

Conflict of Interest

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Abstract

Conflict of interest (COI) in peer review journals is a serious issue that earn more attention than it currently receives. COI can influence reviewers' or editors' decisions in favor of or against a project. There is no universal description of COI in the medical and scientific world; it is generally defined as a set of situations, in which a major professional interest is overly influenced by a secondary one(s) authors, editors, and reviewers may all be subject to COI. The majority of COI discussion in scientific papers has centered on the impact that authors' financial and nonfinancial (i.e., personal or professional) circumstances have the impact that personal (or professional) interests can have on research integrity.

Keywords Conflict of interest, authors, editors, reviewers, budget

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Introduction

When you send a research to a scientific journal or when a scientific journal sends you a research for the purpose of evaluation, the journal will ask you for the term conflict of interest (COI), what is it and why is it requested.

An interest in general is something that has value or influence on a person or group of individuals ⁽¹⁾. So, a COI in life arises when the goals or interests do not coincide between two people or a group of people or even between more than one institution, but the pursuit of interests is one and within different approaches ⁽²⁾. Therefore, it is logical that a COI is the situation, in which a compromise must be reached; it is immoral to think that COI is a personal matter, but rather the result of pursuing goals in different ways, so is not something more dire ⁽³⁾.

Conflict of interest in research

In scientific research, COI occurs when the researcher, reviewer, or editor-in-chief has a special interest that may affect the fairness or harm his impartiality, or there is a COI in the research itself that may lead to questioning its integrity ⁽⁴⁾.

Conflict of interest to reviewer

As a reviewer, you may find out that the study you're reviewing is very similar to, or even competes with, the paper you're now creating, lowering the relevance of your research. You might dismiss it as insufficient in that instance. It is here that a research conflict of interest arises ⁽⁵⁾.

Types of conflict of interest

There are majorly four types of COI as listed below:

- Budget
- Personal

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- Contractual
- Professional

When it comes to this topic, it must be pointed out to the personal or professional relationships. For example, when you were with the researcher or writer in the same institution in the past or even in the present. Likewise, the author could be a close friend of yours. There is COI in each of the examples cited ⁽⁶⁾.

Budget Conflict of interest

Financial links, including direct COI such as employment, stock ownership, grants, and so on, are the most typical COI. This form of dispute involves an individual's financial reward that can help him or her in the future ⁽⁵⁾.

Point to consider

One of the requirements for publishing article or to become a reviewer that researchers and reviewers face throughout the world is COI. Reporting these conflicts to the institution's ethical group as soon as possible is the best way to deal with them. The editorial decision to publish the research is based on the disclosure of COI. Many researchers or reviewers neglect the ability COI, thought that it will not strike their decision. The correct solution in such a case is to authorize and write

to the editorial board and leave the choice for them to make the decision

Corresponding to the U.S office of research integrity ⁽³⁾. "Having a COI is not in itself unethical, and some are unavoidable. Full transparency is always the best course of action, and, if in doubt, disclose."

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