feature

Should patient groups accept money from drug companies? Yes

Alastair Kent, *director*

Genetic Interest Group, London N1 3QP

alastair@gig.org.uk

Should patient groups accept money from drug companies? No

Barbara Mintzes, *research associate*

Therapeutics Initiative and Health Action International (HAI-Europe), 2176 Health Sciences Mall, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z3 Canada

bmintzes@chspr.ubc.ca

Patient groups provide valuable support and advocacy for vulnerable people but funding the work can be difficult. **Alastair Kent** argues that not accepting industry money will unnecessarily limit the groups' effectiveness, but **Barbara Mintzes** believes that the money undermines their independence

Transparency

- Data clinical trial
 non interventional trials
- Grants and donations including to patient groups
- Payments to KOLs/HCPs
- Breaches of codes of practice

Commercial Practices

- Congresses/conferences
- Access to doctors
- Samples
- Promotional items