CONFLICT OF INTEREST and COMMITMENT

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Educational Psychology & Higher Education
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2013-14
DON’T !!
Don’t allow a Conflict of Interest to cloud your objectivity in analysis and reporting outcomes of your studies.
WHY?
research conflict of interest scandal

Revealed MMR research scandal - Brian Deer
briandeer.com/mmr/lancet-deer-1.htm
Feb 22, 2004 - Revealed: MMR research scandal. The Sunday Times ... He said any conflict of interest in his work was "a matter of opinion". "I believe that this ...

Conflict of Interest Scandal Rocks FDA | The Fiscal Times
www.thefiscaltimes.com › Blogs › Go2News
Jan 12, 2012 - Not only that, the FDA knew about the financial conflicts of interest and ... of non-conflicted experts at American universities, research institutes ...

How An Ethically Challenged Researcher Found A Home at the...
www.forbes.com/.../how-an-ethically-challenged-researcher-found-a-home...
Sep 13, 2011 - The ensuing scandal became central to an investigation by Senator Charles Grassley .... PharmaNeuroBoost and CereNeRx are purely research based companies. ... Managing conflicts of interest, whether they exist in industry, ...

Conflict-of-Interest
conflict-of-interest.net/...
Jun 7, 2013 - Research conflict of interest: Flaws in professional codes of ethics, ... The COI scandal’s saga at the American Journal of Bioethics – which broke ...

Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice ...
www.iom.edu/.../Conflict-of-Interest-in-Medical-Research-Education-an...
Apr 21, 2005 - Collaborations between physicians or medical researchers and pharmaceutical, medical device, and biotechnology companies can benefit ...

University of Texas Researcher Quits After Fracking Conflict of...
www.treehugger.com/.../university-texas-researcher-quits-after-f...
by Sami Grover - in 106 Google+ circles
Dec 10, 2012 - Bloomberg has more on the academic scandal. ... R. Augustine, also determined that the institute study represented a conflict of interest.
How believable is psychology research?

Nov 29th, 2011 by jflanders

Two recent instances of academic fraud have again raised questions about the validity of some research in the field of psychology.

The first is the sad case of Harvard professor and psychologist Marc D. Hauser who resigned this summer after being found responsible of scientific misconduct by the university. Hauser, a researcher in primate behavior and animal cognition, ran into trouble when students in his lab alleged data fabrication.

A report earlier this year seemed to validate some of his research after an experiment validated one of the papers that was subject to scrutiny when Hauser’s methods began to be questioned.

But scientists are split over whether these results vindicate the professor, with some arguing that the replications do not prove a proper conduct in the original study. Others also point to a potential conflict of interest in the fact that it was Hauser who replicated the experiments in question.

The second case is that of Dutch social psychologist Diederik A. Stapel who admitted to falsifying data and making up experiments. Stapel, a prolific author, has published more than 150 papers, many of them on hot-button topics like racism and gender discrimination.
Misconduct accounts for the majority of retracted scientific publications

Ferric C. Fangaa, R. Grant Steenc, and
Arturo Casadevalld

www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1212247109
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Study focused on publications in the Life Sciences

“We further note that not all articles suspected of fraud have been retracted. The Lancet and British Medical Journal expressed serious reservations about the validity of …. after the primary author was unable to present original records to document ethics review and informed consent”

”A highly significant correlation was found between the journal impact factor and the number of retractions for fraud or suspected fraud and error.”

“We have previously argued that increased retractions and ethical breaches may result, at least in part, from the incentive system of science which is based on a winner-takes-all economics that confers disproportionate rewards to winners in the form of grants, jobs, and prizes at a time of research funding scarcity.”
How to Avoid Any Risk of Appearance or Reality of Conflict of Interest:
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DON’T DO ANYTHING
Some GUIDANCE would be helpful!
UNLV

DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

CONFLICT OF INTEREST RULES AND PROCEDURES

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST
Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S): Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
Office of Research Integrity

ORIGINALy ISSUED: 1996

REVISION DATE: AUGUST 2012
General Policy

All faculty and professional staff shall disclose whether or not they plan to engage in any outside activity or professional involvement that may constitute a conflict of interest, and/or for which they will receive compensation. Such disclosure shall be on an annual basis to their supervisor by September 15 of each year, upon application for a sponsored project, or prior to initiation of any such outside services.
Conflict of Interest

Any outside activity or interest that may, or may appear to, adversely affect, compromise, or be incompatible with the obligations of an employee at UNLV.
Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest encompasses any situation in which an employee of the University uses, or is in a position to use, his or her influence and authority within the University to advance his or her own personal or financial interest, or the personal or financial interests of individuals in the employee’s household; persons to whom the employee is related by blood, adoption or marriage within the third degree of consanguinity; or persons with whom the employee has substantial and continuing outside business relationships.
Conflict of Interest

The bias of such conflicts could conceivably inappropriately affect the goals of research, instructional or administrative programs.

