

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy

Conflict of interest affects authors, peer reviewers, and editorial board members. The *IJM*SC defines conflict of interest as any financial or personal relationships with individuals or organizations occurring within the preceding 2 years that could inappropriately influence or be perceived to influence a submitted manuscript (for authors), a manuscript review (for peer reviewers), or general service to the journal (for editorial board members).

Potential conflicts of interest include employment, patents or royalties, intellectual property rights, lecturing or consulting fees, participation on paid advisory boards or review panels, honoraria, equity ownership/stock options (excluding diversified mutual funds), paid expert testimony, grant support from industry, and other payments from a commercial entity. For further details, refer to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors' Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, "Disclosure of Financial and Non-Financial Relationships and Activities, and Conflicts of Interest" ([link out https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/author-responsibilities--conflicts-of-interest.html](https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/author-responsibilities--conflicts-of-interest.html)).

Authors

All authors must disclose any relationships that could be viewed as presenting conflicts of interest in a disclosures section at the end of the manuscript. If an author has no conflicts of interests to disclose, this must be stated. All sources of funding for the work must also be disclosed in this section. The disclosures section will be seen by peer reviewers and will be published with the article if the manuscript is accepted.

As part of the submission process, the corresponding author must choose one of the following.

- Yes, a potential conflict of interest exists for one or more of the authors and is disclosed in the disclosures section at the end of the manuscript. All sources of funding for the work have also been disclosed in the manuscript.
- No, no potential conflict of interest exists for any of the authors. The following statement has been included in a disclosures section at the end of the manuscript: "The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose." All sources of funding for the work have also been disclosed in the manuscript.

Upon manuscript acceptance, each author must sign a conflict of interest disclosure, as follows.

"I certify that all potential conflicts of interest were disclosed in the manuscript. If any were not disclosed in the manuscript, they are listed below. Any changes to this disclosure information between now and the time of publication of the article will be relayed promptly to the *IJM*SC editorial office."

Peer Reviewers

Peer reviewers must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest when reviewing specific manuscripts and disqualify themselves from a specific review if there is a potential for bias. The letter sent to peer reviewers instructs.

“If you have a conflict of interest that could affect your ability to provide an unbiased review of the manuscript, please decline the assignment.”

Editorial Board

Members of the editorial board must disclose all relationships that may pose an actual or potential conflict of interest relevant to this role. This information is filed in the IJMSC Editorial Office. In addition, members of the Editorial Board must refrain from making any decisions or recommendations about manuscripts in which they have a personal, professional, or financial interest. Failure to disclose relevant conflicts of interest is grounds for dismissal from the Editorial Board.

Each board member must complete and sign a conflict of interest disclosure form at least every 2 years. The disclosure form contains the following declaration.

“I declare that within the past 24 months neither I nor any member of my immediate family has had a financial or nonfinancial relationship that has the potential to compromise my objectivity as a member of the IJMSC editorial board.”

If any relationships with a potential conflict exist, the editorial board member must complete a disclosure form and list the specific type of relationship and the name of the entity.

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