

Competing Interests

Conflicts of interest – these are the factors that negatively affect the objectivity, or can be perceived as interference in the process of peer review, editorial decision-making, publishing and presentation of the manuscript.

A conflict of interest may arise in relation to individuals or organizations, and is divided into the following categories (but not be limited to these):

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- * Personal relationships (eg, friends, family members, current or previous managers, opponents) with persons involved in the supply or reviewing manuscripts (authors, reviewers, editors, or members of the editorial board);
- * Personal beliefs (political, religious, ideological, etc.) related to the topic of the manuscript, may interfere with the objective process of the publication (in the stage of submission, review, editorial decision-making or publication).

Professional:

- * Colleagues who participated in or observed the conduct of this study.
- * Membership in organizations lobbying the interests of the author.
- * Relationships (paid or unpaid) with organizations and funders, including NGOs, research or charitable institutions.

Financial:

- * Research grants (from any sponsoring source, restricted or unrestricted).
- * Patent applications (existing or pending), including applications from institutes to which the author is affiliated and from which he may profit.
- * Fees, gifts and rewards of any kind.

Procedure

- * All persons involved in the manuscript, including authors, editors, reviewers and readers who comment on or evaluate the material, should report any conflict of interest.
- * Authors must indicate whether they are members of the editorial board of the journal to which the material is submitted.
- * Reviewers should indicate whether they have any hostile relationship with the authors of the manuscripts submitted for consideration. If, due to personal relations with the author, the reviewer cannot objectively evaluate the manuscript, he should refuse to perform the task.
- * If, in the opinion of the editors, there are circumstances that could affect an unbiased review, the editors will not engage such a reviewer.
- * The editors reserve the right not to publish the manuscript if the declared conflict of interest jeopardizes the objectivity and reliability of the research evaluation.
- * If the editors detect the presence of a conflict of interest that was not declared at the time of submission, the manuscript may be rejected.
- * If an undeclared conflict of interest is discovered after publication, the article may be corrected or deleted, if necessary.