Conflict of Interest

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Presentation Outline

• Conflict of Interest (COI) Definition & Types
• Managing COI at UNLV
• Reporting and Management Process
  – Faculty Responsibilities
• Resources and Support
Definition of COI

• A situation in which an individual’s personal, financial, professional or other interests could potentially compromise their objectivity, impartiality, or decision-making in a way that may undermine the institution
  – Interests may be at odds with professional obligations and responsibilities
Types of Conflicts (1 of 2)

• **Financial:** involvement with entities that could gain financially from research outcomes
  – Holding significant financial interest in a company that sponsors your research (biased results, withholding unfavorable outcomes)

• **Personal:** holding opinions that could bias objectivity
  – Your partner or friend owns a company that could benefit from research results
Types of Conflicts (2 of 2)

• **Institutional**: entity holds financial or other interests that could compromise its objectivity, integrity or decision-making
  – Research funding relationships, commercial ventures, ties to regulatory bodies

• **Intellectual**: personal, professional or academic interests compromise objectivity, etc.
  – Serving on a grant review panel where applications are in a similar area of research (competitive funding)
Managing COI at UNLV (1 of 3)

• **Disclosure:** All faculty must complete COI disclosure whether or not conflicts exist
  – Annually in February
  – New faculty → **NOW** (check email for a link)
  – Report activity via [Outside Activity Report Form](#)
    • Requires Chair/Supervisor and Dean/VP approval
  – **Pre-Approved activities** need not be reported
Managing COI at UNLV (2 of 3)

- **Assessment**: UNLV screens every federally funded employee’s disclosure
  - COI committee
  - Compliance with federal mandate
    - [Title 42 Code](#) of Federal Regulation Part 50 Subpart F
  - Compliance with NSHE Code & NRS
    - Title 4: Ch 3, Section 9; Ch 10, Section 1.7, Ch 12, Section, 1.8
    - NRS 281A.400-281A.410
Managing COI at UNLV (3 of 3)

• **Mitigation**: strategies implemented to minimize impact of objectivity
  
  – Execute/update Outside Activity Report Form
    • 9-month faculty: one day per week (20%)
    • 12-month faculty: annual leave
  
  – Develop and submit a data management plan
Resources and Support (1 of 2)

- UNLV Conflict of Interest Webpage
- Office of Research Integrity
  - Responsible Conduct of Research Training
- Educational Resources
  - Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
    - COI Basic Course
    - COI Refresher Course
Resources and Support (2 of 2)

• UNLV Division of Research
  – Office of Research Integrity

• UNLV Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
  – Office of Faculty Affairs