

Conflict of Interest in Research

Definition and Purpose:

“A conflict of interest is a situation in which financial or other personal considerations have the potential to compromise or bias professional judgment and objectivity.”

https://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/columbia_wbt/rcr_conflicts/q_a/index.html

Department of Health and Human Services Code of Federal Regulations (42 CFR Part 50; 45 CFR Part 94) states: § 50.601 Purpose.

“This subpart promotes objectivity in research by establishing standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, and reporting of research funded under Public Health Service (PHS) grants or cooperative agreements will be free from bias resulting from Investigator financial conflicts of interest.”

Who Must Disclose:

The project director or principal Investigator, and any other persons, regardless of title or position, who are responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of research or educational activities funded or proposed for funding. In addition, any research team member who indicates a financial interest related to the submission of a human or animal research protocol will be asked to complete a certification.

What to Disclose:

Anything of monetary value, whether the value is readily ascertainable, that

1. is related to the investigator’s professional responsibilities on behalf of the Institution; and
2. belongs to the investigator or the investigator’s spouse or dependent children. Certain dollar value thresholds apply.

If the investigator is PHS funded (i.e. NIH), 3rd party sponsored travel must also be disclosed.

How to Disclose and How Often:

- Annually from the last date of submission
- Within 30 days of acquiring a new financial interest that could affect the design, conduct or reporting of the research
- Within 30 days of a change in a previously reported financial interest
- For PHS funded investigators, 3rd party sponsored travel must be disclosed within 30 days of return from the travel

Certifications are made in the ICON for COI system at <https://icon.research.uh.edu/UHCLICKCOI> after being set up by the DOR/RIO group. For more information, please contact Penny Maher at coi@central.uh.edu or 713.743.9255.

Compensation Type	Dollar Value
Stock /Partnership Equity	Any Amount for non-public co.; otherwise >\$5000
Ownership Equity	Any Amount for non-public co.; otherwise >\$5000
Remuneration (Salary, Consulting, Advising, and Speaking Compensation)	>\$5000
Editorial/Paid Authorship/Book Royalties	>\$5000
License and Royalty (if not solely thru UH)	Any Amount
Sponsored Travel (for PHS funded investigators)	Any Amount
Board of Directors	>\$5000

For additional UH Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment, visit the UH System Compliance website at <https://uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/conflicts-of-interest/index.php>.