

In the AAFP program, there are two scientific exhibits on Tolmetin, a drug developed by McNeil Laboratories for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. At the time of the AAFP meeting, Tolmetin had not been approved for marketing in the United States. In response to the Agency's questions, a representative of the firm stated that the construction of both exhibits was financed by McNeil. The representative went on to state that his company customarily financed such exhibits when its medical monitor was pleased with an investigator's results. He stated that such scientific exhibits were shown at two to four conventions each year and that while attending the convention, each exhibitor received an honorarium of about \$250 per day plus reimbursement of all expenses.

Again, let me stress that I have no reason to believe that these industry-supported scientific exhibits represent anything other than the honestly-held beliefs and legitimate findings of the investigators involved. Many contain high-quality work. It is nevertheless a matter of great concern that most of the content of scientific exhibits is to a great degree selected by the drug industry. The exhibits committees of the conventions no doubt can eliminate the more frankly promotional exhibits, but they can do little to alter the fact that an exhibit unsupported by a drug company will usually not be produced and submitted for their review.