Declaration of Competing Interests
Policy and Procedure

All speakers 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.

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.

If a presenter is unable to complete the on-line and does not have any interests to declare, she or he may send an email or letter to the relevant staff member instead of an on-line submission.

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 with the following text:

'Thank you for agreeing to speak at the XXXXX conference of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Anyone presenting at an RCPsych event is required to submit a declaration of competing interests at least one month before the event. A separate declaration should be completed for each presentation.

Please follow this link (www.xxxxxxx.ac.uk) to complete your declaration on-line by (deadline). If you are unable to complete the form and have no interests to declare, an email to xxxxxxx@rcpsych.ac.uk stating so will suffice.

Competing interests do not preclude the delivery of a presentation but must be declared. Speakers who do not submit a declaration of competing interest will not be able to present on the day.

A summary of all declarations of interest received for this event will be available on (www.xxxxxxxxxxxxx.ac.uk)

I enclose a copy of our competing interests policy for your information, please take a minute to read it before submitting your form’

If a presenter does not send their declaration by the agreed deadline, the following email will be sent with a copy of the original email:

'Following my email of (Date) we do not seem to have received your declaration of competing interests for (event name)

May I ask you to please follow this link (www.xxxxxxx.ac.uk) and complete the on-line form by (3 day deadline). If you are unable to complete the form and have no interests to declare, an email to xxxxxxx@rcpsych.ac.uk stating so will suffice. If you do have interests to declare, please submit the on-line form.

Competing interests do not preclude the delivery of a presentation but must be declared. Speakers who do not submit a declaration of competing interest for this event will not be able to present on the day.

Your support with this matter is very much appreciated’

Any presenters that do not submit their declaration by the extended deadline will receive an email from the Chief Executive.

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

On-line form submission

An on-line declaration of competing interests form will be available for all College events and will include the following questions and information:

Meeting:
Presenter:
Email address:
Title of Presentation:
Please note that the following questions relate to interests within the past 36 months and next 12 months and linked to the above presentation only

In relation to this presentation, I declare that there are no conflicts of interest □
If the above box is ticked the questionnaire will end and the submit button will become active
In relation to this presentation, I declare that I have received the following from a company that may be perceived to win or lose from the content of my presentation:

- Funds for a member of staff: yes / no
- Funds for research: yes / no
- Fees for consultancy: yes / no
- Fee for speaking at a symposium: yes / no
- Sponsorship for attending a meeting: yes / no
- I have been employed by an organisation that may be perceive to win or lose from the content of my presentation: yes / no
- I hold stocks or shares in an organisation that may be perceived to win or lose from the content of my presentation: yes / no
- I have other competing interests: yes / no
- My partner or other close family member has completing interests yes/no

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, a box asking for further information will pop up.

Once the form is submitted the presenter will be redirected to a webpage confirming receipt and stating that a summary of all interests declared will be available on www.xxxxxxxxxxx.ac.uk.

**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/conferencestraining/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: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- 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.

The above will apply to all events, conferences and training courses except the International Congress which will use an app to display declarations of competing interests. The IC app is free of charge and available to the general public from the App Store and Google Play.

Sonia Walter  
Head of Event Operations  
15 April 2015