

## **JPIDS: POLICY ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI)**

*Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society* is committed to making transparent the journal's policy on Conflict of Interest as they relate to authors, reviewers, and editors.

An actual or potential conflict regarding publication occurs when a competing interest may influence the writing, review, or editorial decisions inherent in publication. Conflicts of interest are considered relationships within two years prior to the authoring, reviewing, or editing activities on a particular manuscript. Specifically, these relationships may include employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options (other than mutual funds), expert testimony, grants received and pending, patents received and pending, royalties, and in-kind rewards. Other types of COI may be personal or professional in nature.

In general, *JPIDS* follows the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Links to those resources are provided below. *JPIDS* sponsored supplement manuscripts are subject to the same scrutiny and process for protecting readers from bias as are all other submitted manuscripts. Content in sponsored supplements is accepted solely on the basis of academic merit and interest to readers.

### **Authors**

Each author must submit a completed ICMJE Potential Conflicts of Interest form. Authors are required to disclose any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be suspected of influencing the outcomes reported in the manuscript. The Editorial Office checks the acknowledgements section of the manuscript against the COI disclosure forms to ensure consistency.

In the event that a potential conflict of interest is detected or suspected, the Editor requests clarification from the author. In the event that a conflict was not disclosed, the journal may publish a Correction or an Erratum in a subsequent issue.

### **Reviewers**

Recusal is the cornerstone of preventing bias from entering the assessment of the validity and value of the results of scientific research. When individuals are invited to review manuscripts, they must recuse themselves should they have any conflict of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions involved with the manuscript. If an invited reviewer believes that he or she does have a potential conflict of interest associated with a particular manuscript, he or she informs the journal, which then secures a different reviewer. If an Editor or Associate Editor is not satisfied that a submitted review is without bias due to COI, further review will be undertaken, in order to ensure the unbiased assessment of the manuscript.

### **Editors and Associate Editors**

Associate Editors submit to the Journal Office, and the Editor-in-Chief to the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, an annual disclosure statement of their financial and other relationships that could lead to conflicts of interest. These statements are updated during the course of a year if there are changes to the list of relationships.

Associate Editors recuse themselves from handling a manuscript if they have or might have a conflict of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies or (in some cases) institutions connected to the manuscript.

In each Editorial Office, there is a systematic plan for handling manuscripts submitted by Associate Editors for that journal.

When Editor-in-Chief recuses himself, an Associate Editor is asked to consider the manuscript.

**Resources**

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): <http://publicationethics.org>

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE): [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)

World Association of Medical Editors: [www.wame.org](http://www.wame.org)

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