



WFUMB Conflict of Interest policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to help all members of the **World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB)** to effectively identify, disclose and manage any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in order to protect the integrity of **WFUMB** and manage risk. The **WFUMB Executive Board (ExB)** aims to effectively manage any conflict to ensure that such a conflict does not influence the implementation of good practice.

2. Definition of conflicts of interests

A conflict of interest (COI) exists if any individual is in a position to influence policy or management of finances and has a personal or professional interest that could be perceived as influencing that individual's beliefs and behaviours. Generally, any such interest that has been active in the last 12 months (but for some maybe longer) should be declared. For this reason, all committee members, lecturers or authors involved in WFUMB activities must disclose any relevant interests/ arrangements or affiliations. For significant financial conflicts this would include the arrangements of the spouse or partner.

3. Implementation

COI are common and they do not need to present a problem to the Federation so long as they are openly and effectively managed.

WFUMB will manage COI:

- by requiring members to identify and disclose any possible or actual COI. This is achieved by requiring all committee members, members of author teams of WFUMB publications and members of the Administrative Council to submit an annual declaration of conflicts of interest. If a new potential COI develops or is suspected to have developed between submissions this should be declared at the next relevant committee meeting.
- prior to a discussion in committee if it is expected that there may be a conflict of interest this must be disclosed to the chairperson who will decide within the committee the options to address a COI which may include: a minor COI may only be mentioned in the minutes or in the publication and in the case of modest or significant COIs the person affected can refrain or be excluded from participating in a meeting, in a discussion or only in any associated voting
- In exceptional circumstances of a significant COI or non-disclosure of modest or significant COIs the person affected can resign or may be excluded from the committee
- once an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest is identified, it must be entered into the minutes (including the nature and extent of the conflict of interest and any steps taken to address it).
- monitoring compliance with this policy, and
- reviewing this policy regularly by the Executive Board to ensure that the policy is operating effectively.



4. Compliance with this policy

If the Executive Board has a reason to believe that a person subject to the policy has failed to comply with it, it will investigate the circumstances.

If it is found that this person has failed to disclose a COI, the Administrative Council may take action against them. This may include seeking resignation or to terminate their relationship with the Federation.

If a person suspects that a member has failed to disclose a COI, they shall;

- Raise the potential conflict with the person and/or
- Raise the potential conflict with the President/Chair
- Refer the conflict to the Complaints Committee for final adjudication
- Notify the ExB if the person has been found to be conflicted, or if the outcome cannot be determined.

Glossary of Terms:

Conflict of Interest

Circumstances create a conflict of interest when an individual has an opportunity to affect CME content about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a financial relationship.

Commercial Interest

A “commercial interest” is defined as any proprietary entity producing health care goods or services, with the exemption of non-profit or government organizations and non-healthcare related companies.

Financial relationships

Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (e.g., stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit. Financial benefits are usually associated with roles such as employment, management position, independent contractor (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and other activities from which remuneration is received, or expected. Relationships of the person involved in the activity include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.

Relevant financial relationships

These are financial relationships with commercial interests in the 12-month period preceding the time that the individual is being asked to assume a role in WFUMB that may create a conflict of interest. WFUMB defines 5,000 USD as the limit between modest (below 5,000 USD) and significant (above 5,000 USD). Inherent in any amount is the incentive to maintain or increase the value of the relationship.

Contact

For questions about this policy, contact the Administrative Manager by email: lrudd@wfumb.org



CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

Email to the Administrative Manager annually to be listed in a register and available to view on request.

Each WFUMB officer (and nominee for an executive position or membership in a WFUMB committee), committee member or author of a WFUMB guideline or other official WFUMB publication must disclose all relevant financial, personal or professional relationships with other people or organisations. Membership of your Federation is not considered a conflict, **nor is membership of a professional body unless you hold an officer position in that organisation.** To protect the integrity of WFUMB, disclosure must be made of both those relationships that pose a conflict and those that could reasonably be perceived as a conflict of interest or as potentially influencing or biasing your work.

Relationships within the last 12 months that are **relevant** should be disclosed. A relationship is ‘**relevant**’ if the relationship or interest relates to the issues in terms of any of the following: the same or similar subject matter or topic under discussion: the same, similar or competing drug or device, product or service, intellectual property or asset; a drug or device company or its competitor; or has the reasonable potential to result in financial, professional or other personal gain or loss for you, members of your household or employer.

Please rate the degree of interest: Modest (for commercial COI: <5000 USD/y), Significant (for commercial COI: >5000 USD/y).

Leave the cell blank for no interest

Have you (or your spouse/partner) had a relevant financial relationship with a commercial interest in the last 12 months?

NO (Skip to Signature/Date) YES (Please list your financial relationships below)

Commercial or non-commercial Interest	List Nature of Relevant Financial Relationship
Company / Professional Organisation	Examples: Recipient of grants/research support, honorarium, royalty; employee, consultant, speakers’ bureau, board member, advisor or review panel member; independent contractor, stock shareholder (excluding mutual funds); holder of intellectual property rights, or other (identify); officer position
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

I verify that the above information is complete and accurate.

Date:

Signature: _____

Federation: _____

