

Conflict Of Interest (COI) Policy

European Resuscitation Council

Approved version 12/12/2014

1. Motivation.

According to the Code of Ethical Conduct, the ERC wishes to ensure that all those who contribute to its scientific, educational, administrative, professional activities declare any financial, academic or professional interests within the last 12 months which could influence their judgement or contribution.

2. Scope

This policy is for the Staff Members and Volunteers of the ERC, including Board members, General Assembly members, members of Working Groups, Committees and Task Forces, authors and co-authors of Guidelines, training resources (manuals and other) and published statements on behalf of ERC..

3. What constitutes a conflict of interest (COI)?

A COI is considered to be: *"a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest¹ will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest"².*

The following provides conditions in which a member should declare an interest that might conflict, or be perceived to conflict, with their responsibilities to the ERC:

- **Employment** – all individuals should make a full declaration of their paid and voluntary employment stating either paid or voluntary (but not stating monetary figures).
- **Associated intellectual agencies** – all individuals should make a full disclosure about paid or unpaid relationships with associated organisations (e.g.: office bearer in a national resuscitation council or national/international body, research consortium),
- **Boards or consultancies (paid or not), honoraria, payment for lectures received:** if you are a board member or consultant (paid or not paid), or if you received a honorarium or were paid for one or more lectures, for an external party and directly related to the possible areas under discussion, these must be declared.
- **Equity, shares, ownership** equities, shares and ownerships by you or close family if directly related to the possible areas under discussion, must be declared. If you participate in an investment fund over which you have no control how the fund is managed, this does not need to be declared.
- **Business relationship with a company:** if you or close family have a business relationship with a company that is directly related to the possible areas under discussion, this must be declared.
- **Funding of research grant received:** regardless of the kind of funding (industry or charitable), funding of research grants received must be declared.
- **Miscellaneous disclosures:** other relationships directly related to the possible areas under discussion, that may be perceived by the public or colleagues to be a COI.

Only the **source of the income** and the **nature of the interest** are to be disclosed; the amount of any payment or grant etc is not to be disclosed.

¹ Include promoting and protecting the integrity of research, the welfare of patients the quality of medical education and the mission statement of the ERC

² May include financial gain, the desire for professional advancement, recognition for personal achievement, favours to friends, family, students or colleagues

4. When should a COI be declared?

The COI declarations will be submitted to the ERC Office.

All of the individuals listed in the *Scope* paragraph will update their COI declaration each year, after being reminded by the ERC Office. If the individual has no potential conflicts, this also must be declared on the form. The individual members are responsible to keep their COI declaration up to date and to amend their COI declaration in case of new potential COIs.

Additionally, when an agenda point is discussed in official meetings of the ERC, where one of the members present has a COI, this member should declare his COI before this agenda point is discussed.

5. Consequences of a COI

The Board appoints the Advisory Committee to coordinate evaluation of the COI declarations and to propose actions to the Chairs of the relevant committee(s). The Advisory Committee reports to the Board.

Having declared a COI, a member may still participate in discussions that relate to this topic, but should not be involved in decisions. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate to exclude that person from the whole discussion.

If it is noticed that an individual has a relevant COI that has not been declared, this will be reviewed by the ERC Board. Failure to declare an interest may result in modifying the role(s) of the individual in the Council.

6. Record of interests and their publication

The ERC will keep an online COI record for all members included in the "Scope". This COI record is also confidentially available online for the ERC Board members.

Approved by the ERC Board of 12/12/2014 + electronic confirmation for final version.

Sources:

- COI policy RC(UK) 2008
- COI policy of the AHA 2014
- COI policy of ILCOR 2004
- Institute of Medicine recommendations about Conflict of Interest in Medicine
- Lenzer, J Hoffman, C Furberg, J Ioannidis. Ensuring the integrity of clinical practice guidelines: a tool for protecting patients. [BMJ](#). 2013 Sep 17;347:f5535. doi: 10.1136/bmj.f5535.
- ERC Ethical Code of Conduct ERC Ethical Code of Conduct 2012