The education of students, the methods of analysis and interpretation of research data, the hiring of staff, procurement of materials, and other administrative tasks at the University must be free of undue influence of outside interests.
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Compensated Service

Includes outside compensated work or compensated scholarly services performed by a University employee.... Provision of compensated outside services is recognized as a legitimate activity unless specifically prohibited by an employee’s contract of employment.

Compensated outside service is not considered appropriate when it interferes with the regular work of the University employee; involves unauthorized use of UNLV facilities, personnel, or other resources.; subjects other individuals or companies engaged in private practice to unfair competition...
Excessive Compensated Service

Compensated outside service that exceeds the limits set forth in NSHE’s policy on Compensated Outside Professional Service (Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 8).

Outside service must not occupy more than one day’s equivalent time per work week (20%).
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Employee

Any person who is employed full or part time by the University and includes but is not limited to faculty, staff, postdoctoral appointees, and students. Individuals or “investigators” (as defined by federal awards who are not paid but work as volunteers on funded projects) are also considered employees.

GA- not necessarily

Member of Research Team in Unfunded Project- probably not

Member of Research Team in Funded Project and actively involved in design, conduct or report of study- probably (request clarification from admin)
When There Is A Real or Potential Conflict of Interest:
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Review Process

If a conflict of interest and/or excessive compensated outside services appears to exist for federally funded and non-funded research or in any other circumstance, the supervisor and/or dean shall attempt to negotiate and document a management plan, which is a mutually acceptable course of action to manage, mitigate, or alleviate the conflict of interest.
Review Process

In cases where a real or potential conflict of interest exists, one of the following actions will be taken:

- Accept the sponsored project and allow research to proceed
- Not accept the sponsored project and not allow research to proceed
- Require the University employee to cease participation in the project involving the conflict of interest while remaining a UNLV/NSHE employee;
- Require the University employee to cease participation in University activities related to the conflict of interest;
- Accept the sponsored project and allow the research to proceed subject to certain conditions, for example modifying the research plan, severance of problematic relationships, public disclosure, and so forth.
‘Under the Hood’

COI’s typically require the presence of:

1. Acting in a professional or official capacity or in a position of trust

2. While having a personal interest (usually financial)

3. That interferes with objective decision making (or gives the impression that decision making is compromised).
Examples of Potential COI

- External financial interests
- Consulting and other compensated professional/commercial activities
- Use of students/support staff on outside activities
- Use of University resources
Some COI Cautions for Consulting

- Do not consult for a company that requires you to devote time and effort already committed to the university.
- Be cautious when entering into relationships that limit publication.
- Refrain from creating any impression that the university has sanctioned the outside activity, if it hasn’t.
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- Be cautious when entering into relationships that limit publication
- Refrain from creating any impression that the university has sanctioned the outside activity, if it hasn’t
- Do not use any university resources for your consulting without written permission.
- Be cautious in use of students to support consulting activities
Case Study 1

A clinical researcher has partial ownership of a patent on a new gene therapy technique. Her work is being funded by a biotech company which owns the other part of the patent. She also has stock in the company. She plans to use her patented technique in clinical trials for gene therapy to treat breast cancer. If her cure works she will make millions of dollars and so will the company. Even if the cure does not work, she still may make a lot of money if the value of her stock rises.

Should this financial arrangement be permitted?
Case Study 2

As a class project, students in an advanced test analysis course develop an app using Bayesian scaling to screen for emotional stability.
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- Items used were open source.
- Data were obtained from subject pool study.
- Bayesian analysis of data was done by students.
Case Study 2

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IF the instructor chose to market the app:

Is there a COI in the use by the instructor of the software developed as a class project?

Should the students who developed the package receive any recognition, and, if so, in what form?
Case Study 3

A ‘medicine man’ in the Amazon jungle teaches a team of botanists and pharmacologists about some of the healing powers of a native plant, and they develop a new drug by isolating and purifying a compound in the plant.

Should the medicine man (or perhaps his community) be granted some share of royalties from the patent?
Disclosures:

Case studies 1 and 3 were drawn from:

On the Web:

UNLV Conflict of Interest Rules and Procedures:

UNLV Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form:
http://www.unlv.edu/assets/research/forms/COI-COS-DisclosureForm.doc
Sorry WE'RE CLOSED