
Editorial

Conflict of Interest Statement to Disclose the Interest of Researchers

Vivek Kumar Bains

Interest may be defined as a commitment, goal or value held by an individual or an institution, that is pursued in the settings of social interactions. Conflict may lie in a situation when two or more contrast interests relate to a common goal by a person or institute.¹ Therefore in specific circumstances, individuals may find themselves in a conflict without essentially behaving immorally.²

This, Conflict of Interest (COI) describes a condition that may increase the chances of researcher to compromise the results and conclusions of the research for the personal benefits deliberately or unknowingly. In other words, “it involve a conflict between public duty and private interests, whereby a private interest which could improperly influence the public interest, activities and decisions.”³ In biomedical research, COI may be defined as “circumstances that create a risk that professional judgments or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.”⁴

Most common benefit in biomedical research that may cause COI is research-funded by companies or industries. Other reasons include financial, personal, emotional/ideological, professional or otherwise social agendas. Biases due to hidden interests and lack of transparency, resulted in industrialisation of biomedical research as well as health system.

To manage COI in biomedical research, Romain et al.⁴ gave following strategies: regulation of the individual; regulation of the research process and ; critical assessment of research product. Dunn et al.⁵ proposed a global public registry for researcher conflicts of interest with following 5 key features: Enforceability, Transparency, Interoperability, Taxonomy and Automated disclosures. To

minimise bias and avoid misinterpretations, Institutional Committee For Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) gave mandatory recommendations for disclosure of any financial and nonfinancial relationships and activities, and publish statement of conflict of interest for all the articles published in scientific journals, for public entrust on scientific published articles.⁶

Thus reserachers and authors not only have this mandate compulsion by regulatory bodies and publishers but also have resposibility to gain and maintain trust of public on scientific research process by disclosing any conflict of interest statement.

Source of support : Nil

Conflict of interest : None reported

REFERENCES

1. Korenman SG. Teaching the responsible conduct of research in humans (RCRH). [Available online: <https://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/ucla/chapter4/default.htm>]
2. Reed Q. Sitting On The Fence, Conflicts of Interest and How To Regulate Them, U4 ISSUE 6:2008, www.U4.no.
3. Gençkaya ÖF. Academic Research Report. Conflict of Interest in Turkish Public Administration. 2009/05/01 [Available online on: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304332439_Conflict_of_Interest/link/576bf99a08ae9bd70995e713/download]
4. Romain PL. Conflicts of interest in research: looking out for number one means keeping the primary interest front and center. *Curr Rev Musculoskelet Med* 2015; 8:122–7.
5. Dunn AG, Coiera E, Mandl KD, Bourgeois FT. Conflict of interest disclosure in biomedical research: a review of current practices, biases, and the role of public registries in improving transparency Research Integrity and Peer Review 2016;1:1.

To cite: Bains VK. Conflict of Interest to Disclose the Interest of Researcher. *Asian J Oral Health Allied Sc* 2018;8(1):1.

Address for Correspondence:

Dr. Vivek Kumar Bains, Editor, AJOHAS, Prof. & HOD, Department of Periodontology, Saraswati Dental College, Tiwari Ganj, Faizabad Road, Lucknow (UP), India. doc_vivek76@yahoo.co.in, +91 9935023439