



## Disclosure of Interests & Conflict of Interests Form

Name:

Email address:

Role in NACE:

Date of submission:

Having a conflict of interest does not, in itself, imply improper motivation or individual wrongdoing. However, it is important that any conflict of interest is properly identified and managed. This form takes you through a process of Disclosing, Identifying and Managing your Conflicts of Interest.

For more information on Conflicts of interest please see the below table excerpt from the [NHMRC guide](#), or this short (3 min) [video](#) that takes you through the basics of disclosures and conflicts of interests and how to manage them. For any assistance, please contact Research Integrity: [integrity@mcri.edu.au](mailto:integrity@mcri.edu.au)

Please submit this form to [nace@mcri.edu.au](mailto:nace@mcri.edu.au)

### 1. DISCLOSE RELEVANT INTERESTS

Please disclose all relevant interests that you have. Please note, relevant interests are not only financial in nature. Please review these examples of relevant interests [here](#). If you are unsure of whether a matter constitutes a relevant interest, please consider disclosing or contact Research Integrity: [integrity@mcri.edu.au](mailto:integrity@mcri.edu.au).

**Relevant Employment (current or previous):**

**Relevant grants or funding (ie. NHMRC, philanthropic foundations):**

**Relevant Board Memberships (paid and unpaid) (current or previous):**

**Relevant fees paid for services (consultancy, expert testimony, speaking fees, panel payments):**

**Relevant indirect payments (funding of travel, accommodation, professional development):**

**Relevant patent applications, planned or pending, including for which you are a named inventor:**

**Relevant stock ownership or options:**

**Relevant royalties (current or future):**

**Any other relevant interests:**

**Personal relationships with those with the above interests:**

## 2. MANAGE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

For each relevant interest above, think about whether they constitute a conflict of interest and outline how you intend to manage these conflicts of interests. For examples on how to manage conflicts of interest please see [here](#).

**Relevant interests:**

**Management plan:**



### 3. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [OPTIONAL]

You may wish to draft a disclosure statement that you can add to publications or presentations to help you disclose your conflicts of interest.

For examples on disclosure statements please see [here](#).

### 4. SIGN OFF

*By submitting this form, I agree to:*

- *update this disclosure periodically throughout the period of my engagement with the NACE/ or when new relevant interests arise to ensure they are up to date.*
- *co-operate in the formulation of a "conflict of interest management plan" as required.*
- *comply with any conditions or restrictions imposed by MCRI to manage, mitigate or eliminate any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest and/or commitment.*

### 5. REVIEW BY MCRI RESEARCH, QUALITY, GOVERNANCE & INTEGRITY LEAD

I have reviewed the disclosure (and plan where applicable) on \_\_\_\_\_ and:

- ☐ *I believe that the plan outlined in form will mitigate or remove the conflict of interest but will continue to monitor the situation.*
- ☐ *The conflict of interest cannot be adequately managed with the individual concerned and recommend to the NACE Director that they consider additional management support or terminating their involvement in the NACE Leadership Group or Stream Advisory Group.*

**Examples:**

### RELEVANT INTERESTS

These are examples of potentially relevant interests. Please note these relevant interests may not constitute a conflict of interest but it's useful to write down all relevant interests so you can identify whether these create a conflict down the track. These are indicative hypothetical examples and are not an exhaustive list but it might be useful to think about your own interests as you work down this list to help you identify your own relevant disclosures.

1. Competitive research funding (please note if you receive NIH/PHS funding specific requirements apply- please contact the grants office)
2. Consultancy work you undertake in your personal capacity either through other organisations or your own consultancy firm that relates to your work at the NACE



3. Directly providing scientific, marketing, and other consulting services to companies that relate to your work at the NACE
4. Paid and unpaid membership of boards or advisory committees that relate to your work at the NACE
5. Current or pending patent applications for which you are named an inventor or may benefit from
6. Paid speaking engagements that relate to your work at the NACE
7. Personal relationships that could relate to your work at the NACE e.g.
  - o Spouse runs IT consultancy business that MCRI receives a tender from.
  - o Best friend is Director of a spin off device company that your project/supervisor /colleague is trialing.
  - o You are asked to peer review or provide advice on a project that is being run by a Principal Investigator (PI) you have a long-standing dispute with.
8. Direct payment to you by a sponsor or funder of research
9. Shareholdings that could relate to your work at the NACE (for example, if you or your family member owns shares in a company that is supporting your research)

## DEFINITIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

Under [the Code](#), a conflict of interest exists in a situation where an independent observer might reasonably conclude that the professional actions of a person are or may be unduly influenced by other interests. <sup>2</sup>

Financial Conflicts of interests are the most common and easiest to identify - such as financial relationships, including direct employment, stock ownership, access to grant funding, speaking fees, stipends, etc. This type of conflict includes the financial benefits of an individual that can help him/her in the future. <sup>3</sup>

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

“Having a conflict of interest is not in itself unethical, and some are unavoidable. Full transparency is always the best course of action, and, if in doubt, disclose.” US Office for Research Integrity

Please note that simply disclosing the Col or having a contract in place may not be enough to manage a Col.

Examples of how to manage conflicts of interest are below. Please note these are indicative hypothetical examples and is not an exhaustive list:

Example of Conflict of Interest	Type of Conflict of Interest identified	Management Plan (potential options only)
Fauxsponsor are sponsoring a trial that I am PI on and wrote the protocol for. I am also doing some paid consultancy work as a scientific advisor and unpaid speaking tours for the company.	<p>Financial conflict of interest as you are paid directly by the company that is also funding your research.</p> <p>Perceived conflict of interest as you are providing scientific advice and doing unpaid speaking tours for a company that has now funded your research.</p>	<p>Disclosure of the Col to all participants and review bodies and in all publications and presentations.</p> <p>Work with MCRI Legal and Grants to put in place agreements and funding arrangements that ensure you do not <u>directly</u> benefit from the</p>



	<p>Real conflict of interest- you are undertaking research that is funded by a company you have a pre-existing financial and working relationship with. This could impact the trials conduct and outcomes.</p>	<p>research funding e.g. the funds go into a group cost centre to cover research costs rather than to you personally.</p> <p>Take steps to minimise any unintentional bias that may have arisen due to this Col.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure you are blinded to randomisation and data analysis if feasible</li> <li>- Request independent peer review of the protocol be undertaken specifically to examine whether the study design has merit and integrity and is unbiased</li> <li>- Ensure full disclosure of the Col at every stage of the research</li> <li>- If it is not feasible to remove your potential influence, consider recusing yourself as PI or terminating the paid appointment with the sponsor</li> </ul>
<p>Spouse runs IT consultancy that MCRI receives a tender from and you are on the committee discussing and ultimately approving the tenders.</p>	<p>Financial conflict of interest -as your family may benefit from the tender being successful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure the Col to the committee chair/ and remind them at committee meetings when relevant.</li> <li>• Recuse yourself from the discussions and abstain from voting when your spouses' company is being discussed.</li> <li>• Consider delegating your position on the committee to someone else in your team entirely.</li> </ul>
<p>You sit on a board or government advisory committee that is making decisions that might benefit the MCRI's future endeavours.</p>	<p>Perceived Col- as your advice may be impacted by your paid employment at MCRI.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclose the Col to both parties and ask the chair of the advisory committee whether any additional steps are required to manage your Col.</li> </ul>



You are asked to peer review or provide advice on a project that is being run by a PI you have a long-standing dispute with.

Personal Conflict of interest as your dispute may bias your advice or peer review. Note that conflicts don't always have to be beneficial.

- Disclose and recuse yourself.

#### EXAMPLE DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

John Trials declares that he has no conflict of interest.

Adam Researcher has received research grants from Drug Company A, NHMRC and the Gates Foundation.

Ibrahim Projects has received a speaker honorarium from Drug Company B and owns stock in Drug Company C.

Dr. Carolyn Doe receives research funding from XYZ, Inc., which is developing products related to the research described in this paper. In addition, Carolyn serves as a consultant/advisor to XYZ, Inc., and receives compensation for these services.

#### References

1. <https://ori.hhs.gov>
2. [NHMRC Disclosure of interests and management of conflicts of interest](#)
3. <https://ascholarship.com/conflict-of-interest-statement-definition-types-and-understanding/>