

## **Declaration of Competing Interests Policy and Procedure**

All speakers, facilitators, trainers and presenters at College meetings are asked to declare any competing interests (otherwise known as conflicts of interest) that they might have relating to their presentations.

### **Definition**

A competing interest exists when professional judgement, for example concerning presentation or critical appraisal of research evidence or discussion about the most appropriate management of a clinical case, may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as financial gain).

### **Scope**

An obvious example of a competing interest would be a psychopharmacologist employed by a pharmaceutical company presenting data on a drug developed by his/her own company or by a rival company. Other examples include receiving funds for research, or consultation fees, from any organisation that might have a financial interest in what is being presented. Such organisations include not only commercial sponsors, but also independent healthcare organisations and the Department of Health.

The examples above relate to competing financial interests. Other types of competing interest exist and might be important (such as professional rivalry between two research teams working on the same topic). However, for the purpose of this declaration, only financial competing interests need to be considered.

Essential to the definition above is that the individual may be influenced by a secondary interest. Making the declaration does not require the individual to judge whether or not he or she is influenced in this way. A declaration must be made if a secondary interest exists which could be construed by others as influencing the individual's judgement. In other words, competing interest is a condition rather than behaviour.

### **Time Frame**

Presenters must declare any relevant interests relating to the previous 36 months and the next 12 months from the date of their presentation.

All declarations must be submitted at least 1 month before the event and will remain on the website for 1 year.

### **Declaration of competing interests**

Declaring a competing interest in no way implies that the individual has actually been influenced by his or her secondary interest. It is intended to make secondary financial interests more transparent and to allow others participating in the meeting to judge for themselves the potential for the individual having been thus influenced.

A declaration of competing interests form should be completed on-line by anyone presenting at any meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. For the purposes of the declaration, presentations include workshops as well as lectures or seminars. A separate declaration should be completed for each presentation.

**Speakers will not be able to present at College events unless they submit a declaration of competing interests before their presentation.**

## **Obtaining declarations of competing interest**

All speakers, facilitators, trainers and presenters at College events will receive an email requesting a full declaration of interests to be sent at least 6 weeks before the event. A copy of this policy must be sent with the initial request.

If a presenter does not send their declaration by the agreed deadline a follow up email will be sent.

If the declaration has not been received 2 weeks before the event, the presenter will receive an email explaining that she / he will not be able to present unless the form is completed in advance.

In addition to the above, a request for a declaration of interest will be included in the standard speaker letter.

### **On-line form submission**

Declarations of interest must be completed on-line using [this form](#) for Divisions and Devolved Nations and [this form](#) for other events.

If a speaker is unable to access the on-line form, a paper form may be used if this policy is forwarded to the speaker and a tick box is included in the form to confirm the speaker agrees to the policy in full.

### **Displaying declarations of competing interests**

Declarations of competing interests must be displayed on the College's website and should be accessible to all.

Each event must have a separate DoCI webpage accessible through a link on the event main webpage and also through a link on <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/traininpsychiatry/conferencetraining/competinginterests.aspx>

The DoCI page must go live and include all speakers' declarations at least a month before each event. This page will include an alphabetical list of speakers and next to each name there will be one of the following options:

- This speaker has no interests to declare
- This speaker has declared the following interests:
- This speaker has not yet submitted his/her declaration of competing interests.

The relevant member of staff will ensure that this page is up to date at all times.

A link to this webpage will be sent to all delegates before the event as part of the joining instructions.

Sonia Walter  
Head of Event Operations  
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