



DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

Guidance for authors

A competing interest exists when professional judgement concerning a primary interest (such as patients' welfare or validity of research) may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as financial gain or personal rivalry). It may arise for the authors when they have a financial interest that may influence – probably without their knowing – their interpretation of an article. We will not reject article simply because she/he has a competing interest, but we would like to know about it.

We used to ask authors and reviewers about any competing interests, but we have decided to restrict our request to financial interests.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years accepted the following from an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper:

- Reimbursement for attending a symposium?
- A fee for speaking?
- A fee for organizing education?
- Funds for research?
- Funds for a member staff?
- Fees for consulting?

2. Have you in the past five years been employed by an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?

3. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper?

4. Do you have any other competing interests? If so, please specify.

.....

.....

If you might want to disclose * another sort of competing interest that would embarrass you if it become generally known after publication, please add it to your statement.

Please complete option 1 or 2 as appropriate and sign below:

1. I have no competing interest in relation to this paper. (please tick)
or

2. I have the following competing interest:

.....

.....

.....

Title of the paper:

.....

.....

.....

Signed by author: _____

Date: _____

Signed by coauthors: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

**Examples:*

- A close relationship with, or strong antipathy to, a person whose interests may be affected by a publication of your paper.
- An academic link or rivalry with somebody whose interests may be affected by a publication of your paper.
- Membership of a political party or special interest group whose interests may be affected by a publication of your paper.
- A deep personal or religious conviction that may have affected what you wrote and those readers should be aware of when reading your paper.