

Roche Response to Questions from the British Medical Journal, July 2006

The dinners you refer to were held at the end of each day after a full day of scientific symposia meeting (9-5pm Saturday or 9-2pm Sunday on the last day).

Roche believes the dinners were appropriate when held in conjunction with a scientific meeting of this type. The dinners did not contain entertainment and were in line with the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct.

All doctors who attended dinners were involved in the scientific meetings.

Participants were not paid for their time and as the educational content was rigorous and the days were long, it seems reasonable to us that a dinner of this type was on offer at the end of such an educational day.

END OF STATEMENT

(This statement was cited in Ray Moynihan, "Roche defends buying lavish meals for doctors at Sydney's restaurants, British Medical Journal, BMJ Volume 333, Number 169 July 22, 2006. <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/333/7560/169?> [Sub req'd]).